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### TOPICS OF AN OLD-TIMER

Home Rule for Ireland and the New Liberal Ministry—Ireland in Prime Condition for Testing the Constituencies—The Sympathy of the Self-governing Colonies with Her—Brief Sketches of the Leading Members of the New Liberal Government—The Adverse Position of Lord Roseberry of Little Effect—By a Bold and Confident Course the Liberals must win a Favorable Verdict From the Electorate.

That Home Rule for Ireland is the leading question now before the British and Irish people and before the new Liberal Ministry of the United Kingdom, goes without saying. For the friends of Ireland the opportune hour now has come and the contest will be carried on at no disadvantage. The late Unionist Ministry came into power with a majority of one hundred and fifty in the House of Commons. So strong was its adverse majority that it not only successfully resisted every Home Rule proposition and proposed to reduce the representation of Ireland in the British Parliament by thirty members. The Unionists, however, were compelled to refrain from this by the tact and ability of a united, disciplined and well-led Home Rule Party and their overthrow brought about.

The Home Rule party itself is now in a prime condition of discipline and confidence. Its soul is in arms and eager for the fray. It has not only the sympathy and support of the great majority of the Liberal party, but of the Empire as shown by the resolutions passed by the self-governing colonies of Australia and Canada at different times. A devolutionist party consisting of former Unionists, recently sprung up in Ireland itself, which favors a half measure of Home Rule, and a party of Independent Orangemen led by a Mr. Sloan, to a certain extent favors reform in Irish administration. Ireland is therefore in prime condition for the battle and is likely to increase her national representation. And this happy condition of affairs in Ireland and the colonies is very likely to influence the people and politicians of Great Britain in favor of the measure. Within twenty-four hours after the resignation of the Balfour Ministry a convention was summoned to meet in Dublin to consider the situation, and with an immense national delegation that convention met and conducted its business with harmony and the utmost unanimity. So that now there is no Irish jangle or disagreement to mar the plan of battle, but all is peace and joy at the prospect of a successful issue.

Now let us look at the new Liberal Ministry and the Liberal Party and see what is to be expected of them. The head of this new Liberal Ministry is Henry Campbell-Bannerman, an avowed Home Rule and follower of the late Mr. Gladstone, the former champion of Home Rule in the British Parliament. It is but a few weeks since he made an open declaration favoring an ample measure embodying this demand. The favorable attitude of a party leader in a contest like this is half the battle.

Another very prominent leader and Home Ruler is Hon. John Morley, who has been entrusted with the portfolio of Secretary of State for India. In the last Gladstone Administration no man possessed the confidence of the dead statesman more fully than Mr. Morley. When he outlined his scheme of Home Rule no other member of the Government was more thoroughly identified with it, and it was generally felt that his thorough knowledge of Irish affairs, his sympathy for a people struggling for the undeniable right to make their own laws, his tact and his influence with his party would have determined his premier in insisting on his acceptance of the Irish portfolio. At

any rate Mr. Morley can be relied on to lend a powerful influence in making a measure of Home Rule an immediate Cabinet question. He has been a good many years in public life, serving on the press and in Parliament. He has written a most exhaustive work depicting the life and achievements of his former leader, the late William Henry Gladstone. No man in Parliament has won more respect from his associates and contemporaries than Mr. Morley, and he is a sure and conspicuous mark.

Next to Mr. Morley as a Home Ruler stands James Bryce, who has been appointed to the position of Chief Secretary for Ireland. He is a member of the South Division of Aberdeen in Scotland, is a man distinguished for high literary attainments and is the author of a great work on Democracy in America. Bryce is of Scotch blood but is Irish born. His sympathy with the Irish cause is well known and no case of expediency will ever reduce his loyalty from his allegiance to the Irish cause.

Another appointee who has shown his fealty to Irish interests in the past is the Earl of Aberdeen, who has been made Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, a position he held under Mr. Gladstone for a short time and succeeded in endearing himself to the people of Ireland. He was successful in showing the English people that it was possible for an Irish Lord to be popular. Not only popular, but loved as he was, Lady Aberdeen thoroughly identified herself with the Irish people, their wants, their sufferings and their hopes. She was never at ease unless she was doing something for them in one way or another, and no woman has a warmer place in their hearts. If Campbell-Bannerman did no more for the Irish than give them back Lady Aberdeen, he would have won their gratitude. Of course the Earl of Aberdeen is a Home Ruler and will govern Ireland along Irish lines and make the Irish people happy.

Robert Gladstone, a son of the former parliamentary leader and champion of Irish Home Rule, fills the position of Home Secretary and is well informed of the merits of the demand for Home Rule, which he unquestionably favors. He possesses executive ability of a high order and his occupancy of the several public offices heretofore held by him, notably Financial Secretary of the War Office and Commissioner of Public Works, was a most creditable one. The name of Gladstone in the Cabinet conveys an assurance that the old feeling and the old sentiment still exists among the Liberals of England.

