

London Office, 68 Fleet St., E.C.
Wednesday Morning.
Treaty signed in the small hours of
the morning between Great Britain
and Ireland, which gives Ireland the same
constitutional status in the community of
nations as the British Empire. It is the
most important document to which the terms
of the relations between the two
countries have been agreed upon more than seven
years. It is the first for the very first
time that the Irish Free State has
been accepted by the British Government
as a nation, and it is the first time that
Ireland has given its assent to any
treaty which binds it to any country or
to which it gives its name.

'S NATIONALITY VINDICATED.

The fact that there is a treaty,
a remarkable variation of the oath
which has been agreed upon
in the case of Ireland, proves that
Great Britain, upon which Ireland
has insisted for centuries regarding
relations with Ireland, has been
convinced that England has
had cause to treat Ireland as a
foe, and that Ireland enters, by
this, as an equal partner
in the nations grouped under the
British Empire.

The concluding merit of the treaty lies
in the fact that it makes the statutory
oath of allegiance, and deals with
it as a single article, instead of
the agreement under conditions
which is allowed by the Irish
Government to continue until its
negotiations with Scotland are later, and
the hoped-for union of the two
countries will be effected by
all the mutual influences of
race and kinship of moral and
interests, reunite itself with
the Commonwealth, get rid of that
Statute has fastened upon them
one of the world's oldest nations,
its area, "Southern Ireland,"
and the passing of the Treaty
is an indication that the return
of the two countries to a better
man, who, whether by individual
effort, tried in the past
to rescue his country from the
consequences of the Act of Union.

Ulster Gets a Month to Say If She Will Stay In.

THE WORLD'S NEWS

THE IRISH INDEPENDENT, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1921.

TERMS OF THE PEACE TREATY

FREE STATE OF IRELAND.

ARTICLES OF HISTORIC AGREEMENT.

A RELATIONSHIP THE SAME AS WITH CANADA.

"ULSTER" GETS A MONTH TO SAY IF SHE WILL STAY IN.

IRISH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AT ONCE

The following Official Copy of the Treaty was issued at Downing St. at 6.45 last evening.

CONFERENCE ON IRELAND, OCT. 11—DEC. 6, 1921.

BRITISH DELEGATION:

Mr. Lloyd George,
Mr. Chamberlain,
Lord Birkenhead,
Mr. Churchill,
Sir L. W. Worthington Evans,
Sir H. Greenwood, and
Sir Gordon Hewart.

IRISH DELEGATION:

Mr. A. Griffith,
Mr. M. Collins,
Mr. Robert Barton,
Mr. E. J. Duggan,
Mr. Gavan Duffy.

SECRETARIES:

Mr. Erskine Childers,
Mr. Fionan Lynch,
Mr. John Charters,
Mr. Djarmuid O'Hegarty.

TREATY BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT, SIGNED DECEMBER 6, 1921.

- Ireland shall have the same Constitutional status in the community of Nations, known as the British Empire, as the Dominion of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa, with a Parliament having powers to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of Ireland, and an Executive responsible to that Parliament, and shall be styled and known as the Irish Free State.

Irish Free State.

- Subject to the provisions hereinafter set out, the position of the Irish Free State in relation to the Imperial Parliament and Government and otherwise shall be that of the Dominion of Canada; and the law, practice, and constitutional usage governing the relationship of the Crown or the representative of the Crown and of the Imperial Parliament to the Dominion of Canada shall govern the relationship of the Irish Free State.
- The representative of the Crown in Ireland shall be appointed in like manner as the Governor-General of Canada, and in accordance with the practice observed in the making of such appointments.

Form of Oath.

- The Oath to be taken by members of the Parliament of the Irish Free State shall be in the following form:

"I * * * do solemnly swear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the Irish Free State as by law established, and that I will be faithful to H. M. King George V., his heirs and successors by law in virtue of the common citizenship of Ireland with Great Britain, and her adherence to, and membership of, the group of nations forming the British Commonwealth of Nations."

