

evidently the laudable desire of the British Government to give to the public the fullest information on a subject of vital moment to the Empire. It is our duty therefore to devote all necessary space to it. The information given is also of great interest in itself, and we, in this country, have only a misty idea of the present position, and what is meant by the oft-quoted expression "Home Rule."

We are told in the introductory portion of this summary that the Act recognises the aspirations of the great bulk of the Irish people, and gives to Ireland, South and North, wider powers than those contained in Mr. Gladstone's Bill of 1893, which was accepted by Mr. Parnell, or in the Government of Ireland Act, 1914, which was accepted by Mr. Redmond. It sets up a Parliament for Northern Ireland (i.e., the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone, and the cities of Belfast and Londonderry) and another Parliament for Southern Ireland (i.e., the rest of Ireland)—a Government for Northern Ireland, to be administered under Ministers who must be members of the Parliament of Northern Ireland and responsible to it, and a Government for Southern Ireland, to be administered under Ministers who must be members of the Parliament of Southern Ireland and responsible to it.

Although at the beginning there are to be two Parliaments and two Governments in Ireland, the Act contemplates and affords every facility for union between North and South, and empowers the two Parliaments by mutual agreement and joint action to terminate partition and to set up one Parliament and one Government for the whole of Ireland. With a view to the eventual establishment of a single Parliament, and to bringing about harmonious action between the two Parliaments and Governments, there is created a bond of union in the meantime by means of a Council of Ireland which is to consist of twenty representatives elected by each Parliament and a President nominated by the Lord Lieutenant. It will fall to the members of this body to initiate proposals for united action on the part of the two Parliaments and to bring forward these proposals in the respective Parliaments.