We take it for granted that John Burns, the labor leader, who holds the position of President of the Local Government Board, is a Home Ruler, because there has always been more or less sympathy existing between the Home Rulers and the Labor Party, and I have seen it stated somewhere that an alliance had been formed between them. Mr. Burns has made his way from the humble position of a boy in a candle factory to his present exalted position of a member of the British Government, and must be a man of great merit. That he will act with the Home Rule side of his party, if there are to be affirmative and negative sides, I verily believe. At any rate it is quite natural that he should, for there is nothing that we know of to draw him to the side of Lord Roseberry, who favors an adverse policy. No other man in England wields a greater influence among the masses of the people and after all it is the votes of the masses that have the determining of all great political questions in England, for notwithstanding the aristocracy it is the democracy of Britain that possess the political power of that country to-day.

David Lloyd-George has been appointed to the position of a Cabinet Minister. He is a man of decided views and an out-and-out Liberal. His very decided opposition to the Boer war won for him the appellation of a Little-Englander by the jingoists of the day. He has been called the Parnell of Wales and is, of course, a Welshman. He announces himself as a Welsh Nationalist, and Home Rule, Temperance and the Disestablishment of the State Church as the leading principles that he stands good for.

Sir Edward Grey, the new Secretary of the Foreign Office is a distinguished parliamentarian. I believe he is a Home Ruler of some kind, perhaps a devolutionist, but how far he may go in opinion with his lead-

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er, Campbell-Bannerman, remains to be seen.

There are, no doubt, a few members of the new Cabinet who are not in sympathy with their leader, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman, and who are inclined to take the same views as Lord Roseberry against a decided and generous measure of Home Rule, and probably among these may be numbered Mr. Herbert Henry Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer. His career has been a notably successful one and in appointing him to the Exchequer in succession to Austen Chamberlain, Mr. C-B. has made no mistake. He was Home Secretary and a member of the Privy Council during the short-lived premiership of Lord Rosebery. He is as well an Ecclesiastical Commissioner and in other respects has been prominent in public life. What influence the Marquis of Ripon, Lord Tweedmouth, Sir Henry Fowler and one or two others, are going to have in settling this all important question, remains to be seen, and how far any of the new Cabinet Ministers are going to side with Lord Rosebery, if he be able to create a diversion, we shall soon find out.

The only Liberal leader who has sounded a discordant note is the latter gentleman. Why he opposes Home Rule now, but favored it formerly, is what puzzled us. Certainly it is not through any Liberal inspiration. Lord Rosebery was of age and out of school when he made speeches in its favor before. I have a friend here in Toronto who confesses to me that he is a Home Rule convert of Lord Rosebery's, made by one of his speeches in Scotland, which my friend says was so convincing that he could not resist its logic. His aristocratic birth and associations, no doubt have had a good deal to do with it. There are but few politicians that can afford to be inconsistent and this one in recognition of his supreme talents, may be one of them. He asserted lately that his attack on Home Rule had cleared the atmosphere. It would be truer to say that whatever effect his unlooked for interference might have had under other circumstances, it has really had singularly little influence on the situation at present. He has shown a marked lack of judgment and an inferior capacity for leadership in what he has done. The walls of Jericho did not collapse at the sound of his horn, and it proved but an unavailing blast.

In a very short time the new Ministry will go before the electors of the United Kingdom with their programme and ask for a favorable verdict. The situation does not have the appearance that any other will be rendered. The people have had enough of Tory rule to last them for a generation. The Tories hope that by pressing Home Rule proclivities on the new administration they may defeat them. I think that gauge of battle ought to be unhesitatingly accepted and the conflict waged upon it. The self-governing colonies through their parliaments have approved of the long-sought-for measure of relief. The Liberal party approved of it by resolution in the present parliament, but did not have votes enough to carry it. Ireland is in prime condition for the contest, and God will defend the right. The Tories may find themselves greatly mistaken in thinking Home Rule the weak point of the new Government, which cannot afford

### Communication

Dear Sir,—Being a reader of the Catholic Register for some time and a resident of Toronto for many years, I am greatly interested in the articles published in Central Catholic Club Hall, and Mr. J. J. Seitz's paper on the "Duty of the Laity."

What appeals most strongly to me is the fact of there being so little intercourse held between us Catholics. It must be apparent to all of us that socially we are not united. I believe any steps taken to bring about conditions to alter the present state will be appreciated by all. Clubs, societies, etc., will help and possibly federate will be the final step. Let us by all means do something to create and foster social gatherings, bearing in mind the fact that success cannot be fully attained unless we put aside petty jealousies, racial and political feelings and fault-finding.

