

AGREEMENT SIGNED IN LONDON

DRAMATIC FINISH TO DISCUSSIONS

THREE GOVERNMENTS UNITE IN PEACE PACT

AMENDMENT OF THE TREATY LEGISLATION TO BE PASSED IMMEDIATELY

IRISH MINISTERS ON WAY BACK

The London negotiations came to a dramatic conclusion last night, when an agreement was signed in the Premier's room in the House of Commons between the Saorstát, Six-County and British Governments.

Early yesterday a basis of agreement was arrived at, and during the afternoon the details were being worked out at a series of conferences.

Signatories' Messages

Mr. Baldwin, in announcing the terms of the settlement in the British Commons, last night, expressed the hope that the required legislation would be passed before the House rose for Christmas.

President Cosgrave and Mr. Kevin O'Higgins, in a special message to the "Irish Independent," declare: "This agreement provides the basis of a sure and lasting peace. We confidently recommend it to the Irish people."

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THE AGREEMENT IN BRIEF

The Agreement constitutes an important amendment of the Treaty. Article 12 is considerably altered, and Article 5 is cancelled. The main points of the Agreement are:—

(1) The powers conferred on the Boundary Commission are revoked.

(2) The boundary is to remain as at present.

(3) The Free State is released from obligation to pay any share of the British War Debt.

(4) In return for (3), the Free State takes over the British liability for compensation for damage during the whole period of the Anglo-Irish war—from January 21, 1919 (the date upon which the first Dáil assembled). Compensation already paid by the British Government in respect of this period is to be refunded by the Free State.

(5) The Free State also undertakes to increase by 10 p.c. all compensation for damage to property after July 11, 1921 (the date of the Truce), down to May 12, 1923.

(6) The powers of the Council of Ireland in regard to the Six Counties are transferred to the Northern Government. The Saorstát and Belfast Governments will meet whenever necessary for the purpose of considering matters of common concern.

(7) The Agreement is subject to confirmation by both the British and Irish Parliaments.

The approximate liability to be assumed by the Free State under Articles 3 and 4 of the Agreement is:—Refund to Britain £3,660,000; 10 p.c. addition to post-Truce awards, £346,800. Total—£4,006,800.

MR. BALDWIN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

LEGISLATION WILL BE NEEDED

TO BE PASSED SPEEDILY

The terms of the agreement were announced by Mr. Baldwin in the British House of Commons last night. The adjournment being moved to enable the Premier to make a statement.

Mr. Baldwin, who was received with cheers, said: "I thought it only right to take the earliest opportunity of communicating the exact terms of the agreement which has been signed just an hour ago."

Having read the agreement, the Premier continued:—"I would only say in conclusion that legislation will be necessary."

"I hope it may be possible to pass that legislation speedily before the House rises."

"I say no more about that at the moment" (cheers).

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald said having obtained this information he had no doubt the House would allow the motion for adjournment to be withdrawn.

Mr. Runciman (Lib.)—The details of this agreement are obviously of great importance, and no doubt the House will wish to examine them at their leisure. I feel quite sure the agreement that has been reached will be received with relief and with pleasure by the whole English-speaking world.

The motion for adjournment was accordingly negatived.

The triangular conference between the representatives of the British Government, the Free State Government, and the Belfast Government at the Treasury yesterday morning lasted for four hours. Substantial progress was made, and it was then understood that a basis of agreement had been arrived

THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT POWERS OF THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVOKED

BRITAIN ABANDONS THE WAR DEBT CLAIM

FREE STATE TO PAY COMPENSATION AWARDS FOR ALL DAMAGE SINCE 1919

The following is the text of the Agreement amending and supplementing the Articles of Agreement for a Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland, to which the force of law was given by the Irish Free State (Agreement) Act, 1922, and by the Constitution of the Irish Free State (Saorstát Éireann) Act, 1922:—

Whereas, on the 6th day of December, 1921, Articles of Agreement for a Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland were entered into; and Whereas the said Articles of Agreement were duly ratified and given the force of law by the Irish Free State (Agreement) Act, 1922, and by the Constitution of the Irish Free State (Saorstát Éireann) Act, 1922, and

To Avoid Causes of Friction

Whereas, the progress of events and the improved relations now subsisting between the British Government, the Government of the Irish Free State and the Government of Northern Ireland and their respective peoples make it desirable to amend and supplement the said Articles of Agreement so as

to avoid any causes of friction which might mar or retard the further growth of friendly relations between the said Governments and people; and

Whereas, the British Government and the Government of the Irish Free State, being united in amity in this undertaking with the Government of Northern Ireland, and being resolved mutually to aid one another in a spirit of neighbourly comradeship, hereby agree as follows:—

1. The powers conferred by the proviso to Article XII. of the said Articles of Agreement on the Commission therein mentioned are hereby revoked, and the extent of Northern Ireland for the purposes of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, and of the said Articles of Agreement should be such as was fixed by Sub-section (2) of Section One of that Act.

