

# The Montreal Witness

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## THE NEW FACTOR OF IRISH UNITY.

### Powerful Effect of the Report of the Financial Relations Commission

### IRELAND ENORMOUSLY OVER-TAXED.

### Catholic and Protestant Prelates, Nationalists and Tories, Landlords and Tenants, on a Common Platform.

### A NATIONAL AGITATION OF UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS.

Vigorous Speeches by Mr. John Dillon, M.P., T. P. O'Connor, M.P., J. J. Clancy, M.P., Archbishop Walsh, Archbishop Plunket, Sir Frank Lockwood, M.P., Lord Castletown, and Other Prominent Public Men.

THE one great and all-absorbing topic of the hour in both Ireland and England, not only in the Nationalist circles, Dillonites, Healyites and Redmondites alike, but in Liberal-Unionist and Tory circles as well, is the grievous injustice from which that unfortunate country has long suffered in being over-taxed to the extent of \$12,500,000 a year.

At a meeting held in Blackburn, under the auspices of the St. Patrick Sarsfield branch of the Irish National League of Great Britain, and at which Mr. John Dillon, the leader of the Irish Parliamentary party, was the principal speaker, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

That this meeting asserts the immortal claim of "Ireland a nation"; that England is governing Ireland wrongfully, and against the people's will; that each year proves afresh the futility of the attempt; that Irish evils mainly flow from alien, irresponsible, unformed and unsympathetic rule, as was clearly exemplified by the report of the Financial Relations Commission issued last June, showing that Ireland is over-taxed to the tune of £2,500,000 annually. That we consider as an essential element of an effective Irish party the hearty co-operation of each individual member in carrying out the party policy. We solemnly call upon every man belonging to the Irish party to sink all personal feelings, and to act in future as good comrades in support of that party unity on which the fate of Ireland so largely depends. We appeal to the Irish constituencies to return no man to represent them in Parliament who will not pledge himself to work in unison with the Irish Parliamentary party and in obedience to majority rule. That, while hailing with satisfaction the release of the political prisoners, we are indignant that their release has come too late—so late that two were only fit for a lunatic asylum, and the health of another was so shattered that his days are practically numbered. We condemn the brutal treatment which England inflicts on political prisoners still enduring the horrors of penal servitude, and call upon the Irish Parliamentary party to use every effort to procure their release.

#### MR. DILLON'S GREAT SPEECH.

Mr. Dillon, M.P., in supporting the resolutions, said he thanked the meeting for their promised support of the Irish party, which, under circumstances of unparalleled difficulty, was endeavouring to uphold the standard of Irish liberty, and to defend the interests of the poor Irish people. He was glad to inform them that, although on the surface there was as yet little sign of a cessation of the dissensions in the party, under the surface, among the millions of the people of Ireland, there was going on from day to day, and from week to week, a process of reconciliation, and a feeling that private interests and personal feelings must be buried for the good of Ireland (applause). He believed that the day was not far distant when the people themselves would require from every man in the position of a leader that he should come forward in the face of his countrymen and give up every claim to personal prominence and pre-eminence, and let the people, if they thought it good for the cause, put him aside and put another in his place, so that the nation might be united and the cause might go on (applause). It was not the first time by many in the history of Ireland that there had been

#### TROUBLE AND DISCORD AMONG IRELAND'S CHILDREN.

It was not the first time by many that it had been asserted in England and abroad that the national cause was dead and that Home Rule would be no more heard of. But the Irish question, after its manner had risen again, and risen in a more troublesome form than it had ever done this century, because there was no

form of a question more troublesome than the financial form. What was

#### THE POSITION OF AFFAIRS TO DAY IN IRELAND?

In order that the situation might be understood, he must remind them that while it could not give Home Rule because it would be bad and dangerous to the empire, it would give to Ireland all that any Home Rule Government could give to it. It had been promised that, after ninety-five years of neglect, Ireland would have her material needs satisfied, and that it would be shown to the Irish people that they could flourish and have freedom and prosperity under a Unionist Government quite as much as under a Nationalist Government.

