

<b>Agrégation interne d'anglais</b>
<b>Session 2019</b>
<b>Épreuve ESP</b>
<b>Explication d'un texte extrait du programme</b>

<b>ESP</b>
<b>224</b>

### **Explication de texte**

PARNELL, Charles Stewart. Speech (Government of Ireland Bill), *House of Commons Debates*, Commons Sitting of 7 June 1886, Series 3, vol. 306, cc 1171-1173.

### **Explication de faits de langue**

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

[...] We have always known since the introduction of this Bill the difference between a co-ordinate and a subordinate Parliament, and we have recognized that the Legislature which the Prime Minister proposes to constitute is a subordinate Parliament—that it is not the same as Grattan’s Parliament, which was coequal with the Imperial Parliament, arising out of the same Constitution given to the Irish people by the Crown, just in the same way, though not by the same means, as Parliamentary Institutions were given to Great Britain by the Sovereign. We understand this perfectly well. Undoubtedly I should have preferred—as I stated in speeches which have been quoted against me as showing that I could not accept this proposed settlement as final—I should have preferred the restitution of Grattan’s Parliament; it would have been more in accordance with the sentiments of the Irish people, whose sentiments in such matters it is most important to regard. But with reference to the argument that has been used against us, that I am precluded from accepting this solution as a final solution because I have claimed the restitution of Grattan’s Parliament, I would beg to say that I consider there are practical advantages connected with the proposed statutory Body, limited and subordinate to this Imperial Parliament as it undoubtedly will be, which will render it much more useful and advantageous to the Irish people than was Grattan’s Parliament, and that the Statutory Body which the right hon. Gentleman proposes to constitute is much more likely to be a final settlement than Grattan’s Parliament. That Parliament had many disadvantages. In the first place it had a House of Lords. Well, we get rid of the House of Lords by the Constitution of the right hon. Gentleman. It is true that in its place is put the First Order; a very salutary provision, although I do not agree entirely as to the extent of time for which the First Order is allowed to hang up a Bill, or as to some of the qualifications for it. But these are subordinate matters. I say, then, that the First Order is a very salutary provision, one that will tend to prevent rash legislation and intemperate action; and as to the power of the First Order to hang up a Bill, I would rather see a measure hung up for 10 years by such a Body than hung up for only 24 hours by this Imperial Parliament. I venture to express that opinion, having regard to the irritation which such constant action by the Imperial Parliament, such constant meddling and overthrowing on the part of this Imperial Parliament, as is suggested by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, would have on the minds of the people of Ireland. That would be most mischievous and dangerous, and sure to prevent the settlement being regarded as final. But when we are all assembled together in one Chamber, different sections of Irishmen threshing out different subjects, those causes and effects which have always come into operation in similar circumstances will be reproduced in Ireland also, and discussion will be relied upon for bringing about a

45 settlement of disputed questions, which we, of course, have, like other  
people, and the result of these two Orders working together will be that  
those questions will be decided on a basis of compromise more or less  
satisfactory to both parties. We feel, therefore, that under this Bill this  
Imperial Parliament will have the ultimate supremacy and the ultimate  
sovereignty. I have already said that under this Bill the House of Lords of  
Grattan's Parliament will not be revived; but there is another great  
50 difference between Grattan's Parliament and the Legislature to be  
established by this Bill—namely, that in Grattan's Parliament the Executive  
was divorced from the Legislative Body, whereas the two Bodies will be  
united under this Bill. I think it was Fox who said that there could be no  
perfect system of government in which the Executive and the Legislative  
55 Bodies were not joined together. In that observation I quite agree, and I  
think that the most useful part of the Bill is that in which the Prime Minister  
throws the responsibility upon the new Legislature of maintaining that order  
in Ireland without which no State and no society can exist. I understand the  
supremacy of the Imperial Parliament to be this—that they can interfere in  
60 the event of the powers which are conferred by this Bill being abused under  
certain circumstances. But the Nationalists in accepting this Bill go, as I  
think, under an honourable understanding not to abuse those powers; and  
we pledge ourselves in that respect for the Irish people, as far as we can  
pledge ourselves, not to abuse those powers, and to devote our energies  
65 and our influence which we may have with the Irish people to prevent those  
powers from being abused. [...]