

Crown Colony Government 1866-1898

Introduction:

A number of persons were satisfied or encouraged by the improvements made by the new Crown Colony government. Measures such as:

1. Public works on roads, bridges and drains
2. Improvement in postal services
3. Building of more schools
4. Health campaigns
5. More effective police force

The majority however was concerned that the political changes were very shallow. The white minority was still in control. The elected representatives were in the minority. There were still too many people from the mother Country who controlled the machinery of government. They were often indifferent to the specific needs of a colonial society.

The majority still did not have a say in the governing of the country. They could not vote and neither were they eligible for positions in the government yet they were required to pay taxes. The emerging middle class was totally unsatisfied. Some of them had acquired higher education. They had expected to play a more significant role. They wanted changes in the constitution not just more schools or new roads.

Nationalists felt that there was too much dependency on the Mother Country for the financing of projects. This meant that they had to budget according to whatever funding they received. There needed to be much more opportunities for employment in order to alleviate the stress and poverty that was being experienced by so many.

They argued that there needed to be answers from within the country and the region. As a region they needed to begin steps towards independence. It is against this background that some British territories were assimilated- joined together by the end of the 19th century.

- 1.** St. Kitts and Nevis. (1882) Anguilla was added the following year 1883.
- 2.** Antigua and Barbuda. The latter was annexed by An Order-in-Council of August 1, 1860.
- 3.** Trinidad and Tobago. In 1889 Tobago was brought under authority of the Governor of Trinidad.
- 4.** Jamaica and British Honduras (Belize). In 1862, the colony of British Honduras was placed under the administration of a Lieutenant Governor who was under the authority of the Governor of Jamaica. This relationship did not last long however as some twenty two years later (1884) British Honduras became a separate colony with its own Government.
- 5.** By an Act of 1863, Cayman was placed under the authority of Jamaica's Legislature. By another Act of 1873, the Turks and Caicos Islands were also placed under Jamaica's care.