No Payment of War Debt

2. The Irish Free State is hereby released from the obligation under Article V. of the said Articles of Agreement to assume the liability therein mentioned.

3. The Irish Free State hereby assumes all liability undertaken by the British Government in respect of malicious damage done since the 21st day of January, 1919, to property in the area

SAORSTAT'S LIABILITIES

A FINANCIAL REVIEW

EFFECT OF THE PACT

The British Government had assumed liability for compensation for damage to property committed by its forces in the pre-Truce period. The Free State Government undertook liability for payment of compensation for all injuries done by the I.R.A. in the same period, and also for all damage caused in the post-Truce period.

The pre-Truce period extended from January 21, 1919, to July 11, 1921, while the interval embraced in the post-Truce period was from July 11, 1921, to May 12, 1923.

PRE-TRUCE PERIOD.

In respect of the pre-Truce period all the compensation was, in the first instance, paid by the Irish Government, and a contribution representing its share was subsequently given by the British Government. The contributions actually received, together with the estimated sum for this year, were as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Year (1923-24, 1924-25, 1925-26) and Amount (£2,051,014, 427,453, 1,260,000)

Total—£3,738,467

It will be remembered that just before the Labour Government relinquished office a sum of £200,000 was fixed as a liquidation of all the remaining liability of Britain. On that account the total figure given above would be somewhat reduced.

COMPENSATION.

What is the entire amount of compensation in respect of pre-Truce damage?

Last April Mr. Blythe informed the Dáil that the total pre-Truce awards would amount to £7,650,000, and that the British contribution would be about £3,660,000. Under the terms of the agreement signed yesterday the Free State has to assume liability for the latter sum. It must repay all the contributions which have been received.

It is also provided by the agreement that the Free State shall increase by 10 p.c. all the awards of compensation made in respect of damage to property within the post-Truce period—from July 11, 1921, to May 12, 1923.

APRIL ESTIMATE.

According to the estimate made last April the total amount of compensation for post-Truce damage to property and for personal injuries of all periods, mainly post-Truce, is £9,168,000. Of this sum in or about £700,000 is attributable

now under the jurisdiction of the Parliament and Government of the Irish Free State, and

the Government of the Irish Free State shall repay to the British Government, at such time or times and in such manner as may be agreed upon, moneys already paid by the British Government in respect of such damage.

Post-Truce Compensation Increased.

4. The Government of the Irish Free State hereby agrees to promote legislation increasing by Ten per cent. the measure of compensation under the Damage to Property (Compensation) Act, 1923, in respect of malicious damage to property done in the area now under the jurisdiction of the Parliament and Government of the Irish Free State between the 11th day of July, 1921, and the 12th day of May, 1923, and providing for the payment of such additional compensation by the issue of Five per Cent. Compensation Stock or Bonds.

5. The powers in relation to Northern Ireland which by the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, are made powers of the Council of Ireland shall be, and are hereby, transferred to, and shall become, powers of the Parliament and the Government of Northern Ireland; and

the Governments of the Irish Free State and of Northern Ireland shall meet together as and when necessary for the purpose of considering matters of common interest

arising out of or connected with the exercise and administration of the said powers.

Subject to Confirmation.

This Agreement is subject to confirmation by the British Parliament and by the Oireachtas of the Irish Free State, and the Act of the British Parliament confirming this Agreement shall fix the date as from which the transfer of the powers of the Council of Ireland under this Agreement is to take effect.

The Agreement is signed by—

On Behalf of Great Britain:— Mr. Baldwin, Premier. Mr. Churchill, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir W. Joynson Hicks, Home Sec. Lord Birkenhead, Sec. for India. Mr. Amery, Sec. for the Colonies.

