

It was decidedly adverse to the development of the Island that in the year 1698 this system was again recognized. And "the entire control of the colony, including the administration of justice," was placed in the hands "of a set of ignorant skippers who were so illiterate that out of the whole body of these marine justiciaries only four could be found able to sign their names." Some of the prerogatives of the "Fishing Admirals" seem to have been taken away by the Naval Governors about 1711, but the system, save for this slight check made in the interest of the settlers, continued with its mischievous results till 1729, in which year the Island was divided into six districts for the administration of justice, and magistrates were appointed.

(III) The length of time which elapsed before the appointment of a governor is another indication of the policy of the times. Certain powers for district-government were granted to Gilbert, Mason, Hayman, Wynne, Kirke, and to the commissioners appointed by Cromwell, but in none of these cases does it seem to have been intended to establish a precedent for the regular appointment of a governor of the whole island.

For a period the commander of the garrison at Fort William seems to have exercised some of the powers of a governor, but in 1708 the authority was