The first step for us is to join some of the existing literary, choral and athletic societies, as well as the other grand societies, the St. Vincent de Paul and the St. Vincent de Paul Children's Aid. Then if there be no club in the parish to which we belong, let us try to get one by the aid of the Parish Priest. If we are enrolled in such societies let us work to get others in too. If all these clubs, societies, etc., are strong, it will be an easy matter to appoint delegates to a Central Body to organize the Central Club, to collect the necessary funds, to build the hall and to bring about the formation of a suitable building could be maintained in Toronto if the management is put on a proper basis and affairs run according to business principles.

That scores of us go to church regularly and yet do not become acquainted with any of our co-worshippers is certainly harmful to ourselves and our religion. Take the means employed by the Protestant churches. Is it not true that on the second visit, if not on the first, to such churches, strangers are brought to the minister and invited to join the church? How is it done? What could we do in our churches? Now if we had a small club, hall or room in the school which could be used for a meeting place after services, the reception committee of the social club could easily button-hole the stranger-Catholic. Let us, therefore, have something of this sort in every parish. "But," you say, "we haven't got them. We are doing nothing and it will be some time before we can do anything." Then let us have a full staff of ushers at every Mass. Here a few young men of strong character could do much. They could approach the young man and by tact have him introduced. The young lady of the Sodality could also do a great work here if her stranger-sister upon the second visit to the church were pointed out to her and given her to meet others. To carry out such a work our priests must co-operate and

to go backward or hesitate, or it is lost. For the Liberals free trade may be a winning cry, and it appears they want to make it their strong point against the weakness of Chamberlain protection. The Liberals at any rate must adopt a bold and fearless policy. They have the elements of success on their side and must win if they play their cards with zest and confidence.

WILLIAM HALLEY.

### ORDAINED AT ST. MARY'S

Four New Priests for the Archdiocese—Archbishop O'Connor Officiates—Impressive Ceremonies—Large Congregation Present.

Probably never before in the history of Toronto was the ceremony of Ordination carried out under the same auspicious circumstances as when His Grace Archbishop O'Connor officiated at St. Mary's church, on Wednesday morning and raised to the sacred dignity of the priesthood four young men, three of whom were altogether our own, being members of Toronto families, and the other a native of Barrie, a town in which Toronto has always a most friendly interest. The names of the newly ordained are Rev. Edward Kelly of St. Mary's parish; Rev. Martin Walsh, St. Peter's; Rev. Richard Droha, St. Basil's, and Rev. Matthew Wedlock of Barrie. Promptly at 9 o'clock, the hour appointed, the Archbishop and suite entered the sanctuary, and while His Grace vested the candidates in alb and stole, and stole worn across the shoulder, knelt before the altar while the witnessing priests fyled in and almost filled the chancel. The altar, beautifully decorated and outlined in white electric bulbs, made a fitting background for the impressive scene soon to be witnessed, the prevailing hues being white, scarlet and gold. The white tone was prominent, symbolic of the purity of purpose with which the young priests were to start upon their new life, but the gold also shone conspicuously amidst the whiteness, telling of the rich gifts about to be bestowed, and the scarlet note seen in the vestments and prie-dieu told of the ardor and love with which the new mission was embraced.

In the body of the church there were gathered something in the neighborhood of one thousand persons, and before the altar rails the crowd was so dense that all sign of an aisle was obliterated and the congregation stretched in one compact mass across the entire front of the church. At the moment when the Archbishop ascended the altar steps to begin the Mass, the picture was both beautiful and impressive. The picturesque chancel in its multi-colored and harmonious setting, the brilliantly lighted altar crowned by the illuminated sign of Christianity, the many priests and acolytes, and the presence of mitre, crozier, cope and cross of gold, formed an interesting surrounding for the four young Levites who knelt humbly before the Altar to receive at the hands of the Bishop the reward of years of work and waiting and the results of earnest prayer. During the Mass the different steps in the ordination were made and at the end the four young men stood erect amongst their confroes, clothed in priestly vestments and with priestly power, ready to bestow their first priestly blessing upon the immense congregation who advanced to the altar railing to receive it. At the close of the ceremony the Archbishop, standing before the Altar, gave a short explanation of what had just been enacted. His Grace explained that the newly ordained priests had been pronounced worthy by those who had the right to pronounce judgment. The people, he knew had come to evince their interest and to pray. He asked them not to cease their prayers, but to continue to ask of the Almighty that the young men might always remain priests as near to God's heart as they were on this day of their ordination. His Grace then explained that the ceremony of Ordination consisted of four parts: The unction of the hands, that those receiving it

occasional announcements from the pulpit would help.

Before closing I must congratulate you, Mr. Editor, for the lively articles you give to your readers. The Catholic Register has always found a warm spot in my heart and of late you have so enamored me that I have secured four new subscribers to your paper, as per enclosure. The Register should be in every Catholic home in the city and Canada. I am pleased that you have asked for opinions and if this letter is not too much of a punishment, I may write again.

Thanking you for your valuable space used and wishing you and yours a Happy and Prosperous New Year, I am,

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