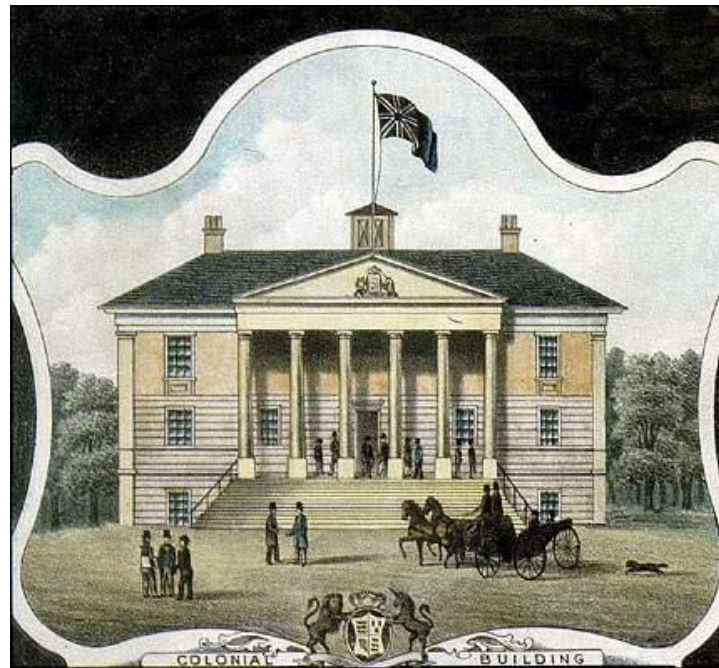


How the People Were Governed

Grade 8 Social Studies

Unit II - Chapter 4



Introduction

- Who is the current premier of Newfoundland and Labrador?
- To which political party does he belong?
- What do you know about the evolution of government in Newfoundland?



Five types of government

- Newfoundland passed through five different types of government between the early 1600's and 1934:
 1. Fishing Admirals
 2. Naval Government
 3. Colonial Government
 4. Representative Government
 5. Responsible Government

Fishing Admirals

- In the 1600's, Newfoundland was the site of a large migratory cod fishery.
- The summer fishery needed rules and someone to enforce them.
- The British government decided to give that authority to the captain of the first fishing vessel to arrive at the start of the season in the spring.
- He would be called the **fishing admiral**.

Fishing Admirals

- The Fishing admiral organized that season's fishery, including assigning "*fishing rooms*" to the other captains.
- Obviously he would take the best fishing room for himself.
- The admirals were supposed to enforce the law, as well as the orders and rules governing the fishery.

Fishing Admirals

- He was responsible for quelling any petty disputes between fishermen and dealing with minor crimes (vandalism, theft)
- The fishing admirals' crewmen served to help 'enforce' his judgments.
- Major crimes (murder, rape) and contract disputes were handled in England
- Since transportation to England was very expensive, most serious crimes went untried.

Fishing Admirals

- There were no jails and fines were difficult to collect
- Back lashes with a “cat-o’-nine-tails” became the most common punishment
- Fishing admirals ruled until 1729

