

Chapter Four: How the People Were Governed

Grade 8 Social Studies



Focuses of the Chapter

In this chapter we will cover:

- The evolution of Responsible Government;
- Major challenges and government responses (1855-1914);
- Crisis of the 1890s;
- William Ford Coaker and the Fishermen's Protective Union (FPU)

Evolution of Responsible Government 1800-1855

Year	Form of Government
1800	Governed by naval governor, commander of British Naval squadron; stayed for fishing season.
1817	Naval governor resides year-round.
1824	Becomes British Crown Colony with civil governor and council who answer to Britain – no control by the people.
1832	Granted Representative Government - the people elect a House of Assembly from electoral districts to advise the civil governor and appointed Legislative Council – Britain still has final say on all matters.
1855	Granted Responsible Government. The leader of the political party with the most seats in the House of Assembly becomes premier - people have control of most political decisions (Britain still controlled NF's foreign affairs). There were still some people who were disenfranchised.

Vocabulary

Naval Governor: Head naval officer who looked after military, political and judicial affairs. Had the title of "Excellency".

Crown Colony: A territory whose government is controlled by a distant country.

Civil Governor: Civilian appointed by Britain to run a crown colony.

Representative Government: Members elected by the people to represent their views to Britain.

Electoral Districts: Geographic area represented by an elected member.

Legislative Council: Group of local people appointed by Britain to assist the civil governor.

Responsible Government: Members elected by the people to run the country independent of Britain (Responsible for own affairs).

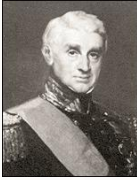
Disenfranchised: No right to vote. In the 1800s this described women and the poor.

Electoral Districts of Newfoundland, 1832

- The first general election was held in November 1832.
- The island was divided into nine electoral districts.
- Each candidate had to be male, twenty-one years or older, island-born or a British citizen, and a resident of two years who owned property.
- Voters were held to much the same restrictions as candidates except the residency requirement was reduced from two years to one.
- Neither the west coast of the island or Labrador were represented.

District	Number of Members
Conception Bay	4
St. John's	3
Placentia and St. Mary's	2
Bonavista Bay	1
Burin	1
Ferryland	1
Fogo	1
Fortune Bay	1
Trinity Bay	1

❖ People to Know:



Sir Thomas John Cochrane:

- First civil governor of Newfoundland
- Had actually opposed Representative Government before he was appointed



Philip Little:

- First Premier of Newfoundland
- Lawyer from PEI



William Carson:

- Supporter of Responsible Government
- Doctor who supported construction of a civic hospital in St. John's
- Promoted farming, whaling, town planning, relief for the poor and improvements to educational and judicial systems
- Served three terms in the House of Assembly



Patrick Morris:

- Supporter of Responsible Government along with Carson.
- Started as a clerk and became the owner of his own trading business
- Helped start an Orphan Asylum School
- Worked for political and judicial reform and fought for the rights of Newfoundlanders.
- Was a member of the House of Assembly and Colonial Treasurer

Questions

1. Do you think that Newfoundland under control of the naval governors and as a crown colony were efficient forms of government? Explain your response.
2. When Newfoundland was granted a representative government, was it an "actual government"? Explain.
3. In your opinion, why did the west coast and Labrador not have any representation in the representative government? Why did the poor and women remain disenfranchised?
4. What did the granting of responsible government mean for Newfoundland? Why would Britain want to agree to it? Why do you think Britain kept control of Newfoundland's foreign affairs?
5. Read page 72 in the text and do the activities based on William Carson and Patrick Morris.