

with provisions, stores and settlers, was intercepted by the English under Kirke, and nineteen out of twenty vessels captured or destroyed. The following year Canada passed for a time into the hands of the English. The colony contained at the time only five families of settlers and about twenty acres of cleared land.

When Canada was restored to France in 1632, the company resumed its powers, but most of the original enthusiasm had evaporated in the meantime. Its privileges were transferred to a small association within the other, which, following the lines of its predecessors, took little interest in anything beyond the immediate profit from the trading monopoly.

Champlain, who still retained his interest in the colonization scheme, and who had gone out again as the first Governor of the country with 150 colonists, died in 1635, and no one seemed ready to take up his work. However, the Jesuits and other missionaries had now established themselves in the country, and were exciting a new interest in it through their famous letters or relations which were eagerly read throughout France.

In 1644 Montreal was established on a half religious, half military and wholly commercial basis, by a grant from the company to the Seminary of St. Sulpice.

In 1645 the company gave up its trading monopoly to the people of Canada, on condition of being relieved from the burden of maintaining the religious, civil and military establishments of the colony, and of receiving 1,000 pounds of beaver annually. This freedom had for a time a stimulating effect upon trade, but it was soon found that a few Quebec merchants, owing to their central position and control over the foreign trade, enjoyed a virtual monopoly of the colonial traffic. This was further favored by the fact that all furs had to be brought to a central store to be received and taxed, in order to provide for the expenses of the colony and the subsidy to the company.

Notwithstanding these drawbacks, the change greatly enlarged the range of Canadian business transactions and necessitated a corresponding enlargement of the machinery of exchange. Letters of exchange began to pass freely between the colony and France, while the growing contributions from France in support of the missions and other religious institutions, must