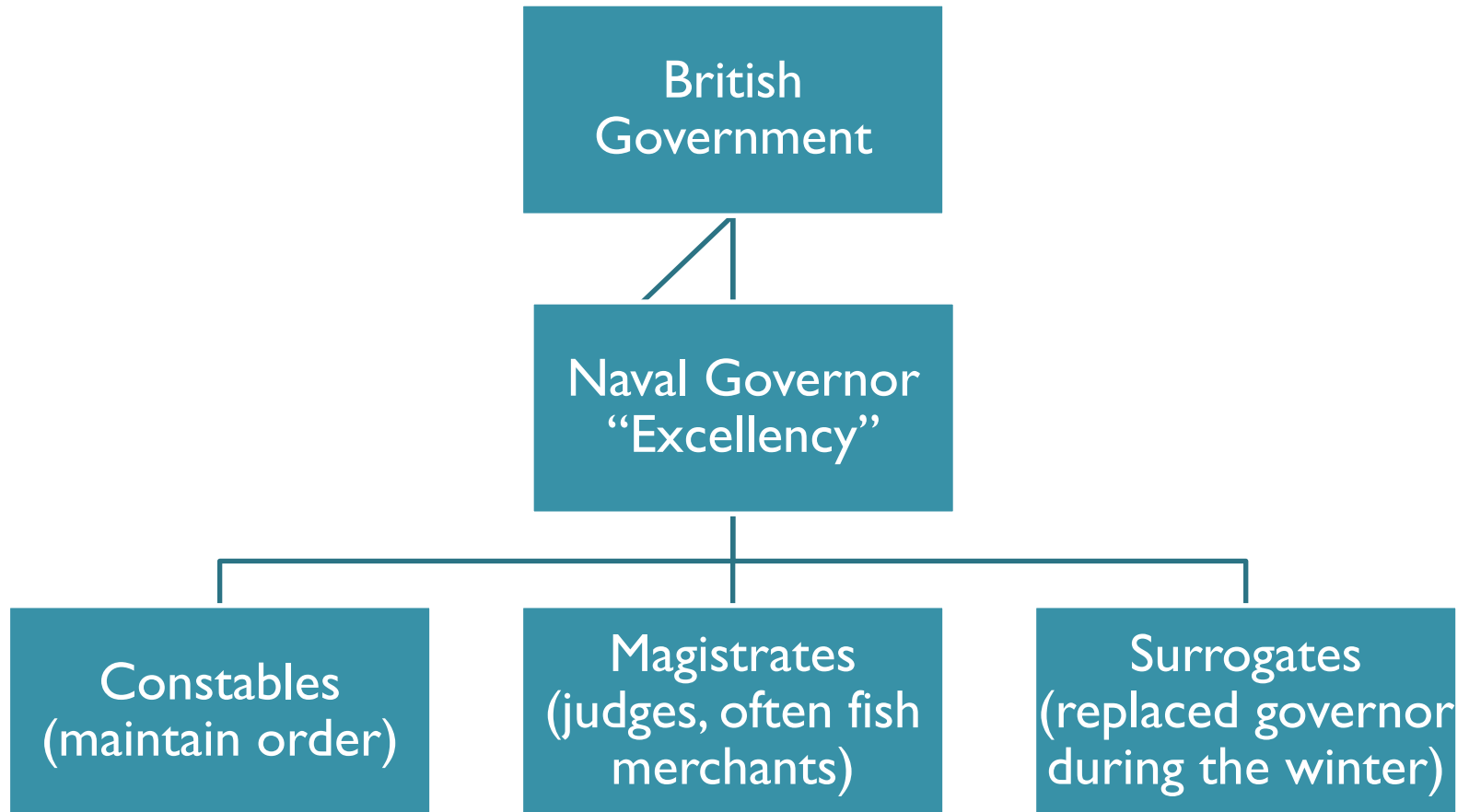
Whipping Post



Naval Governors

- By 1730, the problems with the fishing admirals were so evident, the British government decided to replace them with **naval governors**, who were officers aboard British navy vessels that protected Newfoundland's fishing grounds during the season.
- The naval governor also did not spend the winter in Newfoundland.

Naval Governors



Settlement

- In 1775, the British government enacted Palliser's Act, to secure the return of fishermen at the end of the season
- However, many fishermen chose to permanently settle in Newfoundland
- Why do you think fishermen wanted to settle in Newfoundland?

Captain Henry Osborn

- The first Naval Governor was Captain Henry Osborn



Settlement

- By 1815, Newfoundland had a population of 70,000 permanent settlers, but the British government is still reluctant to grant colonial status to Newfoundland
- Why do you think Britain resisted Newfoundland becoming a colony?

“Winter of the Rals”

- 1816 to 1818 was a very difficult time for Newfoundlanders:
 1. poor fishing seasons and low prices
 2. an influx of poor Irish immigrants
 3. a series of harsh winters
 4. St. John's had 3 major fires

“Winter of the Rals”

- Due to these poor conditions, many Newfoundlanders were forced to roam the streets homeless and starving.
- The British government responded by sending emergency relief money.
- The Winter of the Rals also created much political unrest and protests for a better government system in Newfoundland

Sir Francis Pickmore

- Francis Pickmore was the first naval governor to spend the winter in Newfoundland during the Winter of the Rals
- However, his poor health, the cold weather and stress from the Rals caused his death in February 24, 1818
- His body was shipped to England for burial preserved in a barrel of rum!!!

