

nization and we know by Champlain's writings that no resident, no "habitant," tilled the soil during that quarter of a century. The men who were employed at Quebec and elsewhere by the companies all belonged to Normandy and, after 1632, twelve or fifteen of them married the daughters of the other Normans recently arrived to settle for good. Brittany remained in the background after, as well as before, 1632. This is confirmed by an examination of the parish registers where about thirty Bretons only can be found during the last period of the 17th Century.

The men of Cartier and Roberval (1535-44) were all Bretons and unaccustomed to residence elsewhere than at home in Brittany. The result was that most of them perished from the effect of cold, bad nourishment, disease, and despair, whilst the present French Canadian would not experience any hardship were he to find himself in the same situation.

When Champlain (1604-30) describes the miseries of life in Acadia and the lower St. Lawrence, he merely states for our information that his men and himself had acquired very little knowledge in that sense above that of previous explorers. They still persisted in depending upon the provisions brought from France—salt pork, beans, flour, mostly affected by the influence of weather, time, etc., and not always abundant enough to cover the period at the end of which a fresh supply would be sent. It was considered good fortune when one or two of the men could handle a gun and shoot some game. As for the art of fishing, nobody seems to have known anything of it, and these people starved in a world of plenty, since they had the rivers, and lakes, and the forests lying all around their miserable camps.

The only superiority of the Champlain men over the crew of Cartier consisted in the building of a house or two, but even at this they showed a rather poor conception of comfort. Chauvin, in 1599, went to Tadoussac and left there sixteen of his followers to winter, without the elementary precautions of providing them with eatables and warm quarters. In the spring of 1600 the place was found empty, and none of the men are mentioned afterwards. The Indians had always been friendly to them, but could not take such inexperienced folks to the woods. The same thing happened to De Monts (1604-5) in Acadia, when nearly all his party died of scorbutic disease and want of food during the rough season. Champlain, who knew these facts recorded from the years of Cartier, did not succeed any better in 1608, when he lost twenty men out of twenty-eight. This was repeated yearly afterwards, but in smaller proportions.