

HOME RULE IN ENGLAND.

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It was my privilege during this present summer to be in Great Britain from the beginning of the Elections to the close, and it has been thought that the results of my observations there on this subject might not be void of interest to Canadian readers. My remarks must necessarily be brief.

In the first place, I gathered sufficient evidence to satisfy me that the much maligned Irishman has a real grievance, in fact many grievances 2nd. That he is using constitutional methods to obtain redress for these grievances. 3rd. That the British Parliament has steadily and unjustly refused to remedy these wrongs and has thereby alienated the affections of the Irish people. 4th. That the British nation has awakened to this injustice and by its recent Liberal majority has determined that Ireland shall have the justice which has so long been retarded.

Doubtless many of the readers of this short article will have received from the perverted and garbled accounts in Canadian newspapers the same impression as I received prior to my visit to Britain, viz., that Home Rule is simply a cry of the agitator whose advocacy is professional and interested. Nothing can be wider from the truth. The best advocates of Home Rule in Great Britain to-day are the moderate Liberal newspapers throughout that land, especially such newspapers as the *Daily News*, *Manchester Guardian*, *Leeds Mercury* and many others. These newspapers are not conducted by wild, visionary and fiery political adventurers, but by able, sensible, and business like Englishmen, who have sufficient political insight to discern the signs of the times and to apply the great lessons of History to an important portion of our vast Empire. I need not stay to argue that Home Rule is imperative for Ireland. It is simply impossible, and has been impossible, for years to get Irish affairs satisfactorily and speedily disposed

of at Westminster. The complications, delays and misunderstandings which have arisen in regard to Irish legislation have been a by-word for generations. The oppressive Land Laws under which Ireland groans are still allowed to continue, grinding the face of the poor, and driving them away from their country, thus spoiling otherwise good citizens, and transforming them into aliens. And how have their demands been met? By coercion, by imprisonment, by eviction, by fire, and the bayonet. No wonder Ireland is being slowly alienated and rendered disloyal.

If an attempt were made to govern England on the same lines there would be a few meetings held in the great centres, say Hyde Park, London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds, and if these hateful coercive acts were not at once repealed, there would be such scenes in England as would cause the Empire to tremble and totter. Why then should Ireland, simply because it is weak, suffer these indignities and oppressions?

The English people are aroused on this subject and are greatly exercised as to its immediate redress. The Press (Liberal and Conservative) is almost a unit as to the desirability of Home Rule, but just as to what shall be the measure of it is the debated question. Its solution is a serious problem.

Coming from Canada, where Home Rule is an assured fact, it was difficult for me at first to understand why there should be any objection to giving Ireland Home Rule. It was objected amongst other things that Irishmen were not fit to govern themselves, and the old, old story of the "Kilkenny cats" was given as a clincher against Home Rule. But surely anyone acquainted with English Parliamentary History could not truthfully and conscientiously urge this. Need I mention the illustrious galaxy of Irishmen who have graced the English House