support so reform is passed. The bill was surprisingly defeated at the committee stage by a Tory amendment in March 1832.

In May 1832, Grey resigned.

**May Day Crisis of 1832**

The King had no alternative but to approach the Duke of Wellington to try and form a Tory ministry. Public outcry reached revolutionary intensity and Mass Demonstrations were organised in Birmingham buy the national Union under Attwood. In London, Francis Place encouraged a Run on the Banks, which would involve people closing down their bank accounts to collapse banks. A proposed takeover of local government was also talked about. The King asked Grey to form a ministry four days later. Under the most severe public pressure, the anti-reform stance collapsed completely. Most Tory Peers abstained and the Bill was passed on its third reading by 106 to 22. On 7th June the Bill received royal approval.

200,000 at meeting of Birmingham Political Union
25,000 sign petition in Manchester in support of reformers
500 new members for Birmingham Political Union.

**Why was it difficult to pass the Reform Act?**

- Opposition from a Tory-filled Lords who could Veto.
- Extreme demands in the first bill.
- Several stages to pass through.

Was Britain on the brink of Revolution 1830-1832

**For:**

- Widespread unrest after defeat of Second Reform Bill
- Lords seen as being out of touch with people’s wishes.
- Violent Protests thought-out the Country
- Birmingham Political Union
- May Day Crisis
- Attacks against Anglican bishops (anti-reformers)
- Rioting (Derby, Nottingham)
- Bristol Riots 29th October

**Against:**

- Whig determination to proceed with reform regardless of the public opposition of the Tories and the King
- Violence of period to fragile for Middle-Working class alliance.