Colonial Government

- The British government conferred colonial status to Newfoundland in 1825.
- Newfoundland became a **Crown Colony**, with a **civil governor**

Sir Thomas John Cochrane

- The first civil governor appointed to Newfoundland was Sir Thomas Cochrane

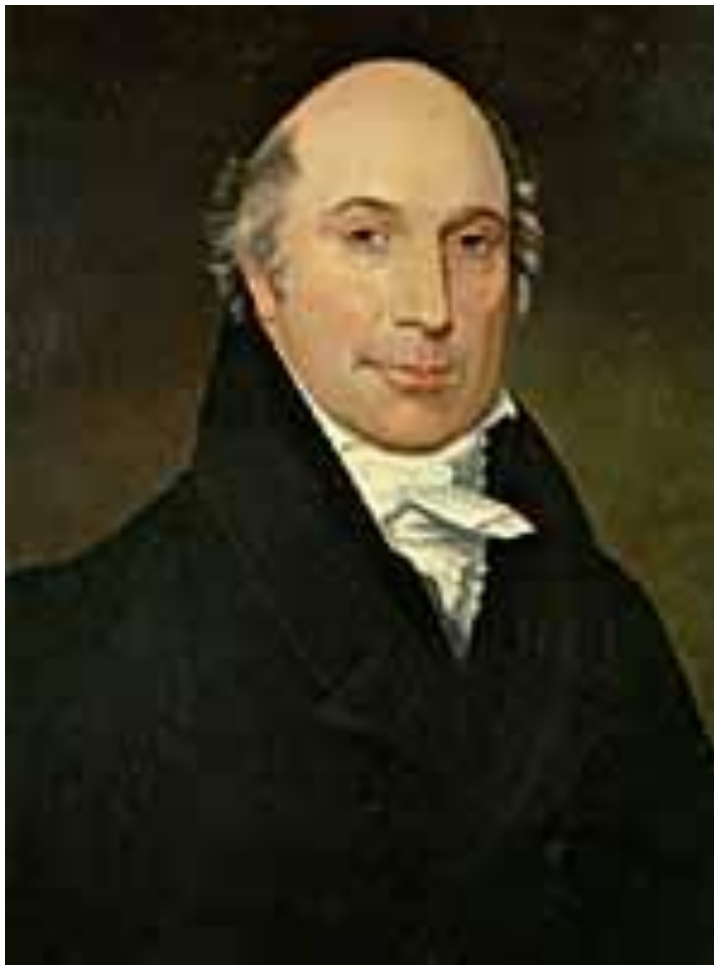


Situation

- The people of Newfoundland wanted their problems heard.
- The British government had ignored them for far too long.
- The permanent population had gotten quite substantial and they were angry about their poor conditions on the island.
- William Carson and Patrick Morris were two Newfoundlanders who fought for government reform.

William Carson

- A doctor from Scotland who was appalled by the poor conditions in Newfoundland
- He fought to improve farming, town planning, education, the law and relief aid.
- He wrote many pamphlets trying to convince the British government to allow Newfoundlanders to become involved in the running of their land.



William Carson

Patrick Morris

- An Irish immigrant who owned his own business
- He also worked to improve agriculture and built an Orphan Asylum School
- He was impressed by William Carson's ideas and joined him in the fight for proper government in Newfoundland.