Share of Public Debt.*

- The Irish Free State shall assume liability for the service of the Public Debt of the United Kingdom as existing at the date hereof and towards the payment of War Pensions as existing at that date, in such proportion as may be fair and equitable, having regard to any just claims on the part of Ireland by way of set-off or counter-claim, the amount of such sums being determined, in default of agreement, by the arbitration of one or more independent persons being citizens of the British Empire.

Naval Provisions.

- Until an arrangement has been made between the British and Irish Governments whereby the Irish Free State undertakes her own Coastal Defence, the defence by sea of Great Britain and Ireland shall be undertaken by his Majesty's Imperial Forces, but this shall not prevent the construction or maintenance by the Government of Ireland and the representatives of the British Empire.

LONGEFFORTENDED

THE SCENE AT DOWNING ST.

The Irish Conference, which is likely to prove one of the most historical ever held in Downing St., terminated shortly after 2 a.m. yesterday, after a sitting lasting 3 hours.

When the Irish delegates returned to No. 10 at 11 p.m. on Monday, after the modifications of the British offer had been thrashed out with their colleagues at Chelsea, it was noticed that they looked grave and stern. They had neither word nor smile for those that crowded round their car.

Although the public seemed unaware that such a momentous Conference was taking place, and only an occasional passer-by in Whitehall paused at the entrance to Downing St.,

more Press representatives had gathered in front of No. 10 than had been the case for many years.

CHEERY AND SMILING.

When finally the Irish delegates emerged looking much more cheerful, it was realised that if a settlement had not been reached any possibility of future warfare was appreciably further off. Asked if they had anything to say, Mr. Collins's answer was "Not a word." He smiled and waved a cheery farewell. Close behind the Irish delegates came Lord Birkenhead, looking happy, but silent, and Mr. Churchill, looking happy, but passed. "The news is not so bad," he announced as he stepped into his car. He was followed by Mr. Churchill, though happy, though showing signs of strain.

THE MEN WHO MADE THE PEACE TREATY

Mr. Arthur Griffith.



Mr. M. Collins.



Mr. Lloyd George.



