

The Reform of Parliament.

By 1830 it had become clear to many that the House of Commons was in need of reform. It no longer represented the feelings in the country, and it was unable to deal with the grave social problems caused by the Industrial Revolution – such as bad conditions in the towns, the countryside the factories and mines and elsewhere in Scotland and England.

FRANCHISE - To have the right to vote

BALLOT - the paper giving someone the right to vote for a candidate in an election

CANDIDATE - the person who is standing for election.

HUSTINGS - the platform from which a candidate cast his vote

LAND TAX - a tax on land - to meet public expenses

NOMINATE - to propose a candidate for election

OPEN BURGH - burgh where the number of voters was too great to make it possible for a rich candidate to bribe enough of the electorate to secure an election victory

URBAN - referring to a town or city

RURAL - referring to the countryside

RADICAL - Someone in favour of extreme social and parliamentary reform

CORRUPTION – when some tries to bribe and/or otherwise cheat the system for gain.

What was wrong with the old system of Parliament?

- Parliament did not represent the new growing industrial Britain because it did not represent the new cities which had grown up because of the Industrial Revolution. Only landowners and certain burghs had the vote. The distribution of seats was out of date in the new Britain.
- Elections were a farce because of bribery, corruption and intimidation. They were very expensive affairs - the MP tried to regain this money when he got to Parliament by awarding lifetime posts and pensions to faithful followers.
- A parliament dominated by rich landlords was very unlikely to pass laws for the benefit of the workers, even at a time of vital social and economic change.
- A corrupt parliament would not bother to change a corrupt local government. The parliament ignored the social distress and squalor of the industrial towns; it gave little of no help to great institutions like the church, law courts and universities.
- The House of Commons was too far away from the wishes of the people - the people were not able to elect anyone into it. The House of Lords often stopped good laws from becoming laws, just because they felt like it, despite the fact that the new law was wanted by the population.

Why did people like the old system?

- The right to vote varied from place to place. This meant that different groups could be represented in certain places and not others
- Agricultural interests represented by country members.
- Manufacturing interests were represented by the rich merchants.

- A large group of foreigners could be represented by one MP.
- Holders of pocket and rotten burghs introduced young men of talent into parliament. People said it was right that the right to vote should depend on wealth, as this was the real effective strength of the country.
- It was argued that it was dangerous to reform anything after the French Revolution (1789 - 1815) in case the same kind of thing happened here also.

The bad distribution of seats

- Due to its importance in the past, England in the south had 380 out of 558 MPs in England. Scotland had 45 MPs, Wales had 4. This was completely out of date by the 19th century - a large amount of the population moved to the Midlands and the North of England, because more jobs were available there than in the south. Most of the new industrial developments took place in the Midlands and the North. This meant that new growing industrial towns like Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham etc had no MPs representing the workers in parliament.
- By 1827, it was estimated that 276/658 seats were controlled by 'landed patrons' – these were rich landowners who allowed others to be MPs in return for some sort of favour.

The major laws to change the system of Parliament were

1832	First Reform Bill	<p>143 MPS disappeared from the different kinds of burghs, usually pocket and rotten burghs. Seats given to the counties and the new industrial cities. The 40 shilling freeholder kept the vote. £10 annual copyholder and £50 annual leaseholder got the vote. In the burghs a man with a house worth £10 per year got the vote. People had to live in the area or they lost the vote.</p> <p>Still difficulties existed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many constituencies still operated with still only a few hundred voters • Only middle class men like shopkeepers, lawyers, doctors, factory owners who lived in burghs could now vote, and well to do farmers in the counties, (about 50% more men than before). • Town workman, country farm labourer gained nothing. • Open voting, bribery, intimidation still going on
1867	Second Reform Bill	<p>Created an extra 1.2 million voters. All burgh householders who paid rates and stayed there for 1 year got the vote; so did lodgers who paid £10 rent per year; value of county copyholder/leaseholder now £5, not £10; 52 seats given up/moved about - 25 to English counties; 19 to burghs; 5 to Scotland; 2 to universities. This still helped the middle classes. However, these changes gave more people in the burghs the vote, and electorate in newer Scottish/English towns much bigger.</p>