#### "WE WILL KILL HOME RULE BY KINDNESS."

(laughter)—was what the Chief Secretary said. This "kindness," they might find, was rather an expensive process, if satisfaction was to be given to the cry that was at present being raised all over Ireland by men of all political parties. "Give us back the millions you have robbed us of." (Applause.) This financial question was the urgent question of the day in Irish politics. Year by year the Nationalists, from the days of O'Connell the investigation into the financial question, but the Unionists always protested that instead of Ireland being robbed she gained enormously by her union with England. Men said that the late Government did nothing for Ireland. Well, he believed that it was a Government that was honestly anxious to do justice to Ireland, and it tried to do a great deal (hear, hear). And it did a great thing when it appointed a Commission to inquire into the financial relations of the two countries—a Commission which had recently presented a highly important report. That report showed that while Ireland ought not to pay more than one-twentieth of the revenue of the United Kingdom, she had actually been paying one-eleventh, or nearly double her proper share. Mr. Sexton and the Irish members of the Commission thought that the case for Ireland was

#### EVEN WORSE THAN THAT.

But, taking it that Ireland had been paying 23 millions per year more than her proper share, it came to this—that, going back to the year 1850, she had paid £100,000,000 in excess of what she ought to have paid. If Home Rule was to be, the Unionist Government had here a splendid opportunity of making restitution, and of putting Ireland on a proper footing for the future. If the Government were not prepared to treat Ireland in a reasonable way in this matter, many of their own supporters might begin to talk of Home Rule. To him, as to the representative of the Treasury on the Commission it appeared that the only way out of the difficulty was for Ireland to be allowed to levy her own taxes and to meet her own expenditure (hear, hear). There were those who said that if Ireland had paid extra she had got considerable extra attention—in the form of police, law charges, and so forth. But he maintained that that was the fault of the bad and

#### CORRUPT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.

and that if Ireland were allowed to run her own government she could govern herself as cheaply as either England or Scotland—perhaps more cheaply. And if the English people thought—and so long as they thought—that for the good of the Empire they were bound to police the Irish people, and to persecute the Irish people, and to bribe the Irish people—yes; that was how the money was spent—it was the English and not the Irish people who ought to pay (applause). Touching next on the amnesty question, Mr. Dillon contrasted the treatment of the Irish political prisoners with that meted out to Dr. Jameson, who had been convicted of doing that which, if it had been done in Ireland, would have been a harging matter or would have involved imprisonment for life. The Irish members were begged to sign the petition in favour of better treatment for Dr. Jameson in prison, and they did so, and he believed that

the subsequent liberation of certain Irish prisoners had some relation to what was then done in connection with Dr. Jameson. But now

#### DR. JAMESON HAD BEEN RELEASED.

and many of the Irish political prisoners were still detained. It was a disgrace to England that it should be so, and he hoped that for shame, if for no other motive, the prison doors would be opened to the Irish political prisoners (applause). In conclusion, Mr. Dillon expressed his hearty concurrence in the resolution in favor of the unity of the party. It had been proved by past experience to be a fundamental condition of the success of the party and of the cause that there must be

#### DISCIPLINE AND UNITY

and cheerful acquiescence by each individual. As to the future relationship of the Nationalist with the Liberal party, it absolutely depended upon the policy of the latter. Irishmen went into the House of Commons now, as in days of old, pledged above all other considerations to fight for Ireland's freedom. If the future policy of the Liberal party was the same as that inaugurated by Mr. Gladstone, then the Irish party were for their allies; but if the Liberal party were to change, the Irish party would stand where they had stood. They were for Home Rule and for Ireland's freedom, and they were friends of any party who would support that programme, and enemies of the party who opposed it (applause).

#### ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING IN CORK.

In response to a circular letter written by the Lord Lieutenant of Cork, Lord Bandon, a meeting was held in the County Courthouse, Cork, for the purpose of considering the report of the Royal Commission on the Financial Relations between Great Britain and Ireland, and taking action thereon. The meeting was largely attended, and was the most influential and representative of all classes of the people that has been held in Cork within living memory. It was not non-political, but might be more correctly described as of all politics. It was also representative of all creeds and of all classes. It was unanimous in two matters; in its opinion of the report, and in its method of expressing that opinion. Not a word was wasted from beginning to end of the speeches; there was no attempt at oratorical posing for effect; from first to last it was a hard-headed, hard-thinking meeting of the most business like kind. The wonderful gathering in harmonious deliberation of men of all classes in politics and rank was almost beyond belief to anybody acquainted with the numerous divisions in social and party affairs, which are permanent in the country; this fact once accepted and realized, the manner of the speeches and their practical outcome gave no occasion for surprise.

#### The Catholic Bishop.

The Most Rev. Dr. Browne, Bishop of Cloyne, in the course of his remarks, said:—The subject of the inquiry of the Royal Commission was, to state it briefly, to investigate and report whether the compact was kept, whether legal justice had been strictly observed in the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland since the Act of Union. As to the trustworthiness of the evidence and fairness of the conclusion arrived at, no man, no matter how prejudiced, no Ministry, whatever it be, Liberal, or Unionist, could call that evidence and those conclusions in question (hear, hear). First of all, the character of the men, the superior court of judges appointed to try the case, as well as the character of the findings, silenced even a whispering of doubt (hear, hear). The Chairman of the Commission they knew, was the famous Englishman, remarkable and distinguished for his knowledge of finance, the ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, the late Mr. Childers (applause), whose report had fortunately been preserved and printed. He was assisted by other great Englishmen, almost of equal fame with him for their knowledge of fiscal business, notably Lord Farrer and Lord Welby, whose presence in the Commission was a guarantee that the conclusions arrived at had not been overstrained in favor of Ireland (hear, hear, and applause). Again, as to the findings—why those who were called upon to give evidence were all men, for the most part, expert in this department (hear, hear), and he believed out of 18 of these 15 were paid servants of the Crown, including amongst them such men as Sir Edward Hamilton, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, and Sir Robert Giffen, perhaps the highest authority living in these countries upon statistical information (hear, hear, and applause). Therefore, he said, no man could call those findings or the verdict arrived at into question. Now, as to the first finding to which, as the resolution stated, was attached enormous importance. It was that the Act of Union imposed upon Ireland a burden which, as events showed, she was unable to bear. It was said that it was not the money paid to Great Britain in Imperial taxation that back to them and spent again? That was true, but how was it spent? Over two millions of it were spent upon the military organization of the country—they had over 30,000 soldiers in the country, and they cost more than two millions a year; but the military organization was nothing in its extravagance compared with the semi-military organization, the constabulary. At present there was one policeman for every 250 people. In Scotland there was a police-

man for every 1,000, and the total was only one-third of what it was in Ireland though there was a great urban population in Scotland, and though in Ireland they were practically a rural population, where naturally there ought to be less cause for policemen. Lord Welby had stated that half the police force was a military force intended to keep Ireland quiet, to keep Ireland free from rebellion and insurrection. That one item would represent £800,000 a year. Sir Joseph McKenna in the course of an able speech, asked how much did they think was levied on Ireland in her miscellaneous taxes as compared to £4 12s 4d for England and Wales and £4 15s for Scotland? The answer was the enormous sum of £12 11s.

#### The Protestant Bishop.

The Right Rev. Dr. Meade, Protestant Bishop of Cork, said—Let us be united and they could not fail. Let Protestants and Roman Catholics, let Unionists and Nationalists join in the demand for justice, and then they could not fail (applause). And they let the agitation be universal. Let it be spread all over Ireland. Let every county, city, town, every board of guardians join in the demand, and then the Treasury would have to relax its hand and give them what they asked, and that was justice.