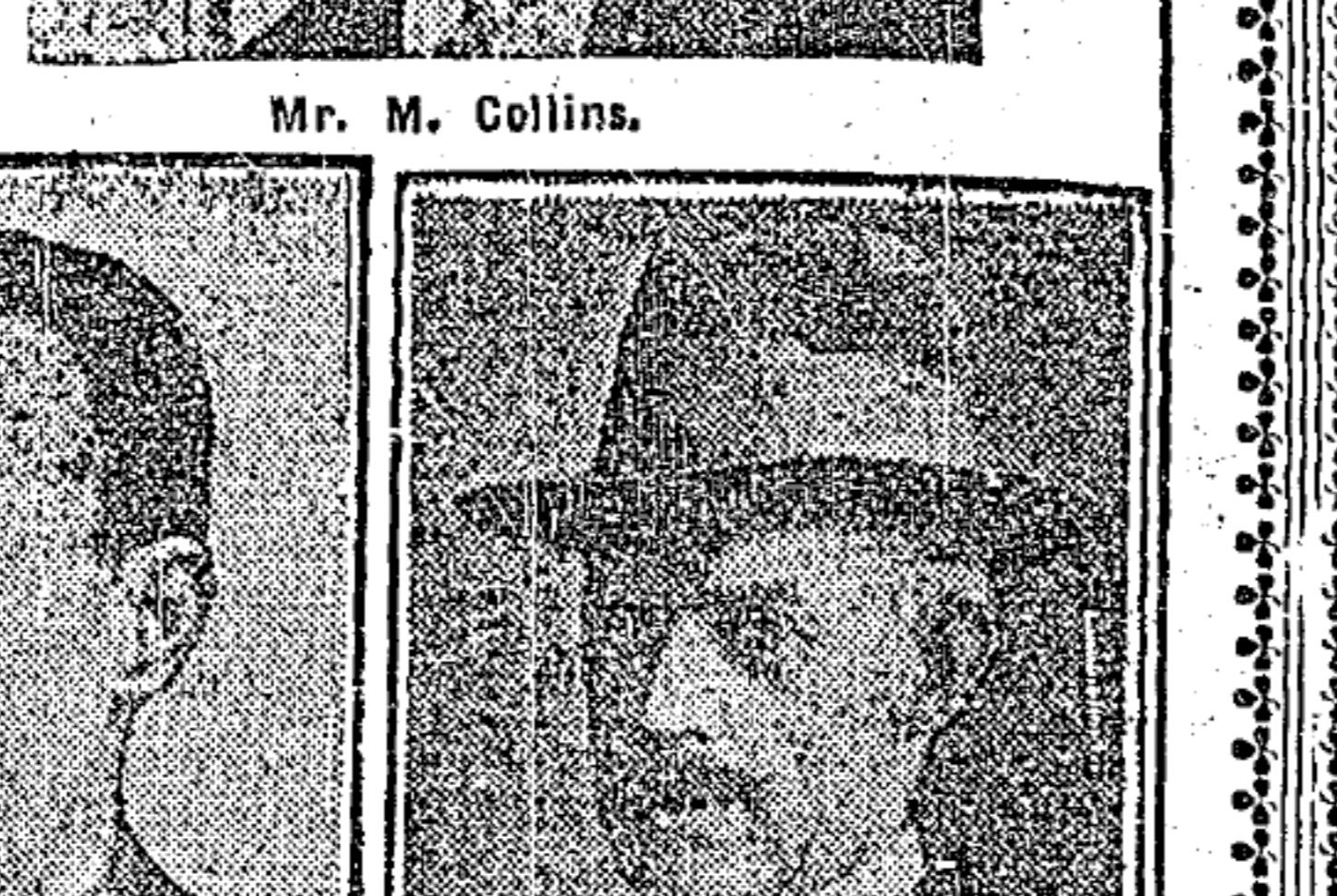
Mr. Winston Churchill.



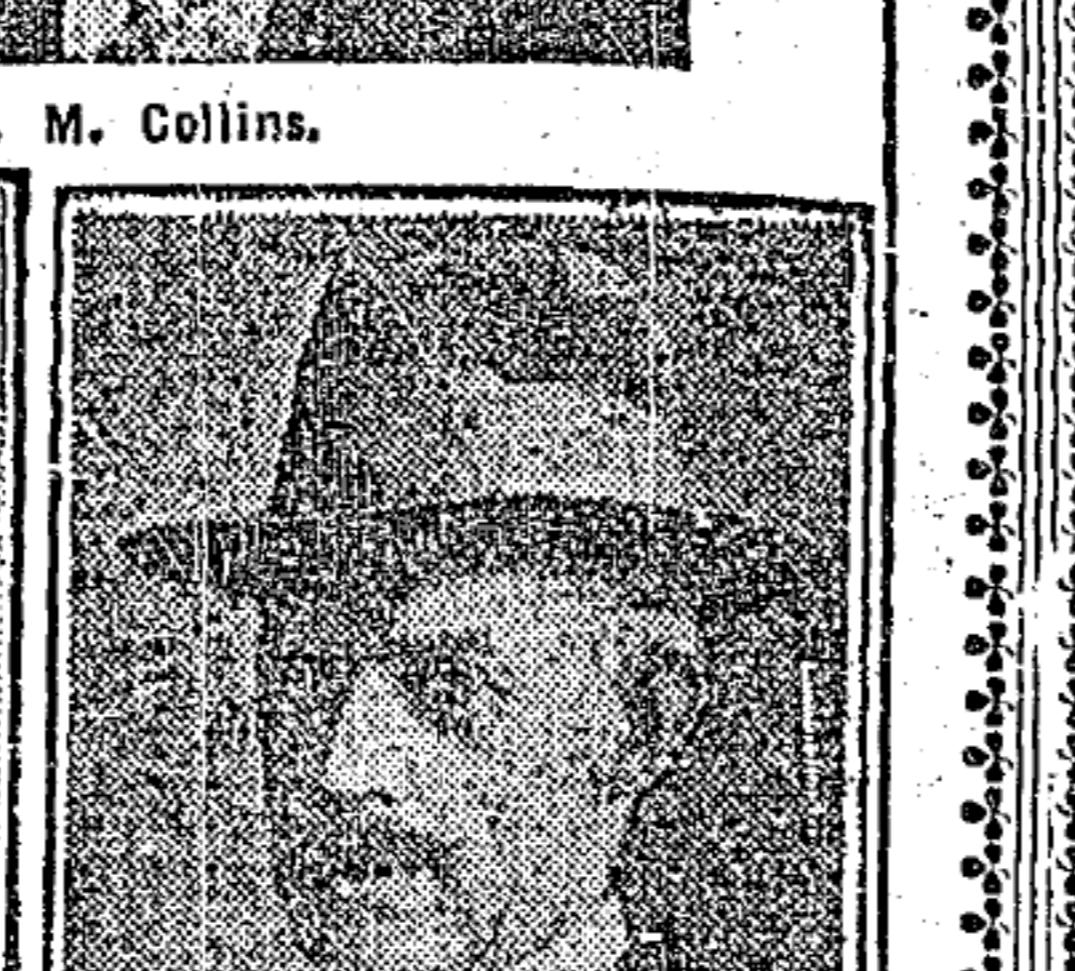
Mr. Gavan Duffy.



