

that other Irish Secretary, that great man who up to the very last moment until his Imperial spirit fled, was found in opposition, as they all are, to this proposal of Mr. Gladstone? And because, forsooth, Mr. Gladstone finds himself in that position, and is glad to pick up any little crumbs of comfort that he can find here, there, and everywhere, we, the Canadian House of Commons, are to be asked to say to him: You would not accept our advice before—pray accept it to-day; and in order to place ourselves in that position, we have a question introduced which will sow discord throughout the length and breadth of Canada. But, for my part, I venture to say that I am as much entitled to speak here on behalf of Ireland as any man in this House. I am not merely an Irishman by descent, but by birth; I spent my childhood, my boyhood, and a part of my manhood in Ireland; and I do not speak of this matter from theory, but from actual knowledge. There is not any person inside or outside this House in Canada who loves Ireland more dearly than I do. My home was there, my father and mother are buried there, and I have dear relatives and friends there to-day. I claim to have as much right to speak on behalf of Ireland as any man in this House or this country, whatever he may call himself, and if I thought the measure introduced by Mr. Gladstone would be for the benefit of Ireland I would support it as heartily as anyone; but I do not support the hon. gentleman's (Mr. Blake's) resolution, because it practically supports that measure; it practically amounts to this, that if we pass it, we shall be endorsing Mr. Gladstone's action.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. McNEILL. Hon. gentlemen know perfectly well that if that resolution is sent over, it will simply be used by Mr. Gladstone as an argument to strengthen his position.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Hear, hear.

Mr. McNEILL. I am glad to hear hon. gentlemen admit that. Now, what is that measure of Mr. Gladstone? It is not a measure which is calculated to settle the Irish question; it is not only very far from that, but if it is passed into law, we shall find that it will be only the beginning of trouble and discord in Ireland. It is not in any degree such a measure as this House expressed approval of in 1882; it is the very opposite. What was it that this House said in 1882? It was this, that if it was consistent with the safety of the Empire, and with the safe-guarding of the rights and privileges of the minority, some kind of Federal Home Rule would be advantageous for Ireland. Is it Federal Home Rule which is proposed now? It is the very opposite. So far from being a measure of a federal nature, a measure which would afford an opportunity to the different Provinces of Ireland to give effect to their own views and to pass their own laws, it is exactly similar to what a measure for legislative union would be in Canada. It is just as if we passed a measure which would prevent the people of the Province of Quebec from dealing with their own affairs. There exists in Ireland, as is very well known, a very curious parallel to the condition of things in this country. In the Province of Ulster in Ireland, there exists a condition of things very much like what we have in the Province of Quebec. The people of the Province of Ulster are dissimilar, to a great extent, in their sentiments, and their religion, and race from the bulk of the people of the other Provinces. Now, the measure proposed in this House in 1882 was a federal measure which would give those people an opportunity of safe-guarding their own interests as a separate Province. The measure the hon. gentleman is supporting is one of a perfectly different nature. It is one which will prevent those people from having any control over their own affairs, but which will put them under the heel of the people of the other three Provinces of Ireland. But, Sir, the measure proposed by Mr. Gladstone

is a measure degrading to Ireland and the Irish people. It is a measure which deprives Ireland and the Irish people of any voice whatever in Imperial affairs. It reduces them to the rank of a mere Province, without the right to say one solitary word with reference to any Imperial question. But my main objection to the resolution the hon. gentleman has proposed is this, that the measure which Mr. Gladstone has introduced, so far from being the simple measure so eloquently described by the hon. member from Grey, is so complicated and so dangerous a measure that it has resulted in the disruption of Mr. Gladstone's own party, and has driven from his side many of his best and ablest supporters. Furthermore, if it should pass, it will simply enable those who desire to sever Ireland altogether from England, more strongly and more effectually to carry out their designs. I say this from my practical knowledge and experience of the feelings of many of the Irish people. I say it also because of the utterances of those who are called the Home Rulers in Ireland. I say it because of the mottoes which you find inscribed on banners and flags at Home Rule meetings. I say it because of the statements, more especially, that have fallen from the lips of the leader of the movement, Mr. Parnell himself, who stated, in Ireland, that he never would have taken off his coat to go at this work had it not been that by doing so he would be able to sever the last link that bound Ireland to England; and, moreover, because I know, from the expressions we have seen from time to time published in the press, that those are the views and sentiments of thousands in the United States who have lent to these people, not only the sinews of war in a monetary sense, but in another sense also. Therefore it is, that I cannot support the hon. gentleman's resolution, and that I shall feel obliged to support the amendment. I think the amendment of the hon. member for North Wellington (Mr. McMullen) only makes the matter worse. I shall support the amendment of the Minister of Inland Revenue, because it expresses this view, that we do not ask the people of England to pass any measure of Home Rule for Ireland, of any kind or description, unless that measure can be passed in such a way as to secure the unity of the Empire, and at the same time safeguard the rights and privileges of the minority of Ireland. There are very few Irishmen, in or out of Ulster, who would not be glad to have some measure or other of greater local self-government for Ireland than we have at present, but under the circumstances, and for the reasons I have expressed, I shall vote against the resolution and in favor of the amendment as the better of the two.

Mr. HACKETT. Although the resolution before the House does not strictly affect Canadian interests, still I consider it my duty to make a few observations in regard to it. I believe Home Rule in Ireland would add to the strength of the Empire and unite the whole people of Great Britain and Ireland in one solid body. For this reason I support the principle of Home Rule. In 1882, when I had the honor of being a member of this House, a resolution was introduced by the Minister of Inland Revenue affirming the principle of Home Rule. An attempt is being made to make it appear that the hon. gentleman then was actuated not by motives of sincerity, but by personal motives, in order to gain popularity with a certain class. Being fully cognisant of the facts connected with the introduction of those resolutions, I can speak with authority and I say that the hon. gentleman was not actuated by mercenary motives but by the high motives of patriotism. He believed that at that time, when Mr. Parnell and his small band of Home Rulers were struggling for Home Rule in Ireland, it was particularly becoming, in fact it was the duty of the Canadian Parliament, to move a resolution in favor of Home Rule, thereby encouraging Mr. Parnell in the noble fight he was making and strengthening his hands at a very