#### A Patriotic Landlord.

Lord Castletown, of Upper Ossory, in the course of an eloquent speech, said the saddest feature of the question was, that while their taxation in this country had been increasing by leaps and bounds their population had been steadily decreasing. No nation could flourish in which that took place (hear, hear). That fact alone should make every Irishman take off his coat and try and stop the heart's blood of the nation from leaving its shores (applause). They ought to try to bring back those successful manufacturing towns that were more the pride of the country, and try and retain the people in the land of their birth (renewed applause). He did not want to use words that might be misinterpreted, but he felt so deeply upon the great question that he would like to draw attention to the fact that sometimes history repeated itself. An obstinate statesman and unfair taxation lost to England her greatest colony, the United States. He hoped that everyone in that room must hope that Cork might never have to follow the example of Boston, if it was necessary they would be right, because they had justice on their side (loud applause). When they had justice on their side they would be right in adopting any means that they had in their power to heal the sore that was sapring their very life-blood, and was forcing from Ireland and her shores those who should contribute to her commerce, to her agriculture, and to her nationhood among the peoples of the world (loud applause). He begged to second the resolution.

#### ALL PARTIES UNITED IN DUBLIN.

A meeting was held at the Mansion House, Dublin, on Monday, for the purpose of formulating a protest, to be submitted to Parliament against the excessive share of taxation which Ireland is compelled to bear toward the total contribution to the United Kingdom to the Imperial exchequer.

The meeting was presided over by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and the speakers comprised both Unionists and Nationalists. Among those who addressed the meeting were the Most Rev. Lord Plunket, Protestant Archbishop of Dublin; the Most Rev. William J. Walsh, Catholic Archbishop of Dublin; John J. Clancy, Redmondite member of Parliament for the North division of Dublin, and others.

#### IRISH DEMONSTRATION IN LIVERPOOL.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., who presided at a crowded Irish demonstration on Wednesday night in Liverpool, said that the large attendance was testimony of the popular approval of Mr. Dillon's leadership. Mr. Parnell was elected leader of the Irish party by a majority of five only, but Mr. Dillon's nomination was carried by a majority of eighteen, and the decision of the party was sanctioned by the Irish race both at home and abroad. In the political horizon the question of Home Rule loomed dark and gloomy. The Tory Government was sternly opposed to the demands of Ireland in regard to Home Rule, but there were instances where concessions had been made to Ireland by the Tories, and he felt sure that they would grant a good measure of self-government to the Irish people. The next session would be a lively one, and the Irish question, which was supposed to be dead and buried, would be as much to the front as it had been in the past.

Mr. John Dillon, M.P. who also addressed the meeting, said that Irishmen in all parts of the world demanded that the unjust taxation to which residents in their native land were subjected should be redressed. Speaking upon the question of education, Mr. Dillon said that if the Government desired to press a measure which would benefit the voluntary schools and satisfy a large proportion of the English people, it could be done without in any way being detrimental to Board schools.

#### SIR FRANK LOCKWOOD SPEAKS.

Sir Frank Lockwood, M.P., addressing a gathering of English Liberals, said that during the next session of Parliament they were bound to have a considerable portion of Parliamentary time engrossed with the very great grievance of the unequal taxation imposed upon Ireland. The relief of taxation in one portion of the United Kingdom would

cause an increase in another. This was not a popular cry to come before an English audience, but it was more—it was perfectly just and proper. If the report of the Special Commission was to be relied upon, they were doing a very grievous wrong to Ireland. To whatever party they might belong, he did not know a better way of establishing good feeling between these two portions of the United Kingdom than by doing away with this wrong. The Government had a great opportunity of removing this unfair disadvantage under which the sister Isle has been labouring for long. A meeting had been held at Cork, a Unionist Peer had said upon the platform that the obstinacy of a statesman, and a cruel uniform taxation had cost England a great colony, and he hoped that the same thing might not happen in connection with Ireland. He supposed Unionist Peers could speak with a certain amount of impunity, but it struck him that an Irish Nationalist member of Parliament would not talk like that, he would be a coward if he did so. Men would be heard of this question of Irish taxation, and if there was any just and fair burden, what was it to do to themselves, he trusted that their desire was that it should be as nearly as possible removed. If they were in a broad and generous spirit they might accomplish much and would do it in accordance with the wishes of the people, which were just and right.

