

THE ALTERNATIVE ULSTER COVENANT

On 24th October, 1913, a public meeting was convened in Ballymoney, County Antrim named “Protestants Against Carsonism.” The meeting was chaired by Rev. J. B. Armour, a Presbyterian minister in favour of Home Rule and was attended by some prominent Protestant nationalists including Sir Roger Casement, Alice Stopford Green and Jack White. An “Alternative” Ulster Covenant in reaction to the original Ulster Covenant was read out, distributed, and signed by as many as 12,000 Protestants in County Antrim. The text reads as follows:

Being convinced in our conscience that Home Rule will not be disastrous to the national well-being of Ulster, and that, moreover, the responsibility of self-government would strengthen the popular forces in other provinces, would pave the way to a civil and religious freedom which we do not now possess, and would give scope for a spirit of citizenship, we, in whose names are underwritten, Irish citizens, Protestants, and loyal supporters of Irish Nationality, relying under God on the proven good feelings and democratic instincts in our fellow-countrymen of other creeds, hereby pledge ourselves to stand by one another and our country in the troubled days that are before us and more especially to help one another when our liberties are threatened by any non-statutory body that may be set up in Ulster or elsewhere. We intend to abide by the just laws of the lawful Parliament of Ireland until such time as it may prove itself hostile to democracy. In sure confidence that God will stand by those who stand by the people, irrespective of class or creed, we hereunto subscribe our names.