Patrick Morris

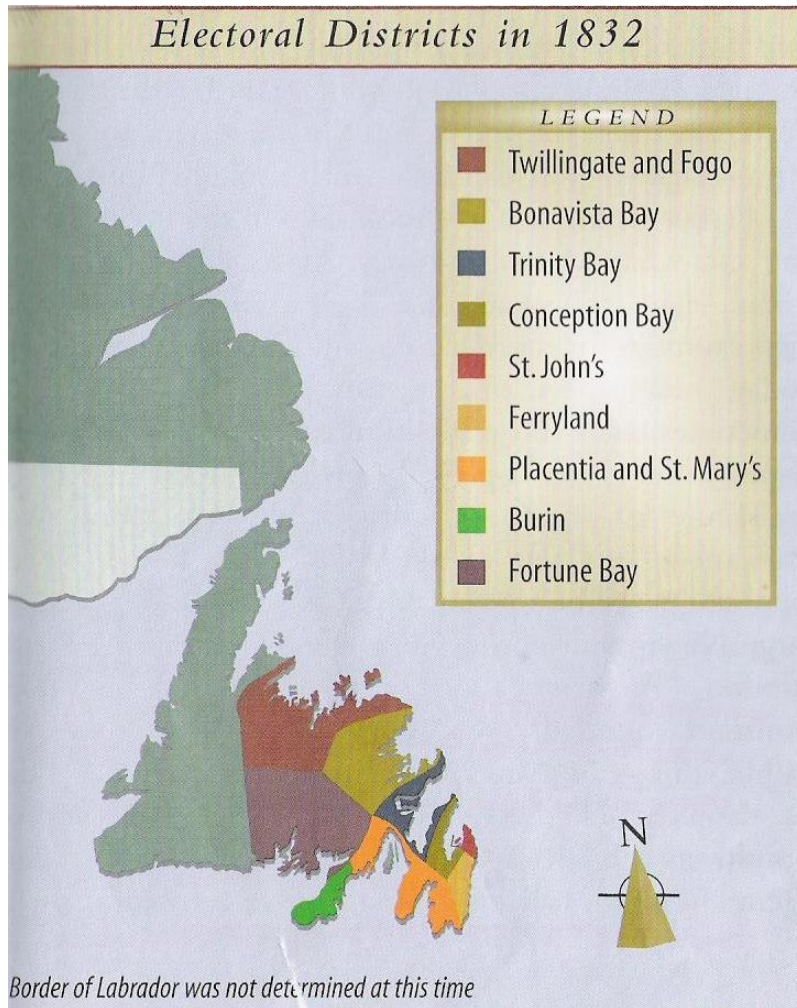
Carson and Morris

- Belief: Newfoundland should have an elected assembly to tell the governor what the people needed
- People believed Newfoundlanders were too “uneducated” to be involved in running the colony.
- Carson and Morris protested by creating petitions until change took place

Representative Government

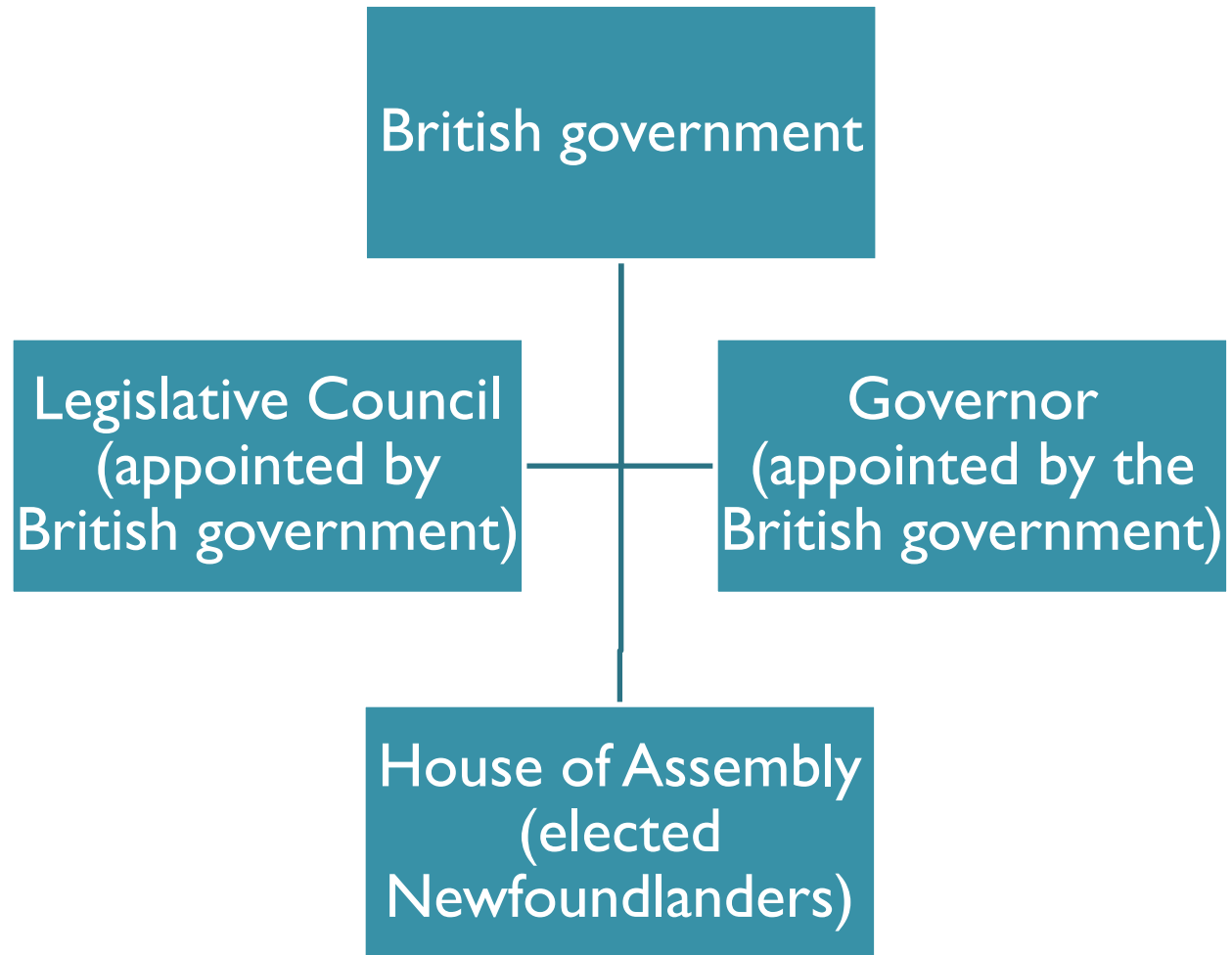
- In 1832, representative government was installed in Newfoundland
- The first election occurred in November 1832
- Every man over 21 who had lived in Newfoundland for at least one year could vote