#### WHAT THEY SAW IN CONNAUGHT.

NEWS OF TWO ENGLISH JOURNALISTS WHO VISITED THE WESTERN PROVINCE.

Two London journalists recently made a tour through Connaught. The impressions received by one of them of his visit may be judged from the following extract from what he wrote of it:

"Here are broad acres in abundance and it is a fact that one man's labor, well bestowed, can win from the soil the keep of two. The peasantry of Ireland are robbed to keep the cultured classes in luxury and ease." And the other stated that one of the reasons of the poverty was the exorbitant rent the people had to pay, and gave an instance of a landlord near Swinford who raised the rent from £7,000 to £12,000 in a short time. Both of them seemed strangely struck with the appearance of our police force. They were acquainted with nothing like it in England. They saw it was almost in every respect a military force. They believed the object of such a force was to subdue and terrorize the people.

The other wrote— "The sight of them exasperates me, although I am not an Irishman. To the people here in the streets and markets their presence must be a perpetual menace, an overt insult. They are the living embodiment of all that is hateful to the Irish soul. They represent spoliation, oppression, and the rule by brute force of an alien race. We would not endure their numbers, their manners, nor their methods for a single week in England or Scotland."

#### A PRESBYTERIAN DIVINE

DELIVERS A SERMON ON THE LIFE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

Rev. H. C. McCook, D.D., pastor of the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, delivered two "Advent sermons" last week, in the morning on the "Mystery of the Incarnation," and in the evening on "The Virgin Mother." A representative of the Catholic Standard and Times, attracted by those unusual subjects for a Presbyterian pulpit, called upon Dr. McCook the following day and interviewed him regarding them.

While he took exception to the veneration paid to her by Catholics, he also lamented "the disposition on the part of some to fall in that honor which is due to one who was the mother of the greatest character (historically and humanly speaking) ever born into the world, and who, as far as personal traits are revealed, was in every way worthy of that honor."

#### FATHER DAMIEN'S SUCCESSOR AT MOLOKAI.

The Rev. L. L. Conrady, who left the Umatilla Indian reservation in 1889 to take the place of the late Father Damien, in charge of the Molokai (Hawaii) leper colony, is in Portland, Ore., visiting Archbishop Cross. A few months ago he went to Japan to visit the leper colony of Gotamba, near Yokohama. What he witnessed there impelled him to the belief that it was his duty to return to civilization and fit himself as a physician and surgeon by a course of study, and he is on his way to place himself under the instruction of Dr. Monnet of Chicago.

After finishing his course of medicine, Father Conrady will return to Molokai, relieving Father Damien, a brother of the dead priest.—Correspondence San Francisco "Call."

#### THE IRISH HARP.

The London journal, Music, says that the instrument which is to be in vogue this year is the Irish harp. Many ladies of high rank are already industriously practicing it. The fashionable harp is not the somewhat unwieldy, though beautiful, instrument which one sees in orchestras, but a tiny instrument some thirty inches in length, and about the weight of a banjo.

#### IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

### PROGRAMME FOR THE APPROACHING SESSION.

### THE IRISH PARTY AND ITS INTENTIONS IN REGARD TO THE ADDRESS.

The Queen's speech at the opening of the session will contain no surprises as regards internal legislation, and, unless the foreign situation alters, will announce peace all around with foreign powers. First among the government bills are those relating to education. Mr. Balfour, the Government leader, has taken out of Sir John Gorst's hands the main education bill dealing with the system of voluntary schools. Sir John Gorst seeks and threatens to resign, but the probability is that he will remain in office in fact as Mr. Balfour's second. There is no doubt about the favorable reception of the newly drafted bill by the Catholics, Cardinal Vaughan, prior to his illness, and while the cabinet debates on the measure were proceeding, had proposed amendments with Mr. Balfour. The earl was accompanied by the greatest of English Catholic laymen, the Duke of Norfolk, who has since declared his confidence in the government proposals. The Duke of Devonshire will propose a bill on secondary education, which has the support of the government. It is significant that a government measure, its introduction justifying the use of the plural in speaking of government bills, relating to education.

Next in the speech from the throne will be mentioned a measure dealing with private bill legislation. It is not yet too late to be made. The title is not a little, but practically the change the measure is assigned to effect will be a stride towards home rule all around.

The remaining measures agreed upon are: A master's and workman's conciliation bill, the employers' limited liability bill, making amendments in certain cases compulsory, and some amendments in criminal procedure. The government will pass the Education Bill this time, and the session, so far as can be discerned, will present nothing of crisis. The present tremendous outburst of speculation coincident with the splendid prosperity of England is shown in the fact that never within a generation have so many private bills been presented.

Mr. John Dillon, one of the Irish leaders, will give an amendment to the throne in reply to the speech from the throne calling attention to the report of the financial relations commission showing that Ireland is over-taxed annually to the extent of \$12,500,000. Nothing will be done with the matter until the local government of Ireland bill deals with the whole question, including a redistribution of seats. It can safely be predicted thereon that the government measure will dock Ireland of at least twenty members of Parliament.

#### DOMINICAN IN CORK.

### The Order Has Been Established There Nearly Seven Hundred Years.

From a very interesting history of "The Dominicans of Cork City and County," which has just been published, and of which the Rev. James A. Dwyer, O.P., of St. Mary's Priory, Cork, is the author, we learn that the Dominicans have been established in the City of Cork for 667 years. Their history is part of the history of that ancient city, primitively founded by St. Finbarr and subsequently extended by the Danes. For more than three centuries after the coming of the friars, the white-habited brethren of St. Dominic, brought to Ireland in the lifetime of the saint by Prince O'Donnell, dwelt unobscured in their first home on the banks of "the winding Lee," called St. Mary's of the Isle, near the site of which there is at present a convent of the Sisters of Mercy under the same invocation. Driven, like many other Irish religious, from their peaceful cloisters by stress of persecution, they migrated to a place on the northern bank of the river called Old Friary Lane, where they existed in the early part of the eighteenth century. Another migration in 1784 resulted in their building a new convent and modest chapel on the site of the old Shandon Castle, one of the historic landmarks of the city. Finally they settled on a site adjacent to Pope's Quay, where in 1882 the foundation stone of the present handsome edifice was laid, followed in 1884 by the erection of a priory on the rising ground behind it. Father Dwyer, who develops the qualities of an accurate and painstaking historian, has amplified from other reliable sources the interesting data to be found in Dr. Russell's "Abridged Annals of the Order of St. Dominic in Cork," and De Burgo's "Hibernia Dominicana," adding much new matter from later contemporary records. The work is more than merely local interest, and an episode in Irish ecclesiastical history, will attract many readers. Father Dwyer's well-written, well-arranged and most interesting chronicle suggests the production of similar monographs, which combined and co-ordinated would form an admirable and very desirable pendant to De Burgo's great work, which as bibliophiles know, is very scarce. The Irish Province, which comprises about eighteen houses, including San Clemente in Rome and Corp Santo in Lisbon, is perhaps the most flourishing of all the provinces of the widespread Dominican Order, so distinguished for its theological learning and missionary zeal, and which the reigning Pontiff has just honored by the elevation of one of its members—Father Pierotti—to the Cardinalate.