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		Still much bribery, corruption.
1872	Secret Ballot Act	People now able to vote in secret. Intimidation away now, but still corruption existed.
1883	Corrupt & Illegal Practices Act	Ended much corruption. Candidates election expenses were now controlled by size of constituency; election agents had to account for spending; the law stated what the money had to be spent on, and what was illegal; breach of law was 7 year disqualification; being caught corrupting was punished by fine or prison
1884	Third Reform Bill	<p>Electorate now increased from 2.5 m to 5m. Two men out of three in England and Wales now had the vote. Male householders and lodgers in counties staying for 12 months could vote; all householders and lodgers paying £10 rent yearly could vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The system from now on was very similar to that of the present day, but Britain still was not democratic. Women were still unable to vote; so also male domestic servants; sons living at home; paupers on poor relief; soldiers in barracks and those who had failed to pay their rates.
1885	Redistribution of Seats Bill	Idea was to create equal constituencies. Towns of less than 15000 lost their MP. Towns between 15000 and 50000 had one MP. Towns between 50000 and 165000 had 2 MPs. The rest of the country was divided up into single member constituencies. The total number of MPs rose from 652 to 670. Scotland was allowed 72 MPs. Lanark now had 6 MPs instead of 2; Glasgow had 7 instead of 3; Edinburgh 4 instead of 2; Perth and Renfrew had 2 MPs each; Aberdeen had 2 instead of 1.
1894	Local Government Act	Parish councils were now elected. On paper, they had power, but very little money. This act helped women, because women who were qualified to vote could be elected also.
1918	Fourth Reform Bill	All men over 21 and all women over 30 could vote.
1928	Fifth Reform Bill	Everyone over 21 could vote
1968	Sixth Reform Bill	Everyone over 18 can vote

THE CHARTIST MOVEMENT 1839 – 48

This was mainly a working class movement which aimed at securing better living and working conditions through the working classes getting control of parliament.

It started with the London Working Men's Association of 1836, which issued the People's Charter of 6 aims. These are:

- **Equal Electoral Areas** The idea was to get equal representation for an equal number of electors. Each M.P should represent the same numbers of voters.
- **Annual parliaments** A parliament every year, to try and stop bribery, corruption.
- **Universal Manhood Suffrage** Every man over 21 to get the vote. The idea was to get the people to help themselves by having the right to vote for better conditions, laws etc for themselves
- **Secret Ballot** People to be able to vote in secret, to stop bribery, corruption and intimidation at the polling station
- **Payment for members of parliament** So that poor people could be M.Ps - only rich people could afford to be M.Ps because of the necessity to have a proper wage or financial backing of some sort
- **Abolition of Property Qualifications** for M.Ps M Ps had to own property to the value of £600 per year, before being allowed to become an M.P, and this system was a great handicap to the poor

Many workers and some of the middle classes supported Chartism especially in the industrial Midlands and the north of England. Support, however, varied. When times were bad, with high unemployment and expensive bread, support was strong. When times improved and conditions got better, many supporters lost interest.

Why did people support the Chartists?

Working classes were dissatisfied with the 1832 Reform Bill. The harsh Poor Law caused much discontent. The poorer classes thought that having their own M.Ps would give them far better conditions.

Bad living and working conditions - Chartism promised a great improvement in these conditions.

Persecution of the trade unions. The trade unions were illegal, and Chartism was hopefully a way to get some improvement in their conditions instead of using the unions. High food prices - Chartism at least offered some form of hope.

Leadership

There were two types of Chartist

	MORAL FORCE	PHYSICAL FORCE.
Methods	They were non violent. They wanted the support of public opinion by the use of processions, demonstrations and petitions.	They favoured winning the vote by violence They wanted a general strike or an armed uprising, leading to revolution
Main leaders	William Lovett	Fearghus O'Connor

	Thomas Attwood Richard Oastler	Bronterre O'Brien

MAIN EVENTS

There were three main petitions - 1839, 1842, 1848.

