

In 1854 Responsible Government was granted. While this naturally comprehended the control of the colony's internal affairs, a circumstance soon arose which involved an extension of the principle to cover cases of an international character. Newfoundland objected to a proposed treaty between Great Britain and France, and in 1857 Rt. Hon. Henry Labouchere, Secretary of State for the Colonies wrote to the Governor of Newfoundland:

"The proposals contained in the Convention having now been unequivocally refused by the colony, they will, of course, fall to the ground; and you are authorized to give such assurance, as you may think proper, that the consent of the community of Newfoundland is regarded by Her Majesty's Government as the essential preliminary to any modification of their territorial or maritime rights."

Representation (House of Assembly)

By the Redistribution Act passed in 1925 the people were represented by 40 members from 34 single member constituencies and 3 double member constituencies. As an economy measure representation was reduced to 27 members by an act passed in 1932.

Franchise

All male British subjects of 21 years and female British subjects of 25 years and over were entitled to vote. Members of the House of Assembly must be possessed of an income of \$480 per year or \$2400 property free of encumbrances. The annual indemnity was \$600 per session of the Assembly.

Legislative Council

The Legislative Council was made up of 26 life appointees. In 1933 there were 9 vacancies.