

1. Naval Governor had the title of “Excellency” and was appointed by Britain to run military, political and judiciary concerns. The British Government viewed Nfld. as a fishing station and not a place of settlement and therefore the governor would only stay in Nfld. for the fishing season.
2. Only having a Naval Governor for part of the year was inadequate because of the challenging conditions. The fish prices were falling and the large influx of immigrants led to widespread poverty. People were destitute and led to much violence and unrest. This period was known as “The Winter of the Rals.” Rals was used to describe the starving and the homeless who roamed the streets looking for food and shelter. The British Government responded by sending money for emergency relief and instructed that the governor was to remain year-round.
3. The status Crown Colony gave the people of Nfld. some say in the running of their affairs. It was finally implemented because local reformers began to demand political institutions like other colonies. It consisted of an appointed Civil Governor and local counsel; however the Civil Governor did not have to implement any of the locals’ recommendations and remained solely under the control of the British Government.
4. The representative government consisted of a governor, a legislative counsel and an assembly. The governor and counsel were appointed and the assembly were elected by the people but had little authority. They could only suggest new laws for approval by the counsel and governor. The major problem with this government was that the governor and counsel had all the power and the elected assembly had almost none.
5. Nfld. received responsible government in 1855. Basically it was a power shift from the top to the bottom. There was an executive counsel, which was appointed by the governor of the **elected** assembly. Meaning the government who won the most seats (by vote) picked the executive counsel or cabinet. The leader of the elected party was the premier. This placed real power in the hands of the people because the legislative counsel and assembly made the laws which executive counsel enforced.
6. The name of the first premier in Nfld. was Philip Francis Little.