1839	<p>A Chartist convention (meant to be a rival of Parliament) met in London and later in Birmingham.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A mass rally in Birmingham was scattered by troops.• The convention called a General Strike, but very few responded to it (August 1839)• The convention prepared a petition to present to Parliament. In July 1839, Parliament rejected this petition. <p>After rejection of the petition by parliament, there was much rioting and trouble up and down the country. Forces of law and order eventually controlled it</p>
June 1840	<p>Many Chartist leaders were imprisoned.</p>
1842	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The economic slump returned, worse than ever.• May 1842: a new petition was presented to Parliament supposedly signed by over three million people. It was also rejected• Many strikes, riots followed especially in Lancashire, where the PLUG PLOT took place This plot was when strikers toured round the factories pulling the plugs from the boilers of the steam engines, in an attempt to start a general strike again.• Many Chartists were arrested and many were transported as this second attempt collapsed also.
1848	<p>This marked the height of Chartist activity and also its failure. O'Connor was by now the main leader - he had been elected M.P for Nottingham in 1847</p> <p>Revolutions took place all over Europe (in France, Austria, Hungary, Russia, and Italy) in 1848. This encouraged a revival of Chartism again in Britain.</p> <p>A third petition was drawn up - it was said to have over five million signatures - many however, were false.</p> <p>The Chartists decided to hold a meeting at Kennington Common in London on 10th April 1848. From here a procession would take the petition to WESTMINSTER. This was to be a totally peaceful demonstration. This was to try to demonstrate to the government that the Chartists were prepared to try to achieve their aims in a responsible, peaceful fashion, so that the Government would take them seriously.</p>

The government took measures, however to foil the Chartists.

- Railway and telegraph had covered Britain since 1839. Now the government took over both of these methods of communications and deprived the Chartists of their use Only those with government passes could use the telegraph.
- Soldiers were placed at a few carefully chosen towns, ready to move by train at an hour's notice.
- The procession was banned in London. Bridges were heavily guarded by infantry and cavalry. Heavy guns were placed in the Tower of London, and steamers were hired to take them up stream to bombard crowds threatening the bridges. Special constables were recruited.
- Government offices and the Bank Of England were specially guarded with sandbag parapets, timber barricades and rifles.

- When all the false names were discovered on the Third petition the Chartists were disgraced and the petition was rejected yet again. This marked the effective end of the Chartist cause.

REASONS FOR FAILURE OF CHARTISM

- Divided leadership - many left rather than support a policy of physical force.
- Leadership generally was poor, and often impractical. There was no real hope of changing the Parliamentary system by means of petitions only - the upper classes had too strong a hold on the system at this time.
- Many distrusted the Irish leadership, especially after the failure of the Land Co - operative Society (money provided by ordinary people to the Chartist leaders to buy small plots of land to help people help themselves). This was supposed to buy land and settle people on it. It failed, and O'Brien was suspected of fraud.
- The firm government measures against the Chartists discouraged many people from joining them.
- Conditions improved for many in the later half of the nineteenth century, because there were more jobs; a rise in prosperity due to Peel's free trade policy; much railway building.
- Many would-be Chartists began to support other causes instead, therefore Chartism lost support to the Anti Corn Law League, the trade unions, the Co - operative movement and the fight for factory and mine reform.
- Many former supporters emigrated to America, Canada, to emerging states in Europe like Italy, and to other parts of the world.

NOTE THAT CHARTISM DREW ATTENTION TO FAULTS IN THE PARLIMENTARY SYSTEM - THOUGH IT DID NOT DEMAND VOTES FOR WOMEN OR A REDUCTION IN THE POWER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

What is meant by "Chartism was Hunger politics"?

Chartism flourished in the 1840s because this was a time of trade slumps, high unemployment, and discontent because of low wages, high prices etc. All these bad conditions were very good for the development and growth of causes like Chartism.

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THE POOR LAW SYSTEM

OVERSEER: Someone who watches over the other workers in the factory factory, like a foreman. Usually cruel characters.

PAUPER: Someone who is absolutely destitute (absolutely NO money)

INDOOR RELIEF: Relief for people in a workhouse.

OUTDOOR RELIEF: Relief for people outside a workhouse.

COMMISSIONER: Someone who is part of Royal Commission.

ROYAL COMMISSION: Special government group set up to study something of general public concern

WORKHOUSE: Where people went when they nothing to live on; these were usually very difficult places to live in; families were split up, and the work and the food was terrible.

Changes in the welfare of the people/ system of looking after the poor.

In the 20th century the Liberals (1906 - 14) and the Labour party (1945-51) did a great amount to help the poor/working classes. The last 30 years of the 19th century was mainly dominated by the Tories, and they did some good also.

