



The Union of the Crowns

The union of the Crowns of Scotland and England took place in 1603, following about 100 years later by the union of the Parliaments in 1707. At that time the people of substance and status in both countries felt that these events were a victory for progress. The ordinary people did not have the vote. It was not until the Franchise Act of 1884, some 176 years later, that the crofters got the vote. The Franchise Act of 1884 increased the total electorate of the British Isles from three to five million voters. The Franchise Act of 1918 increased the electorate still further.

In the absence of a universal vote for all adults in the country as well as a good universal education and an independent free press, it cannot be said that the people were consulted or even informed of what was being done in their name.

In the circumstances there were rumblings of discontent in Scotland over the years, until eventually in 1997 Scotland achieved a measure of devolution. However, the Scottish National Party continues to press for self Government for Scotland.

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