

ing the settlers' property in an effort to remove them. The colonists also suffered from attacks by pirates, who swooped down periodically and carried off men and goods. In spite of these discouragements the settlement lasted until about 1628.

Before 1620, other settlements had been established by Royal Charter in what is now the Avalon Peninsula—one at Bristol's Hope (Harbour Grace); one near St. John's; Sir William Vaughn's colony with headquarters at Trepassey; Lord Falkland's two colonies, one in Trinity Bay, the other in the southern part of the Peninsula; and Lord Baltimore's colony at Ferryland.

The separate colonies were merged into one under a Royal Grant of 1637, giving the whole island to Sir David Kirke, the Duke of Hamilton and their associates. Kirke at once began to raise money by charging rent for "stages" and "rooms",* selling tavern licences and levying taxes on the fish caught not only by the English but by foreigners. The complaints of the settlers led to an investigation and Kirke was dismissed for having acted dishonestly towards his partners. This was the last official attempt to colonize the Island.

The first permanent colonists were hard-working fishermen from the West of England who chose to live in the Island in order to carry on their trade of fishing. The first permanent settlement, as distinct from the short-lived chartered colonies, grew up in the neighbourhood of St. John's, from Petty Harbour around Cape St. Francis to Holyrood in Conception Bay. From the first St. John's was the chief port and trading centre.

About the middle of the 17th century English colonial policy underwent a profound change. The new policy, known to historians as "the Old Colonial System", lasted until well into the 19th century. Under it the development of the colony was managed with a view to enhancing the power and wealth of England. Settlement was encouraged in colonies where land cultivation promised to produce new commodities of trade, as in the West Indies which produced sugar, or Virginia and Maryland which produced tobacco. On the other hand, settlement was discouraged where it appeared to be against England's interests.

In the case of Newfoundland, settlement appeared to threaten the monopoly control of the fishery acquired by West-of-England fishing centres. The Government also came to look upon the annual fishing voyages from England as an excellent training system for potential recruits for the Navy. Moreover, settlement in Newfoundland entailed responsibilities on the home authorities for defence in time of war. Thus from the time of Charles I until the early 19th century the prevention of settlement in Newfoundland was a fixed policy, the Island being considered rather as a "great ship moored near the Banks . . . for the convenience of English fishermen".

The regulations passed by the Star Chamber in 1633, and confirmed and made more stringent under Charles II in 1670,

* A "room" is the portion of shore on which a fisherman cures his catch and erects the necessary huts and flakes and a "stage" is a platform on which fish is dried.