1795	Speenhamland System	Provided some form of poor relief for people who had nothing when times were really bad - they were given money according to the price of bread, their income and the number in their family. This became very expensive eventually as people married early to raise large families and more money from the system; encouraged laziness - they got money even if they did not work; if they saved they got nothing; this discouraged workers from saving; kept wages low.
1834	Poor Law Amendment Act (Scottish version of this passed in 1845)	<p>Workhouse test in force. Workhouse was the only place for people to go; conditions so bad that they had to be desperate to enter - bad food; families split up; harsh conditions of work. It became very difficult to make people go to workhouse in the north, as job situation varied; so government still had to give people some form of help outside the workhouse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After 1850 things got a bit better for the old, sick and young. Old often given outdoor relief (outside the workhouse); for those left in workhouse, married couples over 60 allowed to stay together but in separate bedrooms. • More specialised care for the sick poor after the 1860s; By the end of the century, separate infirmaries set up as general hospitals for them. • Children removed from workhouses after 1870s, and they should get some form of family life. In Scotland, children boarded out with working class families. • Still not many wanting to go to the grim workhouse though.
1880s	Work of Booth, Rowntree and	Carried out surveys of conditions of the poor and made the government rethink ideas. Still not a lot of government action,

	Money	however.
1894	Outdoor relief (Friendly Societies Act)	Poor Law administrators were able to help even those who were getting up to 5 shillings from friendly societies - helping the poor even more.
1906-14	Liberal Reforms	Various child reforms (school meals 1906; education Bill 1907; Juvenile Courts 1908). Other reforms - Old Age pensions (1908); Coal Mines act (1908); Labour Exchanges 1909; Workman's Compensation Act 1911; National Insurance 1911; Unemployment Insurance 1911)
In WW2	National Government	National Milk Scheme (1940); immunisation against diphtheria from 1941 onwards; Old Age and Widows Pensions Act (1940); Determination of Needs Act (1941) – these meant that the mood of the Social Security system was moving away from selective benefits based on the old Poor Law to wards universal benefits based on need.
1945-51	Labour Government	Set up the modern Welfare state as we know it. Based on the Beveridge report.

PUBLIC HEALTH REFORMS

In the early nineteenth century the system of PUBLIC HEALTH was chaotic. Housing and living conditions in towns were very bad. By 1842 CHADWICK demonstrated exactly how bad conditions really were in his 1842 report on THE SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE LABOURING POPULATION.

HOUSING	Jerry built housing was housing built quickly and of poor materials in order to give high profits to builders. People lived in greatly overcrowded houses - perhaps 8-10 people in a room 12 feet by 9 feet. Single ends were the usual style of home for people.
REFUSE	No rubbish collections except in the better off areas. People threw all their rubbish out onto the streets. Toilets in the middle of the streets, none inside the houses. It meant that if any bad disease like cholera or smallpox hit a place, then it spread very fast because of all the dirt in these towns
SEWAGE	All the sewers blocked up because the pipes were made of a type of brick through which the water escaped, leaving all the rubbish to pile up. Every few years these sewers had to be opened up to clear them properly
WATER SUPPLY	All the taps in the streets were owned by different water companies, and they charged for their water. The water was only available for a few hours each day. People could only afford a little at a time, so they went to the polluted rivers to get all their water instead. Therefore, disease used to spread rapidly
VENTILATION	People thought that fresh air was bad for them, so they kept windows closed! Inside factories, candle power was the major source of light, and the heat and fumes, allied to the overcrowding, led to lung diseases like tuberculosis

Note that there was general ignorance, even among doctors, of the causes of disease - i.e. - the existence of germs.

Effective treatment was rare - disease like typhoid, tuberculosis (even smallpox, despite vaccination) were common killers. Cholera reached Britain for the first time in 1831, the first of several serious epidemics. By 1840, the average age at death was 30 (or less). As many as 1 baby in 6 died before reaching the age of 1 year.

