

late, and, whatever may be our rights in regard to this matter—this question has been ably discussed by the member who has just sat down and the hon. member for Simcoe—whatever may be our rights in regard to it, I cannot see how the discussion which has taken place here during the last few days, or any resolution which we may pass, can be of any permanent good either to the Irish cause or the Irish people; and I feel that, so far as my own constituents are concerned, and I believe the greater portion of the electors of this Dominion, they would prefer that the time of this Parliament should not be spent in discussing questions of this character, in which we are not directly interested and the discussion of which we cannot influence. While, therefore, I support the amendment which has been moved by the hon. member for Simcoe, and shall vote for it, I do not wish to be understood as being opposed to a just measure of Home Rule for Ireland. This term "Home Rule," however, appears to be a sort of ambiguous or indefinite term. From the majority of the speeches which have been delivered here, I believe, it is generally understood in this House that Home Rule for Ireland means giving them a constitution somewhat similar to the one which we enjoy in the Dominion of Canada at the present time. If by that we mean that Home Rule for Ireland places Ireland in the same relation to Great Britain that the Dominion of Canada stands in to-day in relation to the British Empire, I believe that such a scheme is utterly impossible. I cannot conceive it possible that the people of Ireland in the position in which they are placed, could occupy such a relation, that they could have the same character of a Parliament, that they could have the same legislative powers that we as a Dominion enjoy to-day. But, if, on the other hand, it is meant by Home Rule for Ireland that they should stand in the same relation to Great Britain that the different Provinces of this Dominion occupy towards the general Government, I can conceive that such a scheme may be practicable. I am quite prepared to advocate some such scheme as that, or at all events to support it. Indeed, Home Rule as I understand it means giving to the people of Ireland control of their local matters, matters which are purely Irish matters as distinguished from subjects affecting the welfare of the United Kingdom; and I may say that, if that is the meaning of the term, I for one sympathise with the advocates of Home Rule, and I am further in favor of extending the same principle not only to Ireland, but to England, and Scotland, and to every other section of the British Empire. The resolution which was moved by the hon. member for Montreal Centre (Mr. Curran) goes much farther than expressing our approval of such a measure of Home Rule. The most objectionable feature in this resolution is its reference to the measure, the Crimes Bill or the Coercion Bill, or whatever we may choose to call it, which is at the present time being discussed in the British Parliament, and which, since this resolution has been introduced, has passed the House of Commons, I believe, by a majority of about one hundred. I fully sympathise with the view which has been expressed that we are not in a position here to pass an intelligent judgment upon this measure. We have not the necessary information. We have not that measure before us, and we are not acquainted with the circumstances under which the British Government may consider that measure necessary, or the evidence which has led them to introduce it in the British Parliament. I rather incline to the opinion, from such evidence as we have before us, from the light which we have been able to obtain on this measure during this discussion, that it is not so very stringent a coercive measure, as the hon. mover of this resolution would lead us to believe. I rather incline to the opinion that it is a reasonable measure, and, perhaps, a necessary measure for the preservation of order and the protection of life and property under the state of things existing in Ireland at the present time. But, however that

may be, the greatest objection I see to introducing such a clause as that in any resolution we may pass, is that to my mind it offers a direct encouragement to violence and crime. Whatever may be the views which we, sitting in this Parliament, entertain with regard to Home Rule for Ireland, we cannot close our eyes to the fact that a large number of those who are engaged in this agitation consider Home Rule for Ireland synonymous with the entire separation of that island from Great Britain, with the establishment of an entirely separate and independent people. We cannot, either, close our eyes to the fact that the more violent among those who are engaged in the agitation, are openly advocating assassination and the use of dynamite; that they are continually inciting the people of Ireland to murder and crime, and other forms of violence, in order to secure their object. Now, the objection which I think can be urged against the resolution as it was originally introduced is this, that while it can be of no practical good to the Irish people, by influencing the British Parliament and Government, it would be a direct encouragement to the class of people to whom I have just referred as being engaged in promoting this agitation by acts of violence. I do not mean to say that such is the intention of the hon. gentleman who introduced the resolution; I do not believe it is the intention of any of the hon. gentlemen who support that resolution that it should have this effect; but, nevertheless, this will be the practical effect of it; it will be interpreted by the more violent class of agitators, both in the Old Country and in America, as an endorsement of the course which they have pursued in the past, and an encouragement for them to pursue the same course in the future. Under these circumstances I think it is not wise that this Parliament should pass the resolution. The expressions which are used in this resolution, I think, fully justify the inference, or the statement, I have just made. It refers to the present Bill in the British Parliament as a most stringent coercive measure by which the Irish people will be deprived of rights most dear to British subjects. It expresses regret that this measure has been introduced, and asks us to protest against it. In speaking of the measure of Home Rule, which we wish the people of Ireland to enjoy, it says a measure similar to that of the Dominion of Canada, one which shall satisfy the national aspirations of the people of Ireland. I think these are sentiments which, if expressed in a resolution by this Parliament, would justify the class of agitators to which I have referred, in regarding it as an endorsement of the views which they entertain, and an endorsement of the policy which they are pursuing. It is for this reason that I, for one, while quite favorable to granting to the people of Ireland a just measure of Home Rule, which will give them control of their local affairs, cannot support that resolution in its present form, therefore I shall have pleasure in voting for the amendment introduced by the hon. member for North Simcoe (Mr. McCarthy); if that fails I shall cast my vote in favor of the amendment of the member for North Bruce (Mr. McNeill).

Mr. GIGAULT. The propriety of passing resolutions like those now before the House has been already admitted, and I do not think any more discussion upon that point is necessary. We have, I think, only to examine whether the measure of Home Rule proposed by the resolution is calculated to do good to Ireland and England. The hon. member for Queen's, N. S. (Mr. Freeman) who spoke this afternoon, said: What will a Dublin Parliament do for Ireland? If he does not know what a Dublin Parliament will do for Ireland, we know what the Imperial Parliament has done to destroy the happiness and prosperity of Ireland. Mr. Froude, a most eminent historian says:

"England governed Ireland for her own interest, as if right and wrong had been blotted out of the Statute-book of the universe."