

DEBATE 3 - VOTES FOR ALL?



- Although some M.H.K.s favoured reform, the pressure to introduce elections in 1866-7 came from the Manx public and press, and the U.K. Government, which was about to introduce its own second Reform Act (1867) to widen the franchise.
- 'No Taxation without Representation': in Europe this principle had resulted in revolutions and major political upheavals, and the Manx House of Keys was now regarded as very undemocratic in its attitudes.
- 'Votes for All' really meant votes for property owning/ renting males over twenty one.
- The House of Keys and the Island benefitted financially from the agreement to introduce elections: the U.K. Government allowed the Island the right to raise and spend its own taxes instead of Island revenue going to the U.K.
- The House of Keys ceased to be a Court of Appeal.



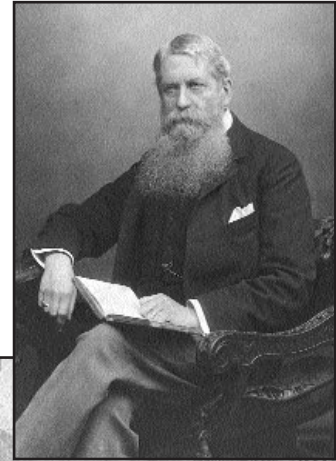
The Lieutenant Governor from 1863 was Henry Brougham Loch, a young, able and energetic representative, who spent much time advancing the interests of the Island with the United Kingdom Government. His predecessor had moved to Douglas when the lease on Lorn House, Castletown, was ended in 1860, and Governor Loch took up residence at Bemahague, some two miles from Douglas in Onchan.

He entered into discussions with the British Treasury to negotiate for more Island control of Manx revenue, and the result was an agreement that, in exchange for a House of Keys Election Act (1866), Tynwald would have the right to raise and spend Island taxes, subject to an annual payment to the British Government of £10,000 for defence and external affairs. The House of Keys lost its position as Court of Appeal; one of the repercussions of the James Brown affair.

The Act was passed by a large majority, with only two voting against. Speaker Edward Moore Gawne of Kentraugh resigned in protest against an elected House.

There were to be ten electoral districts; Douglas (three members); Peel, Ramsey and Castletown (one member each); Rushen, Glenfaba, Middle, Michael, Garff and Ayre (three members each). To qualify as a candidate for election, real estate to a minimum value

Henry Loch

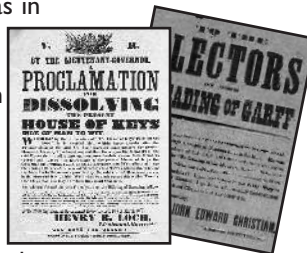


Election Day, Douglas



of £100 or an annual income of a similar amount, was required. The vote was given to adult males owning real estate to the minimum value of £8 or tenants paying at least £12 per year rent.

The election in 1867 resulted in no contests in five districts; Castletown, Peel, Ramsey, Michael and Ayre. Fifteen of the M.H.K.s returned had already been members at some previous stage, but the election itself was regarded as a notable 'first', particularly in Douglas where four candidates vied for three seats.



- Debate between the Speaker and M.H.K.s about the British Government's desire for an elected Keys, and Tynwald's right to raise and spend Island taxes.

- Vote on the motion that 'Members of this House will henceforth be elected by popular vote'.
- Voting results
- Images of electioneering, posters, headlines and contemporary illustrations



Video Loop



Key Points



Background Info



Look out for