CAUSES OF THIS STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- A rapid rise in population, plus immigration from Ireland, led to over crowding in towns.
- The Industrial Revolution saw the rapid rise of the new industrial towns like Manchester, Leeds, Glasgow etc. Slums soon developed in these towns and disease spread.
- Neither the Westminster government nor the local authorities had the power to act effectively to prevent the spread of disease ridden slums.
- Many people held the LAISSEZ FAIRE view that the government should not interfere. It was up to people to help themselves
- Too many people were too interested in profits to try to help in the realm of public health, e.g. Landlords, Jerry builders. Water companies.

- Low wages; bad food; too much alcohol; neglect of children because women were out working, women knew little about cookery and housekeeping because they had spent so much time out at work.

WHAT WAS DONE ABOUT THIS STATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH?

The **PUBLIC HEALTH ACT** of 1848 was an attempt to do something about the bad state of the country.

- It set up a **BOARD of HEALTH** of 3 people for 5 years. It had the power to set up local health boards.
- Local boards had the power to impose a special rate to pay for improvement schemes.

The Public Health Act did not take effect immediately. In the years after 1848 some local authorities took action - Manchester, Glasgow and Liverpool appointed medical officers of health. Some slums were cleared from the 1850's, but no real large national action took place until after the 1870's.

Medicine and disease

In the 18th and 19th centuries, there was general ignorance about disease, and there were few effective cures. No one knew of the existence of germs. Treatment was ineffective. Hospitals were dirty, badly ventilated, riddled with bugs and fleas, staffed by untrained drunken nurses. In surgery, the two main problems were pain and infection. Anaesthetics were unknown. Patients were strapped down to the table for an operation and held down by several large nurses. The most popular surgeons were the quickest. Delicate or lengthy surgery was impossible – many impossible cases then are straightforward now – e.g appendix operations. Many later died from blood poisoning. The same death awaited many mothers after childbirth. One of the main reasons for these terrible conditions was the poor standard of training of doctors. Medical schools (except in Scotland) were slow to change and teach new ideas. Many trainee surgeons were handicapped by a shortage of corpses for dissection.

In medicine, improvements eventually took place.

Jenner	Pioneer of smallpox vaccination.
Simpson	Discoverer of chloroform
Pasteur	Discoverer of germs
Lister	Developed antiseptic surgery
Medical Schools	Opened in places like Bristol and Manchester while the teaching at Oxford and Cambridge improved
New Instruments	The stethoscope and the Ophthalmoscope (for studying the inside of the eye) were developed
Florence Nightingale	She greatly improved the training of nursing and the care they provided; many lives were saved.

FACTORY and MINE REFORM

Conditions in factories about 1830 could be good in some cases, but usually were very bad.

- When the mills were busy, adults and children worked very long hours – 16 to 17 hours per day.
- There were many accidents because of
 - The fatigue of the operator
 - The dangerous machinery – much was unguarded and children crept below the machines to clean them.
- There was much cruelty – beatings and strappings were common, especially amongst children
- Wages were often low – the TRUCK system was in operation. In this system, employers gave workers tokens instead of money as wages. These could only be used in the employer's shop, and workers were charged high prices in these shops. Workers were very badly off.

Factory owners exploited the workers

A woman and two children would often cost less than one man in wages

Workers were paid all or part of their wages in tokens which could only be spent in the owner's shop. Goods were of poorer quality and cost more here. The owner kept all the profits.

- Ventilation in the factories was very bad. Many were hot and dusty and workers suffered from very serious chest diseases. Children grew up deformed from too much bending or carrying of heavy loads.
- Workers were forced to live in the factory houses which were usually cheaply built hovels, and let at a very high rent. The factory owner took the profit.
- Workers were fined heavily for 'offences' they were supposed to have committed, like talking and/or singing at work.
- The parish apprentices (usually orphans) suffered more than anyone. Their parents were dead or had abandoned them. These children were brought up in the workhouse. Their hours were long, their food was bad and their working lives harsh in the extreme.

OPPOSITION TO FACTORY REFORM

- Many people supported the idea of LAISSEZ FAIRE. This was the government policy of 'to leave alone.' People said that workmen were free to negotiate their own hours and wages with their employers. Remember the problems though - No trade union, no vote, no M.Ps etc. Employers had full control
- Many owners claimed that if working hours were reduced, then the factories would go bankrupt and close down. Workers would lose their jobs, therefore they would be worse off.
- Some claimed that factory discipline was good for the children, and that parents depended on their children's earnings.

