

1885 & 1886

Elections

Parnell & Home Rule

Prior to the Elections

- Act of Union 1801 -> No more Irish parliament

- Officials

- Viceroy (monarch in Ireland)
- Chief Secretary
- Under Secretary

- Landlord System -. Mostly protestant

- Little industry outside Belfast

- Population & Irish language in decline

- 77% of population Catholic

- Political System

House of
Commons.

House of Lords
(veto)

- Parties:

- Home Rule Party/ IPP -> Charles Stewart Parnell

- Liberal -. Gladstone / Churchill

- Conservatives -> Lord Salisbury

Whigs.

Lord Hartington.

Continue Coercion.

Radicals

Chamberlain (monarch)

Kill Home Rule with Kindness

Home Rule Party

- 1870, Isaac Butt -> Unsuccessful in Westminster
- New Leader -> Parnell (1880) Meath MP
- Obstructionism
- Land Question -> President of Land League (1879) (Michael Davitt)
- Imprisoned in Kilmainham -> Criticising Gladstone
- Signed Kilmainham Treaty -> secured three f's
- Phoenix Park Murders
- Lord Cavendish / T.H. Burke killed by IRB Assassins 'Invincibles'
- Parnell Reorganised the party
- Lieutenants (friends) ran the 1200 branches
- Party Pledge to vote as one and be paid
- Electioneering Machine

Central Board Scheme

Set up by Chamberlain

Capt O' Shea was the go between Parnell and Chamberlain

Parnell saw this a step towards Home Rule

O'Shea reported to Chamberlain that Parnell accepted and Home Rule was forgotten

Chamberlain found out Parnell's views on the C.B.S and hated Parnell from now on

1885 Election

- Secret Ballot Act 1872
 - Parnell told Irish voters in Britain to vote for the Conservative
 - more sympathetic
 - controlled House of Lords
 - Results: C. 335
L. 249
H.R. 86
- > Gave Parnell the balance of power
-> however, Salisbury couldn't hold PM - not enough seats

1st Home Rule Bill

- Gladstone son, flew the Hawarde kite of Gladstone supporting H.R.
- Gladstone, Ireland would stay loyal to the union if given H.R.

Home Rule Bill

- Parliament in Ireland
- Viceroy, head of government
- Westminster control foreign affairs
- Led to a Liberal/IPP alliance
 - Gladstone could introduce H.R.
- Conservatives could easily oppose H.R.

Home Rule Defeated

- Political -> loyalty to empire could only be protected by the union
- Unionist Party
- Ulster loyalist Anti repeal Union
- Supported by the Orange Order

- Religious
- Home Rule is Rome Rule

- Economic
- Damage to industry in Belfast
- Belfast rally -> Churchill “ Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right”
- Paralyse trade

- National Security - Ireland used as a backdoor to Britain

- Defeated by 30 votes
 - many Liberals voted against H.R. - Liberal Unionists - Spilt Party

1886 Election

- General Election called after defeat of H.R.

- H.R. deeply unpopular in Briatin

Results: L. 191
 C 316
 H.R 85

Impacts

- Liberals dramatic fall
 - Ended Victorian Liberalism (17 of 20 years opposition)
- Home Rule was the fault of Liberals
- Irelands results were mirrored
 - Irish intentions clear
- Riots broke out in Belfast
 - Unionist party grew - aligned with conservatives

Results:

- Shadow of Partition (N.I)
- Liberals fell
- Parnell loses freedom to maneuver between alliances - strong Liberal alliance
- Unionist party established
- 20 years Conservative dominance

Downfall of Parnell

Piggot Forgeries

- Letters forged showing Parnells support for the Phoenix Park murders
- Published by the Times and promoted by the Conservatives
- Later proven as forgeries and was a great embarrassment to Conservatives and the Times
- Boosted Parnells popularity

Scandal:

- Parnell had affair with Katherine O' Shea, Capt O' Shea wife
- Filed for divorce, blaming Parnell
- Became public, huge scandal
- Couple later married

Parnell lost support:

- Gladstone announced that Liberal, IPP alliance couldn't continue with Parnell as leader
- Split in IPP Party

Parnells Funeral

- 1891, October , Age 45
- 200,000 attended
- Buried with the people of Ireland

Quotes

‘Uncrowned King of Ireland’

‘He fought the might of Ireland / And saved the Irish poor’

- Come gather round me, Parnellites
- W.B. Yeats