Mr. R. C. Barton.

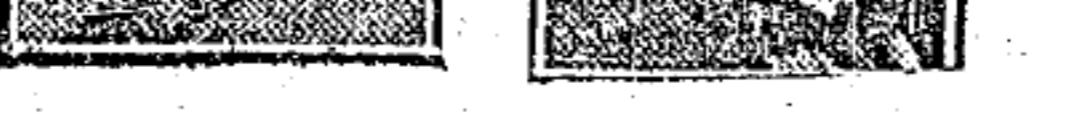


Mr. E. J. Duggan.



IRISH PLENIPOTENTIARIES.

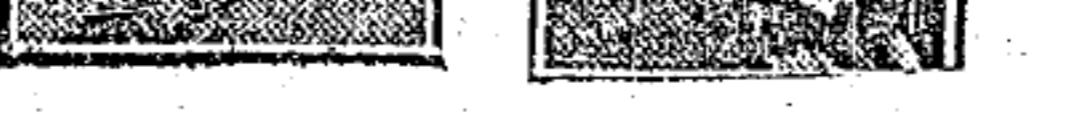
Sir H. Greenwood.



Lord Birkenhead.



Sir L. W. Evans.



BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES.

SIGNING THE TREATY

FRIENDLY LEAVE-TAKING

At the close it was officially stated that the Conference had reached an agreement which would be recommended to the British Parliament and Dail Eireann, and that a copy had been sent to Sir J. Craig, by special messenger.

A Press Association representative yesterday gleaned a few more details of the momentous proceedings at Downing St., which culminated in the agreement being signed. One gratifying feature from the British point of view was that

the British Cabinet were absolutely unanimous in approving the settlement.

The agreement was signed first by Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Birkenhead, and the second British delegate to appear his signature.

On the Irish side, Mr. Griffith was the first to sign, and he was followed by Mr. Collins.

Yesterday the signatures of the other delegates were concluded to the document. Mr. Lloyd George and the other delegates signed while sitting at the table in the Conference room. Afterwards an animated scene occurred,

the delegates, shaking hands with one another, wishing success to the agreement reached at long last. The leave-taking of the Irish delegates at No. 10 was of a particularly friendly character.

A special train had been chartered to convey by special messenger the term of the settlement to Sir J. Craig. The arrangement was altered from time to time, and finally, at 3.5 a.m., the special train started for Belfast, the two couriers being the destroyer Salmon, and proceeded to Belfast.