MOVEMENT TOWARDS FACTORY REFORM

- Despite the Laissez Faire attitude there was a growing feeling that the state should step in to protect workers and children who could not look after themselves.
- Factory workers aimed at a TEN HOUR DAY for themselves, and formed short time committees to work towards this.
- Many Tory workers supported the Reform Movement - e.g Richard Oastler. Mill owners like John Fielding and Robert Owen supported their workers. So did many Radicals like William Cobbett.

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION REGARDING FACTORIES

1802	Health and Morals of Apprentices Act	Apprentices in cotton mines were not to work more than 12 hours daily. No night work. This Act had no real effect - no inspectors were appointed. Owners ignored it. System of pauper apprentices declining anyway.
1819	Factory Act (by Robert Owen)	No child less than 9 to work in a cotton mill. Children 9 - 16 to work only 12 hours daily. This one failed because it was never enforced.
1833	Ten Hours Bill	Attempt to shorten all workers to 10 hours; rejected by parliament, but it led to the
1833	Factory Act or Althorps Act or Factories Regulations Act	Applied to almost all textile mills, but not silk mills. No child less than 9 to be employed at all. Children 9-13 to be employed not more than 9 hours daily, 48 weekly. Children 13-18 to be employed not more than 12 hours daily, 69 weekly. Children less than 13 to attend school 2 hours daily, 12 hours weekly. No child to be employed without an age certificate. Four factory inspectors appointed. No night work for children below the age of 18. Now, for the first time, properly paid, appointed inspectors were available, but four would not be able to cut out all the abuses in the system. STILL NOT A TEN HOUR MOVEMENT THO , and NOT applicable to all adults and children. It laid the foundations for other acts, however.
1836	Registration of Births and Deaths	Stopped employers from using wrong names

Factory Acts and others Acts helping workers

1844	Factory Act	Six and a half hour day for children 8 - 13; 12 hour day for all women and children 13-18; rule that hours of all workers should begin at the same time; some fencing in of machinery. Still no 10 hour day
1847	Factory Act	10 hour day at last or week of 5 8 hours, but not for working men. Employers could get round the act by opening and using workers on a relay/shift system
		By about 1850 the system had increased the hours of

		work to 60 per week, in return for a 10 hour working week day for women, young persons and a 7 hour Saturday
1874 and 1878	Factory Act	These Acts reduced the working week for women and young children from 60 hours to 56 hours per week. The working week in the industries concerned would be 10 hours Monday to Friday and 6 hours on Saturday.
1875	Employers and Workmens Act	Breach of contract by workmen was no longer a criminal offence punishable by fine or imprisonment – it became a civil matter.
1897 and 1900	Workmen's Compensation Act	Employee could now obtain compensation for injury at work without having to prove negligence on the part of his employer. These Acts only covered a number of occupations.
1860	Mines Act	Boys under 18 forbidden to act as enginemen
1862	Mines Act	Every mine to have at least 2 entrance shafts
1872	Mines Act	More new regulations and mine manager had to have certificate of competency
1908	Coal Mines Act	Eight hour day for miners at last

CONDITIONS IN MINES WERE JUST AS BAD

A Royal Commission reporting on conditions in Mines in 1842 revealed that:

- Women and children worked long hours underground, often in complete darkness. They worked 14-16 hours a day.
- Children were employed as TRAPPERS. They were small children (3-5 years old) who worked down in mines, opening and closing doors that had to stay shut most of the time in case of dangers like fire. It was also necessary to have a reasonable circulation of air in these mines. A trapper sat at the door all day, opening it with a piece of string every time a load of coal came by.
- HURRIERS were older children who brought coal from the face to the foot of the shaft. Coal hewers (miners) were paid according to the amount of coal taken to the surface. Hurriers had to hurry to get coal up to the surface on time. A chain was tied around their waist and they pulled the trucks along the rails on their hands and knees - the mine was too small to allow them to stand up. If they delayed, they were usually beaten by the miners for being too slow.
- Women carried heavy loads of coal in baskets on their backs. Thus loaded they had to carry baskets up ladders from the bottom to the top of the shafts.
- Children worked in very narrow seams of coal. Punishments were often severe.
- Accidents were common, no records were kept; no precautions were taken e.g. ropes broke. People on the way up the shaft fell to their death when ladders broke. Loads of coal fell on top of people.
- Children were left in charge of vital and moving machinery, with fatal results e.g. death because of roof falls, explosions, drowning, and suffocation.