On Behalf of the Free State:— President Cosgrave. Mr. Kevin O'Higgins, Vice-President. Mr. E. Blythe, Minister for Finance. On Behalf of Northern Ireland:— Sir James Craig, Premier. Mr. Blackmore, Sec. to the Cabinet.

POWERS TRANSFERRED

MATTERS OF JOINT CONCERN

THE NEW SITUATION

By the Act of 1920 it was provided that with a view to the uniform administration of public services in connection with railways and fisheries and the administration of the Diseases of Animals Act all powers in regard to these matters should become the powers of the Council of Ireland and not of the respective Parliaments constituted by that Act.

When the Free State was established these powers within its area passed automatically to the Oireachtas whereas if identical Acts were passed by the Oireachtas and the "Northern" Parliament constituting the Council of Ireland the powers mentioned were not to be transferred to the "Northern" Parliament in respect of its area until December 6, 1927.

THE NEWS IN DUBLIN

DAIL TO MEET ON MONDAY

President Cosgrave, Mr. O'Higgins, Mr. O'Byrne and Mr. O'Higgins left London last night, and will arrive in Dublin this morning.

Mr. Blythe, who only arrived in London about 6.30 last evening, was, it is understood, because of rapid progress made during the day, just in time to be informed that an agreement had been reached.

He remained in London last night, and represented the Government at the little social gathering between representatives of the Saorstát and Six Counties, from which the other Ministers hurried away for the purpose of catching the Dáil.

The Dáil, I understand, will be summoned to-day to meet on Monday.

PARTY MEETING.

As a result of the private information which reached Government Buildings on Wednesday night, there was an optimistic feeling in Government political circles yesterday, but that agreement would be reached so quickly was not anticipated.

Following the debate in the Dáil an important meeting of the Government Party was held last night, and it had just concluded about 9.30, when Mr. Fitzgerald received a brief message intimating that agreement had been reached.

The members were frankly delighted and not a little surprised. The negotiations were amongst the matters discussed, but it was decided to await the

"WE HAVE SOWN THE SEEDS OF PEACE"

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AND MR. O'HIGGINS

A CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION

President Cosgrave and Mr. O'Higgins have sent the following message to the "Irish Independent," telegraphed from Rugby on their way home last night:—"To-day we have sown the seeds of peace."

"The problem with which we were confronted is not new. It has baffled the representatives of three Governments. An instrument which provides a sane and constructive solution born of a genuine desire for peace between the two Nations has been signed."

"We faced the problem in circumstances fraught with the gravest possibilities. We bring back an instrument solemnly executed by friendship. This Agreement, accepted in the spirit in which it was negotiated and signed, provides a basis of a sure and lasting peace. We confidently recommend it to the Irish people."

Sir James Craig Satisfied

Sir James Craig made the following statement after the agreement was signed:—"I desire to thank the people of Ulster for the restraint and patience during a prolonged period of anxiety and suspense. I am fully satisfied with the outcome of the negotiations to-day concluded."

"The signatories to the agreement separate with a cordiality which I sincerely trust will result in more friendly relations being permanently maintained among all classes and creeds throughout Ireland."

"I return to-morrow with nothing but feelings of rejoicing and relief that statesmanship has succeeded in surmounting a grave situation."

AUTHORITY DISPUTED

DEPUTIES DEMAND INFORMATION

THE NEGOTIATIONS

CRITICISM OF MINISTERS ACTION

The authority of the Executive Council to enter into any negotiations for an amendment of the Treaty was challenged by Deputies in the Dáil yesterday.

It was argued that before any decision was taken the Dáil should be informed, and there should be a public discussion on the matters in question.

Mr. McGiligan pointed out that it was impossible to make any statement whilst negotiations were in progress, especially as the situation had not crystallised.

The Dáil adjourned till Tuesday, but empowered the Ceann Comhairle to summon a meeting on Monday if necessary.

ARTICLE FIVE

DEPUTIES' DEMAND FOR INFORMATION

After questions, Mr. D. Fitzgerald, Minister for External Affairs, moved that evening the Dáil should adjourn to Tuesday. They did not expect to see the President, and the other two Ministers, to be back in time to make a statement, on Friday, on his arrival.

