

saved New France from bankruptcy. They could not profitably accept these terms, so they quietly stole away during the night, and joined the Indians, who were returning to their hunting grounds in the north, by way of the Saguenay.

On this expedition, they discovered the Hudson Bay slope, and returned to Quebec with a great cargo of furs, but received a cold reception from the Governor, who was about to leave for France. The colony was on the verge of bankruptcy, owing to the scarcity of beavers. The explorers had disobeyed the Governor by leaving without his permission; therefore it became a loyal Governor, to protect the interests of the King of France.

Of a cargo worth \$300,000 in modern money, but \$20,000 remained to Radisson and Groseillers, after the dutiful Governor of New France had imposed all the fines that were—and were not legal; to protect His Majesty's interests.

Having repudiated Radisson and Groseillers, France could not claim the fruits of deeds which she had punished. Henceforth, they were men without a country, for they carried their case to the foot of the throne, where they were again baffled. New France had treated them with injustice, Old France with mockery, which way should they turn? They could not go back to Three Rivers, where their families were living.

In 1665, we find the partners in Boston, defending themselves in a law suit for the value of a lost vessel, which they had chartered. They were acquitted, but the suit exhausted their funds. While at Boston, they met Sir Robert Carr, a British commissioner, who persuaded them to go to England with him.

They were presented to King Charles, who favored their project to trading in Hudson's Bay. Owing to the plague which was then raging in England and to the Dutch war, nothing was done for two years. Montague, the English ambassador to France, got vent of the explorers' feats and wrote to Prince Rupert.

The latter was a soldier of fortune, and could enter into the spirit of the explorers. Moreover, the wealth of the beaver trade appealed to him. He lent all the influence of his prestige to the explorers' plans.

By the spring of 1668, two vessels had been fitted to sail for the Bay. Radisson sailed in the *Eagle*, under Captain Stonnard; Groseillers in the *Nonsuch*, under Captain Zechariah Gilliam of Boston.

The *Nonsuch* anchored at the south of James Bay on Sept. 29, at the mouth of the Nemisco; Groselliers called it Rupert, in