

support missionary enterprises. The earlier holders of this monopoly did little for colonization or the spread of the faith, but interested themselves only in the commercial privileges. Champlain was the first to take any real interest in the building up of a permanent colony in Canada. In 1608 he began at Quebec, the first colonial settlement on the St. Lawrence. In 1609 Du Monts' patent of monopoly, upon which Champlain was working, expired and, as he failed to get it renewed, the following year the St. Lawrence swarmed with private traders eager for furs. So strong was the competition that they ran their vessels up to Montreal in the hope of intercepting furbearing Indians. This did not afford a very promising outlook for Champlain's colony, which hoped to live largely by trade with the Indians. However, this first year's experience somewhat checked the ardor of the private traders, though they still continue to come in considerable numbers. In 1611 there were 13 vessels at the head of navigation at Montreal. As these traders had no other interest in the country than the season's profits, their free trade system naturally came in for severe criticism at the hands of Champlain, who pointed out the impossibility of establishing a colony by their methods. Yet, when monopoly was once more established, he found that the various partners through whose hands it passed were actuated by precisely the same motives as the free traders, desiring to use their monopoly privileges to enrich themselves, not to establish a colony.

What few colonists were first settled at Quebec were not permitted to trade with the Indians or with one another; they were not permitted to manufacture articles for sale which might compete with the wares of the company; neither could they send anything to France or receive anything in return, on their own account. They must dispose of their surplus produce to the company and receive goods in return, both selling and buying being at prices fixed by the company. This system involved a very simple form of exchange for both the Indians and colonists. Such regulations effectively neutralized all Champlain's efforts. Only eighteen colonists were taken out during the fifteen years of the monopoly; all others were simply servants of the company. The company itself hardly remained for two