Mr. T. Johnson said it was very disappointing that they were to be left without any information as to the course of the proceedings in London, or the line the Government was taking in the proceedings, until Tuesday next. In view of the public reports it was important that

the Dáil should have an opportunity before of considering the subjects which were under discussion, or even some intimation as to the subjects.

CLAIM AND COUNTER-CLAIM.

For instance, they learned that the question of Article 5 was now on the carpet; and they could know whether any notification had been received from the British Government as to the amount of their claim under that Article, and whether any notification had been sent by the Executive Council as to the amount of the counter-claim under that Article.

"I think," he added, "it would be very deplorable if we came back to learn that agreements have been entered into, even though subject to legislation, without informing the country of what line the Government had taken. They hoped some pledge or undertaking had been obtained concerning the future status of Nationalists in the Six Counties."

A CORK PROTEST

Cork Executive Councillor Mr. G. O'Sullivan, passed a resolution, addressed to the county Deputies, on the motion of Mr. Sean Jennings, chairman, seconded by Mr. S. Murphy, expressing serious alarm at the reports that the Government contemplated amending the Northern boundary on lines other than those agreed to in Clause 12.

"If the reported proposal to bargain Clause 5 against Clause 12, or any similar arrangement, were laid before the Dáil for the solution of the boundary question, we most earnestly urge you to vote against such proposals. Demand and insist that Clause 12 be carried into its arrangement. The wishes of the inhabitants of Northern Ireland be consulted, and even if such demand involves a General Election in the Saorstát."

He thought that it was most regrettable that the Dáil had not had a chance to know whether there are negotiations were dealing with the revision of the Constitution or Treaty. It was the opinion of a large number of members

OUR LONDON LETTER

THROUGH OUR PRIVATE WIRE

London Office, 113 Fleet St., E.C., Friday Morning.

Probably at the time when Big Ben was striking eight o'clock last evening the agreement amending and supplementing the Irish Treaty was being signed in the British Prime Minister's Room at the House of Commons by the Ministers representing the British Government, Irish Free State Government, and Six-County Government.

The new agreement between the three Governments was signed three days before the formal announcement of the signing of the Treaty between the two Governments had been abroad and amplified. While the Prime Minister was reading the text of the agreement in the House of Commons I was in Mr. Winston Churchill's room listening to him explaining the agreement and reading out its terms.

Linked to Lozano.

The Controller of the Exchange told me the agreement left nothing outstanding, and he added: "This agreement is linked to the Irish Treaty, just as the Anglo-American agreement is an advance on the Anglo-American Treaty."

The Prime Minister, after signing the agreement, had just time to go down to the House of Commons to meet with the representatives of the British Government, in one of the Ministers' lounges, in order to discuss the agreement's dangerous before the House of Commons.

The agreement gives the Boundary Commission a mandate to report to the British Government by July 1, 1926. It is possible for the two Governments at any future time, by agreement, to alter the Boundary Commission's mandate, but there is no obligation on either Government to do so.

British Payments.

The British Government does not pay money under the agreement. It is only in the case of the Irish Free State that the obligation to assume liabilities under Article 12 of the Treaty, the view of the British Government is that the Great Britain should pay other countries, but not the Irish Government, the cost of the peace.

The British Government also takes the responsibility for the great difficulty of the agreement, in so far as another country might be able to counter-claim the Irish Government.

5,600,000 for Damage.

The British Government in the new agreement that the Irish Government should pay the British Government for damage done to property in the British Free State during the period of the Anglo-Irish war. It is estimated that it has cost the British Government £5,600,000 for damage done to property in the British Free State during the period of the Anglo-Irish war.

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How the Commons Heard It.

The agreement was read to a crowded House of Commons by Mr. Baldwin. The House listened quietly, but did not appear to grasp the meaning of the agreement. It was then read by Mr. Baldwin, but when Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Minister for External Affairs, explained the agreement, expressed his opinion that it would be formed of with the British Government, more especially in the case of the British Government, and less so in the case of the Irish Government.

Net-Signing Film.

The net-signing film of the participating film was shown, headed by the General Officer Commanding the British Expeditionary Force in France. The film gives a vivid picture of the net-signing as it took place in the net-signing room at the Government of Northern Ireland, where the British and Irish Ministers were seated, and the net-signing film was shown.

Warrior to Fight Diesel.

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Pictures Postcard Pioneer.

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FOUR YEARS AFTER

The Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland was signed on December 6, 1921.