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ROUGH NOTES

There was a Meeting held on Monday, 18th June 1921, at 10 Downing Street.

The following were present:-

- Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd George, Prime Minister.
- Prime Minister, Northern Ireland.
- The Minister of Finance.
- The Minister of Labour.
- The Minister of Education.
- The Minister of Agriculture & Commerce.

Sir Ernest Grigg, Treasury.

Colonel Spender, Secretary to the Cabinet.

The Prime Minister made it clear that his negotiations with Mr. De Valera had reach^{ed} no very definite stage, but that he thought he could persuade him to give way on three of the four vital points, namely, in regard to '1) allegiance to the Throne; 2) reservation of Naval and Air Force Services; 3) Free Trade with Great Britain; and that he would also be able to obtain an assurance that Southern Ireland would give some contribution towards Imperial Funds, but that on the question of Northern Ireland Mr. De Valera ^{although willing} ~~proposed~~ not to interfere with any of the powers transferred to Northern Ireland under the Government of Ireland Act, 1920, ^{would only do so} provided that Northern Ireland recognised "a ~~the~~ Government of all Ireland" as the deciding ~~factor~~ in all other questions to be transferred, i.e., Customs; Direct Taxation; Military; Post Office; Coinage &c. Mr. Lloyd George made five suggestions as to how it might possibly be arranged that Northern Ireland should accept this latter

condition, subject to certain safeguards, but the discussion of these proposals showed plainly that none of them could be acceptable to Northern Ireland.

Mr. Lloyd George suggested that the Cabinet of Northern Ireland should put forward some proposals to meet the case during the next 24 hours, indicating that he did not consider that there was any chance of settlement unless some arrangement of this nature could be conceded, and that he was very averse to allowing Mr. De Valera to claim that the only point of disagreement was on the Ulster Question, which he (Mr. Lloyd George) thought would be less easily explained to the British Public than a disagreement on one of the other vital points.

The Prime Minister of Northern Ireland stated that he considered that Northern Ireland had made every possible concession, and that there was no way out of the difficulty, except that proposed by Mr. A.J. Balfour, namely, that every possible concession should be given to Southern Ireland, and that Northern Ireland should remain under the Imperial Government as at present, in which case Northern Ireland would naturally retain her representation at Westminster, whilst Southern Ireland would not do so.

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it would without saying that

Mr. Lloyd George pressed for a further discussion, but the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland thought that this would serve no useful purpose at present, as he felt that the discussions were at present solely between Great Britain and Southern Ireland, and that the interests of Ulster had not yet become involved in a practicable manner, and that it would, therefore, be better for the Cabinet of Northern Ireland to return to Ulster, although it would be ready to return whenever required by the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister of Northern Ireland also stated that he intended to reply to Mr. De Valera's statement about self-determination: Mr. Lloyd George concurring, provided that the reply was limited to that matter.
