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**NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE,
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 CURRENT NOTES and SOCIAL
 GOSSIP.**

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FREDERICTON, SEPTEMBER, 1896.

ONE CAUSE OF IRISH DISCONTENT

Reynold's Newspaper, published
 in London, Eng., gives the follow-
 ing statistics showing how Ireland
 is discriminated against financially
 by the British government. It will
 thus be seen that those who oppose
 home rule oppose fair play, and are
 more or less interested in the rob-
 bery of a weaker nation.

"A question connected with Ireland,
 which must arise almost immediately
 —probably in the next budget—is that
 of its financial relation to Great Brit-
 ain. It has taken six years for the
 Irish Royal Commission to investigate
 this matter—a scandalous instance of
 Government inaptitude, or perhaps du-
 plicity to hide the injustice done to
 Ireland in this respect. Since the
 paper union the taxation of Ireland
 per head has increased at a startling
 rate, without any adequate correspond-
 ing advantages. She has, in fact,
 been financially 'sweated' for the bene-
 fit of England. Before the union the
 taxes in Ireland never, as the evidence
 before the Royal Commission conclu-
 sively proves, exceeded 9s. per head;
 now it is as high as £2 6s. and this
 with a falling population and decaying
 or extinct industries. In Great Britain,
 on the contrary, imperial taxation has
 decreased since the beginning of the
 century.

"To the Irish accounts are charged
 an army of 30,000 soldiers and some
 13,000 armed constabulary, costing
 £3,500,000 annually. This is the price
 paid as an alternative for self
 government. The Local Government
 Board, the Board of Works,

the law charges are nearly as
 great in Ireland as in England—facts
 affording a stern condemnation of the
 incompetence of English misgovern-
 ment in Ireland and of the injustice
 done to her indigent population.

England's policy toward Ireland has
 driven a couple of millions of Irish
 people to compete in the labor markets
 of Great Britain—people who would
 have much preferred to stay at home
 had there been a chance of a decent
 living for them in their native coun-
 try. Finally, the expatriated Irish-
 man in America revenges himself
 against the conquering and evicting
 nation by fomenting ill will between
 the States and Great Britain, with the
 result that England is put to several
 additional millions yearly of war ex-
 penditure to meet eventualities. Eng-
 land has put a people in chancery.
 Ireland is the Bleak House of the na-
 tions. Under English misrule her
 population dropped from 8,172,120 in
 1841 to 4,704,750 in 1891, and in this
 year is not more than 4,500,000.

Thus it will be seen that:

England, the predominant partner
 has been taxing her junior partner to
 the tune of nearly \$14,000,000 every
 year in excess of what was justly due.
 This payment has been forced by the
 strong hand of an overwhelming ma-
 jority. The Irish protested and were
 silenced; but now the Royal Commis-
 sion on which English members are in
 a great majority, has reported that the
 Irish were right and the English
 wrong to the amount of £2,750,000 per
 annum. When the truth is known
 in all its bearings and the British pub-
 lic slowly assimilates this very porten-
 tuous fact, it cannot fail to enormously
 reinforce the movement for Home
 rule. England is rich, Ireland is poor;
 England is strong, Ireland
 is weak; England has
 imposed upon Ireland her system of
 taxation: with the result of compelling
 her to pay, not one-twentieth of the
 imperial revenue, which is all that
 could fairly be claimed from her, hav-
 ing regard to her wealth and taxable
 resources, but one-seventh—the differ-
 ence between these two fractions
 amounting annually to no less than
 two or three quarter millions sterling.
 Assuming that this has been persisted
 in for half a century, it means that the
 English have extorted from their poor-
 er Irish fellow subjects a sum of £100,-
 000,000 sterling (\$500,000,000) more than
 they ought to have been asked to pay.
 The sum is stupendous, in view of the
 smallness of Ireland, its limited re-
 sources, and the poverty of its people.

And still people will tell us "that
 Ireland is well governed and that
 her troubles arise chiefly from the
 rebelliousness of her people, who
 are never satisfied and who do not
 know when they are well governed"
 Can they shut their eyes to these
 facts, reluctantly disclosed by an
 English Commission? The solu-
 tion of the Cretan difficulty is
 "that the Cretans be given
 complete autonomy and the
 control of their own finances
 under a general guarantee by
 the European powers, and the
 amount of tribute to be paid an-
 nually to the Sultan of Turkey be
 based upon the ratio of the reven-
 ues of the island."

Why not give such a guarantee to
 Ireland? The foregoing, if there
 was nothing else, would go to show
 that Ireland stands as much in need
 of protection from England as
 Crete does from Turkey.

THE GOOD SEED BEARING FRUIT.

As a result of the revival of the
 Independence movement by the or-
 ganization of Canadian Indepen-
 dence Clubs in Windsor, Ont.,
 Montreal and other parts of Can-
 ada, similar clubs have been started
 in the United States. The honor
 of forming the first club of the
 kind in the United States belongs
 to the Canadians of Biddeford, Me.,
 and we learn that in several other
 of the New England States similar
 clubs will shortly be formed. It is
 significant of the progress which
 the independence movement is
 making, that in an article referring
 to it, published a few days ago in
 the Soir, the new French organ of
 the Liberal party here in Montreal,
 a quotation was made from a speech
 of Mr. Laurier's on the subject
 The new Canadian Prime Minister
 is reported as having said that it
 was not to be expected that Cana-
 da should always remain a colony,
 but would one day take her place
 among the independent nations of
 the world. The change, however,
 he believed, would come about in a
 "very amiable way." There is no
 reason why it should not; there is
 an old saying that "man propos-
 es, but God disposes," and
 though Mr. Laurier as well as all
 of us wish to see the independence
 of Canada attained in a very ami-
 able way, we do not anticipate that
 the great John Bull will relinquish
 his profitable hold on us without a
 murmur. It is not among the les-
 sons of history, certainly, and there
 is no record of any people being
 born into the family of nations
 without pain or trouble of some
 kind to either mother or child, or
 perhaps both. However, sufficient
 unto the day is the work thereof;
 meanwhile adherents to the cause
 of independence are coming in in
 numbers daily.

Never before in the history of
 Canada was there such an interest
 excited in the future of their
 country, especially among the ris-
 ing generation, or such a spirited
 discussion of the respective merits
 of Colonialism and Independence.
 There is no rebellion against the
 mother country, but a general rest-
 lessness and chafing at the re-
 straints imposed by foreign domi-
 nation. Even the boys on the streets
 and on the farms have taken it up,

and our reasons for the change
 have been challenged time and
 again, sometimes in adverse argu-
 ment, but more generally in a can-
 did spirit of inquiry, and we have
 succeeded in convincing the most
 of them. There is really no opposi-
 tion to independence except from a
 few ultra royalists and English
 Tories. The only question is: "Is
 it feasible or practicable just at
 present." There is room for a dif-
 ference of opinion on this subject;
 but ultimate independence is the
 goal to which we all aspire.

The organization of these Clubs
 throughout the land and in the
 neighboring Republic will accom-
 plish great good in brushing away
 objections and giving the people a
 clearer idea of their rights and
 duties. We take no little amount
 of credit to ourselves for our labors
 in THE JOURNAL in keeping the
 matter before the public, and have
 not the slightest doubt that if there
 were proper organizers among the
 friends of the movement in the
 Maritime Provinces, a Club could
 be raised in every city and town.

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 ders. New goods now arriving.

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