

# **HOME RULE PROBLEMS**

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Home rule problems by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**HOME RULE  
PROBLEMS**



1912

G. F. Vail

HOME RULE PROBLEMS

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# HOME RULE PROBLEMS

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1911

## PREFACE

THE policy of Home Rule for Ireland occupies a very different position to-day from that of 1886 or 1893. The question is no longer one of social order. Ireland has developed and is developing, and she is showing, alike in agricultural and industrial business, and in local government, real capacity for managing her own affairs. She has never been as prosperous and rarely as quiet as in this year.

But there is none the less present evidence of profound dissatisfaction in Ireland with a system of government centralised at Westminster. Discontent with it has spread even to the Unionist party, and, by an undiminished majority, the representatives of Ireland in the House of Commons condemn it. Moreover, a new phase of the case has developed. It is now plain that if the Imperial Parliament is to be efficient for the discussion and control of affairs of Imperial magnitude, such as Foreign Relations and Defence, it must be relieved of much local business. This can be accomplished only by way of devolution.

The case for Home Rule for Ireland is thus very strong to-day, stronger in reality than it has ever been before, for the situation is not one which

excites fear for minorities such as prevailed in former days. The voice of the old-fashioned and narrow-minded objector is not still but is less loudly heard. Under these circumstances the problem has become practical and urgent, and the success of land purchase and the diminution of oppressive poverty are rapidly making the conditions of solution free from complication.

In the papers in this book there is much variation of view as to the methods of solution. This does not detract from the usefulness of the book. There is no doubt as to the value of the end to be attained. The divergence of opinion concerns only the means, and as to the various methods there cannot be too much discussion if mistakes are to be avoided. Because the book is informing to the public, and contains the views of thoughtful minds on the modes of approach to a goal on which there is now increasing convergence of effort, I venture to write these few words of approval.

HALDANE.



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# HOME RULE PROBLEMS

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY.

BY BASIL WILLIAMS

IN the early spring of this year a small committee was formed of men keenly interested in the principle of Home Rule for Ireland, with the object of collecting information bearing on that subject, and of considering difficulties that must be faced in drafting a Home Rule Bill.

The following were members of this committee:—

F. D. Acland, M.P.	Sir Alexander Lawrence, Bt.
J. C. Arnold	Frank MacDermot
G. F.-H. Berkeley	Professor J. H. Morgan
C. Roden Buxton	R. C. Phillimore
Lord Charnwood	J. M. Robertson, M.P.
Erskine Childers	R. W. Seton Watson
Bertram Christian	Kenneth Swan
W. M. Crook	Charles Trevelyan, M.P.
E. A. Digby	H. de R. Walker
G. P. Gooch	Basil Williams
Rev. J. O. Hannay	J. F. Williams

This committee has held fourteen meetings, at which papers have been read and discussed. Since a Home Rule Bill seems likely to be the chief subject of political