

Agrégation interne d'anglais
Session 2019
Épreuve ESP
Explication d'un texte extrait du programme

ESP
223

Explication de texte

BONAR LAW, Andrew. Speech published as "Mr. Law On Ulster's Resistance", *The Times*, 29 July 1912.

Explication de faits de langue

Le candidat proposera une analyse linguistique des segments soulignés dans le texte.

WHY THE PARLIAMENT ACT WAS PASSED

The Parliament Bill was not carried for nothing. It was carried in order that the Government might be able to force through Parliament Home Rule proposals which at the election were carefully hidden from the people of this country, and which they did not dare even to mention in their election addresses—proposals which they are trying to carry, not only without the consent, but, as we know and as they know, against the will of the people of this country.

NO ORDINARY POLITICAL STRUGGLE

10 The Chief Liberal Whip has told us also that the Home Rule Bill will be carried through the House of Commons before Christmas. Perhaps it will. (*A voice - "Perhaps it won't."*) I do not know. But I do know this—that we do not acknowledge their right to carry such a revolution by such means. We do not recognize that any such action is the constitutional government
15 of a free people. We regard them as a revolutionary committee which has seized by fraud upon despotic power. (*Cheers.*) In our opposition to them we shall not be guided by the considerations, we shall not be restrained by the bonds, which would influence us in an ordinary political struggle. We shall use any means (*loud cheers*), whatever means seem to us likely
20 to be most effective. That is all we shall think about. We shall use any means to deprive them of the power which they have usurped and to compel them to face the people whom they have deceived. Even if the Home Rule Bill passes through the House of Commons, what then? I said in the House of Commons, and I repeat here, that there are things
25 stronger than Parliamentary majorities.

ULSTER'S RESISTANCE

The Prime Minister was addressing in Dublin a great gathering, but almost simultaneously our friend Mr. F. E. Smith, who is to speak to us this afternoon, was addressing another great gathering in Belfast. (*Cheers.*)
30 Mr. Asquith denies that there are two nations in Ireland. How can he deny it with the fact staring him in the face? (*Cheers.*) There are two nations arrayed against each other in hostile camps, and, in my deliberate opinion, in all the elements which constitute national strength the nation which refuses Home Rule is stronger than the nation which desires it.
35 (*Prolonged cheers.*) There are those two nations, separated from each other, unfortunately, perhaps, separated from each other, by a gulf far greater than that which separates Ireland as a whole from the United Kingdom. Under these circumstances is it not impossible, and if it were possible, would it not be both unwise and unjust, to subject either of

40 these nations to the yoke of the other? (*Cheers.*) Under such
circumstances surely the only sane method is to make the British people
arbiter between them, to have both subject to the British House of
Commons, in which both are represented. (*Cheers.*) The Government, in
spite of the declarations of two of their Ministers, at the bidding of Mr.
45 Redmond (*groans*) have refused even to consider separate treatment for
Ulster. Well, they must take the consequences. (*Cheers.*) In Belfast and
the surrounding counties there is a population of more than a million
people—more than a quarter of the whole population of Ireland, a number
almost as great as the whole white population in South Africa today.
50 These people say, rightly or wrongly, that under a Government dominated
by men who control the Ancient Order of Hibernians, of which you will
perhaps hear something from my friend Sir Edward Carson (*laughter*),
under the control of such a Parliament, neither their civil nor their
religious liberty would be safe. (*Cheers.*) They say it, and they believe it.
55 They say also that they will never submit to such a Parliament, and no
one knows better than I how firmly they mean it. (*Cheers.*)

AN UNTHINKABLE PLAN

These men enjoy no ascendancy, they ask no ascendancy, but they will
submit to no ascendancy. (*Cheers.*) They will not submit to Home Rule.
60 How are they to be made to submit to it? That is the point. Does anyone
imagine that British troops will be used to shoot down men who demand
no privilege which is not enjoyed by you and me and no privilege which
any one of us, would ever surrender? The thing is unthinkable. Nations,
and great nations, have, indeed, taken up arms to prevent their subjects
65 from seceding, but no nation will ever take up arms to compel loyal
subjects to leave their community. (*Cheers.*) I do not believe for a
moment that any Government would ever dare to make the attempt, but I
am sure of this—that, if the attempt were made, the Government would
not succeed in carrying Home Rule. They would succeed only in lighting
70 fires of civil war which would shatter the Empire to its foundations. [...]