

he should fortunately succeed in prevailing on them to do so he would confer a far greater boon on that distressed country than a Home Rule measure after Mr. Parnell's own pattern could confer. And this particular form of tax is not only a tremendous burden in Ireland, but in England and Canada. It is a tax which, I trust, we will some day throw off our shoulders; and as regards Ireland, at any rate, before she can become regenerated she must get rid of it, for it is one of the difficulties which stand in the way of the settlement of this great Irish question. Now, Sir, I do not desire in any way to detract from the honor of those patriots who are endeavoring to lift up Ireland. I have no doubt they are honorable and patriotic men—just such men as Ireland wishes to see leading her. But, from a Canadian stand-point, I confess that I would be much more inclined to give them credit for patriotism if, out of those large sums of money they are receiving from the United States and otherwise, they would contribute just a small amount to those poor people who are suffering for want of bread to eat. If they contributed something out of those funds for the relief of the people for whom they work so well, and agitate so strongly, I, at least, would be disposed to give them a little more credit for that feeling which we Canadians possess—a feeling of sympathy and love for our fellow-subjects in Ireland. It must have been very gratifying to Mr. Davitt when he took his beautiful bride from the United States to that unfortunate country—as it is sometimes called—to find that his friends in Ireland had so much practical consideration for him and for her, that they had provided him with an elegant mansion, and that their generosity enabled him to usher her into a house where her artistic tastes would be gratified, and she could enjoy herself. That was perfectly right. That young woman who was attaching herself to the Irish leader, and placing her fortunes in his hands, deserved something of that kind, and I say it was very right and proper that she should have a home provided for her. But, Sir, what about these poor, houseless and homeless Irish women and children, whom the cruelty and the want of consideration of these Irish landlords—mark you, Irish landlords—had turned out upon the streets? I have no doubt Mr. Davitt pitied them greatly; but when you and I are hungry, does pity satisfy that hunger? When you and I have been in distress, has pity lifted us out of that distress? No, Sir, we want something better than pity; and we should give the Irish people that something—give them the opportunity of feeding and clothing themselves and living in a little better way than in the hovels in which they now live. Give them a chance to restore the industries of Ireland to the position they were in at the time of the Union, and the Irish people will be happy and contented. Give to the Irish people their Home Rule—they deserve it; and if by any word this Dominion Parliament can influence the English House of Commons to eliminate from that Coercion Bill some of its objectionable features, let us say that word. Oh, Sir, I feel sad when I read some portions of that Coercion Bill. We have been told in this House that in Canada there is a Coercion Bill as severe as that. I am not prepared to contradict that statement; but if there is, Sir, we are not afraid of it—and why? Let every man answer the question for himself. Place Ireland in the position she ought to occupy, and then she will be no more afraid of a Coercion Bill than we are. Give the laboring people, the peasants of Ireland, a fair day's wage for a fair day's work, and my word for it, Sir, they will be as loyal as any people in the world. The Irishman loves to be loyal. We have been told that when an Irishman just landed in the United States was asked by his friend which party he would support, "I am," he said, "agin' the Government every time." That is a burlesque on Irishmen. They love to be loyal; they are always loyal to their friends; and let them understand that the Government is their friend, and they

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will be as loyal as any people in the world. Let such measures be carried into law, and let such measures be devised and put into operation as will give peace to Ireland, attract capital to the country, revive her industries, develop her resources, and call into action the latent capabilities of the people, and there will be no lack of loyalty or manifestation of discontent. I beg to thank this House for the kindness with which they have listened to my desultory and feeble remarks.

Mr. MILLS. It is worth while to notice how large a number of hon. gentlemen have expressed themselves in favor of Home Rule. Every one who has spoken, whether on that side of the House or this, has declared that he is in favor of Home Rule, though it is worthy of remark that those who have supported the amendment of the hon. member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill) and the amendment of the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. Mc Carthy), are ready to concede to the Irish people only such a plan of local self-government as they would be quite certain to reject. It is not many years since the vast majority of hon. gentlemen opposite were opposed to Home Rule altogether. They were then of opinion that a legislative union was preferable. They said that we, in Canada, were governed too much—that it would have been better had we but one Parliament and one centre of Executive authority; and, in their opinion, it would be a retrograde step were the present legislative union broken up and the power distributed. The zeal and earnestness with which the Irish electors of this country have supported the principle of local self-government in Ireland, have made many converts, and, it is to be hoped that those who have recently received new light, will give up the practice of encroachment upon provincial autonomy. If I rightly understand the hon. members from Muskoka and West York, they believe the Irish Home Rulers to be advocates of independence in disguise; they are disloyal, and will use any concession made to them as a basis for further demands. Were the Irish people loyal and law-abiding, they would concede a measure of Home Rule, but the present demand they will stoutly resist. They regard existing discontent as the necessary outcome of lawless perversity and incorrigible wickedness among the great mass of the Irish people. Every attempt to secure peace and goodwill, will only lead to more marked exhibitions of lawlessness and treason; every attempt to conciliate will only breed fresh disasters, and new crimes, born of innate perversity of mind, and imperishable rancor against the English race. If the hon. gentlemen were right, constitutional reforms would indeed be acts of folly. If they are right, there is no middle ground between giving Ireland absolute independence and giving her a military despotism. The hon. member for North Simcoe is very much alarmed lest this Parliament should exceed its authority, and encroach upon the legislative and administrative domain of the Imperial Parliament and ministry. The hon. member said it was our duty to consider our powers—that we have here only a delegated authority, and that the government of Ireland was not one of the matters entrusted to us. I do not know in what way the hon. member holds our powers to be delegated powers. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the case of the Queen *vs.* Hodge, expressly decided that the power exercised by a Colonial Legislature was not a delegated power, but original authority. The same doctrine was laid down by Lord Chief Justice Vaughan more than two centuries ago. There is no principle better established than this: that an Englishman, into whatever portion of the Empire he may go with the view of colonising and making settlement, not only carries with him the ordinary common law of the country, but the right of representation as well; and it is upon this ground that representative government exists in the colonies. But it is not necessary, in the consideration of this question, to further