Electoral Districts



Who is not represented in the first Assembly?

Representative Government



Representative Government

- In the House of Assembly, 15 men represented **9 electoral districts**.
- In this system, the governor and legislative council had complete power

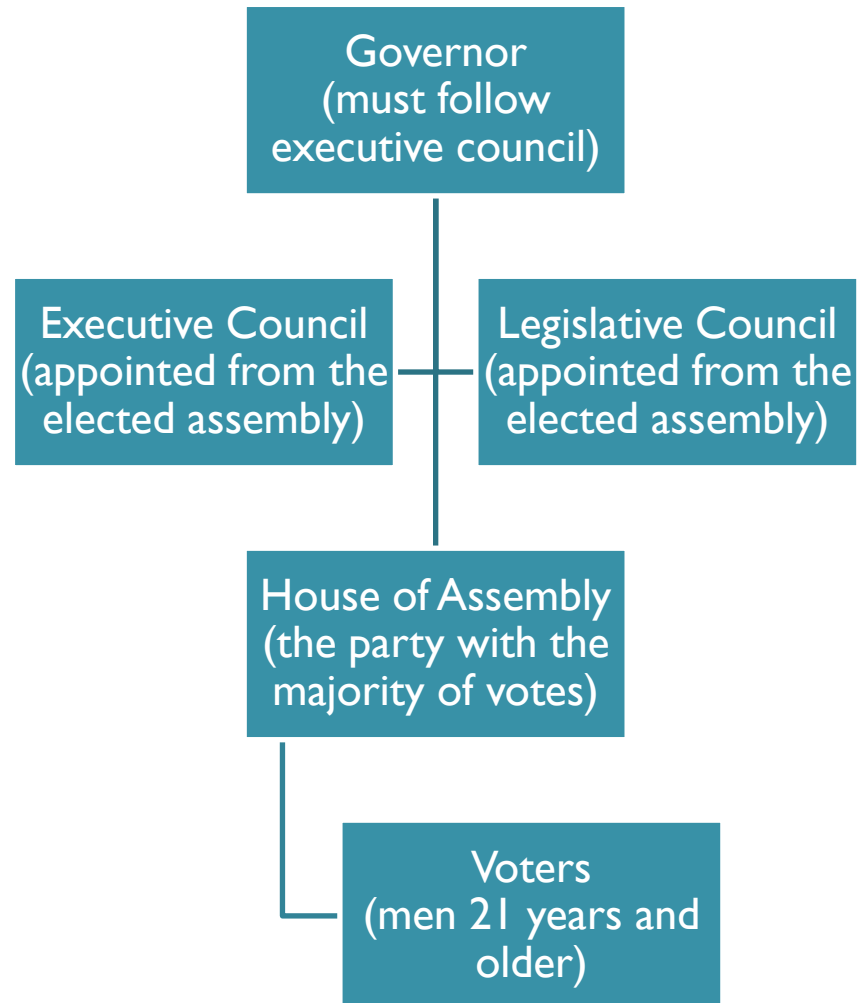
Problems:

1. The assembly could only *suggest* new laws for approval to the governor, which he did not have to accept, even if every member in the Assembly wanted it.
2. The governor and council were wealthy, often friends of the rich fish merchants and mostly English and Anglican. The Assembly represented the poor fishermen and many immigrants from Ireland and mostly Roman Catholic.

Protests renewed

- Reformers continued the protest for government change.
- After several years, the British government finally agreed.
- Newfoundland was granted responsible government in 1855, which lasted until 1933.

Responsible Government



Responsible Government

- The governor has no real power.
- He must follow the instructions of the councils who are formed from elected members of the party with the majority of votes in the House of Assembly.
- Elections were every four years



**First Premier of
Newfoundland**

Philip F. Little

Liberal Party