



1912 Joint Unionist
Centenary Committee 2012



Riley Rice to do report.

I am writing on behalf of the Joint Unionist Covenant Committee (the Committee).

This new group consists of people authorised to act on behalf of the Unionist Centenary Committee and the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast.

The purpose of the Committee is to;

“To commemorate the Centenary of the Balmoral Review which was held to demonstrate Unionist opposition to Home Rule for Ireland, and to do this in a manner which is factually correct and open to all.”

Background ---Balmoral Review

The first two Home Rule Bills in 1886 and 1893 had been rejected by Parliament following pressure from Unionists in Great Britain and Ireland. In June 1892 a massive popular demonstration took place in Belfast, the Ulster Convention, which attracted some 20,000 opponents of Home Rule from throughout Ulster. This was chaired by the Duke of Abercorn. In April 1912 the British Prime Minister, Asquith, introduced a third Home Rule Bill in which the authority of the United Kingdom Government over all persons, matters and things in Ireland was clearly acknowledged. On the eve of the Bill's introduction on 9th April another mass demonstration was held at Balmoral, attended by some 200,000 Unionists, including contingents from the Orange Order and Unionist Clubs who marched from the City Centre. This demonstration was addressed by Sir Edward Carson, the Leader of the Irish Unionist Party, and was supported by a large number of English and Scottish Conservative MPs and by their new Leader Andrew Bonnar Law, who issued an assurance that the Ulster People were not alone, as their cause was also that of the Empire. This demonstration became known as the Balmoral Review.

Our Plans

The Committee would like to commemorate this great event by holding a parade to a venue in south Belfast on either the 12th or 19th May 2012. One of the venues we are considering is Strangford Playing Fields, Strangford Avenue, Belfast,

Can you advise if this facility would be available on either of these dates to facilitate, a funfair, burger vans, marquees etc?

We will gladly meet to discuss what we have in mind and address any issues.

Yours Sincerely,

Stephen Gough

Secretary

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