

Even as late as 1627 the "winter residents" of Quebec were ignorant of the advantage of cutting trees during the summer in order to prepare dry fuel for the October-April season. It was Pontgravé who advised them to do so, and no doubt they recognized it as a great forethought. They used to pick up whatever the wind would blow down of branches in the forest, and if that material proved insufficient on extremely cold days, then they tried their hands at felling some trees near by and supplying them in blocks to the steward's room. No wonder that the writings of the period in question so often complained of the evil of smoke and the small quantity of heat produced by the burning of such green wood. Stoves being unknown to the *hivernants* in Canada, a caboose supplied the place of that indispensable adjustment, and the men, unoccupied most of the time, slept around it, starved there, got sick and died on the spot, one after another, as a matter of course. Father Biard, evidently ahead of his generation, once made the remark that an iron box (a stove) such as used in Germany was preferable by far to the poisonous system of the caboose. The improvement made by Champlain in his house at Quebec consisted in substituting an ordinary chimney for the open fireplace above alluded to. It is likely that Louis Hebert in 1617, and Guillaume Couillard about 1620, built similar smoke-escapes in their homes; they also had the good sense to fit door and window sashes so as both to close hermetically and open easily when required. These marvels were not to be surpassed for a long while after that.

The equipment provided for the men of Cartier, Roberval, Chauvin, De Monts, and Champlain was not generally suitable in Canada. Slouch felt hats are not equal to fur caps in winter; boots and shoes of European fabrics could not compete with the moccasins; and as for overcoats, it may be said they were not fit for the climate. Gloves, trousers, and underclothes adapted to the exigencies of 30° below zero constituted a puzzle for these people. Snowshoes and mitts were doubtless adopted at an early date from the Indians.

It was currently believed throughout France that Canada was a cold purgatory for civilized people, and would never be settled by Christians.

Building houses was not customary in Quebec until 1632, because the men (all without families) were located for the winter in what was called the fort. As it was not intended to increase the colony, no carpenter was needed for other purposes than to keep the ships in repair.

This awkward situation remained the same during twenty-six years. What was the cause of it? Simply this: the men for Canada were recruited from the working classes (if not of the worst), in the suburbs