

The Company of New France, established under the auspices of Cardinal Richelieu in 1627 with very extensive and almost exclusive powers in the New World. After the revocation of its charter in 1664 the field was thrown open to many smaller private trading companies. Some of these made serious attempts at colonization and among the settlements established was one of fishermen at Chibouctou. Just where this settlement of fishermen was on the shore of the harbour I have been unable to decide, but probably it was near Point Pleasant, on the North West Arm and not on the Basin itself. Wherever it was, the information I find concerning it, is very interesting.

This village was visited in 1698 by the French Governor of Acadia, the Chevalier de Villebon, and he suggested to his Government that the fishermen could be employed most profitably in the seal fishery during the winter months. Whether the seal fishery was very extensive I cannot say, but it is morally certain that the Chibouctou fishermen were never so employed; for when Governor Villebon visited the settlement in the following year he found that the majority of them had withdrawn to Boston. The settlement had been in the hands of two Protestants, Paquinet and Daubré, and Villebon says that these men and their comrades left because of their religion, and he recommends that no more Protestants be sent out by the company. The Governor found only nine men left, including the surgeon and the priest, three of whom were Irishmen, and they had taken but twenty-five quintals of dry fish. They said there was no fishing in the neighborhood and expressed a wish to go to Placentia, in Newfoundland. Villebon, however, was not prepared to approve of their transfer and refused their request. The English had been fishing in the vicinity with better success and Villebon