THE CHANGES IN COAL MINES 1800-1930

There were many problems with the coal mines. The mines were cramped and enclosed in the 19th century.

Problem	Problem and solution
Dust	There was much dust. Because of this dust many of the miners were ill, with Silicosis. Dust caused this disease. The miners tried to improve the ventilation and airshafts as well as placing fans.
Bad lighting	Mines were badly lit. It was very dark down there. The miners used open flamed candles. This sometimes caused gas pocket explosions. This led to many deaths. Lighting finally improved. Instead of using open flamed candles the miners used the new invention, which was the Davy lamp. The light inside the lamp was covered, to prevent explosions.
Collapsing roofs	The roofs of the mines often collapsed. They fell in because the wooden props broke, when the wood rotted away. This was soon improved by taking away the old wooden props and replacing them with new metal props.
Flooding	The mines often flooded. This happened because the water behind the mine was let out by accident by the miner digging. The water behind there was unknown to the miners. Eventually the miners invented pumps to try and stop this from happening. First they came up with the steam pump. Then it was the new electric pump.
Equipment	The very early way of cutting coal was by using a small hammer. Then miners used a power drill. This was a lot faster and the miners benefitted from this drill. They earned more money the more coal they cut.
Leaving the mine	In the early days the only way to get out of a mine was to use a ladder. Many times the ladder would break as it had rotted away. The ladders were usually wooden ones. By the 1870s the exit route had changed. Instead of using wooden ladders the miners used cages powered by steam engines - almost like lifts. Cages were easier to check. Cables were checked to see if they were worn away/broken, or OK.
Taking coal out of the Mine	Children were used to pull heavy carts from the mine face to the bottom of the minshafts. Women were also made to carry heavy stacks of coal on their backs, up the ladders to the surface of the mines. By the mid 19th century though women and children did not have to push and carry these heavy loads. To help them there were rails, small engines and lifts. This made it easier to take coal up to the surface.
Government action	There was no proper government action taken until 1842. Then a law was passed saying no women were to work underground in mines; no children under the age of 9 were to work underground in mines; children under the age of 15 were not allowed to operate any moving machinery in the mines.

**What were the effects of Irish Immigration on Scotland
(Effect - What impact did they have)**

- Less food for Scotland's increasing population because Irish immigration meant extra people coming to Scotland to add to the population - Therefore necessary to improve method(s) of creating more food, get more efficient agriculture.
- Irish immigration created a large pocket of Irish culture in big Scottish cities - reflected itself in formation of Irish clubs - 2 football teams in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee etc. Scots absorbed some Irish culture.
- Irish used to working for low wages. This meant that Scottish employers could get away with paying lower wages to the Scots. Also more people were about to do the same number of jobs. Lower wages also. Many Irish left because they had no work in Ireland, so happy to work for very low wages in Scotland.

Changes were made to Housing for the people in this period of time also

1875	Artisan Dwellings Act	Local authorities could demolish slums, if they wished and build council houses for rent
1876	Enclosure Act	Building on common land to be controlled, to give the people space for leisure and recreation
1890	Housing Act	Extended the terms of the 1875 Act for clearing slums and building new houses
1918	Addison's Housing Act	Local authorities were ordered to build unlimited houses and let them at the equivalent of the 1914 rent levels. Government subsidies were provided also. By 1921 it was very expensive to build and vast amount of money being lost, so building stopped. By 1923, end of the scheme.
1923	Chamberlain's Housing Act	Subsidy of 6 per year for 20 years to private and public builders alike
1924	Wheatley's Housing Act	Provided £9 million in state subsidies for the building of council houses (£9 per Year for 40 years and the local authority could add more). Houses had to be built for rent. Didn't do anything to get rid of slums. Benefitted the richer section of the working class. This was cancelled though in 1932. Not too bad at the time because buying private housing was cheap, and was helped by easy mortgage rates and a general mood of increasing prosperity existed, for a time.
1930	Greenwood's Housing Act	Began to get slum clearance going, though the act did not begin to operate properly till 1934. More slums cleared in the next 5 years than in the 50 years beforehand.