

Home Rule and the Third Government of Ireland Act Part 2

What was the 3rd Home Rule Bill of 1914?

- Ireland was to have subordinate status to the United Kingdom (a form of federal state).
- The Irish Parliament was to be comprised of two houses. A House of Commons (164 Members of Parliament) and Senate (40 Senators). Of these, 42 Members of Parliament (MPs) could attend the Imperial Parliament of Westminster (reduced from 103 Irish MPs).
- Head of State was to remain as the British Monarchy.
- The Executive was to be headed by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (the Monarch's representative) who had immediate power to veto or postpone all bills produced by the Irish Parliament.
- The Westminster Parliament could annul or amend any act it saw fit.
- Powers excluded from the Irish Parliament included: Matters of the Crown (Foreign Policy, War & Peace, Military, Treason, State Sanctioning of Religion, Land Purchase Acts and National Insurance).
- Financial Powers: Coinage and Currency were to remain in the control of Westminster. Interest Rates to be set by the Bank of England. The Irish Post Office's revenue with a grant block of £6.35 million from Westminster was expected to pay for all Irish services and leave a surplus of £0.5 million. Unlimited power was to be given to the raising or lowering of pre-existing taxes and excise duties. There was no power over Stamp Duty and Custom Duty could only be raised by 10%. All revenue outside Post Office receipts were to be returned to Westminster.
- Though not officially agreed at the time of passing, 6 of Ulster's 9 counties were to be temporally partitioned from this act and directly ruled from Westminster for 6 years. It was felt at the time by the British Cabinet that this partition would be made permanent.

In recent times, it has been debated whether the rather weak Government of Ireland Act would ever lead to full independence. What is not debateable is that the Easter Rising and the subsequent War of Independence did lead to full independence for 26 of Ireland's 32 counties.