

what 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 years in the same hands, though in one form or another it lasted for fifteen years, from 1612 to 1627. In 1627 we come upon the first truly national colonial policy of France. This was embodied in the colonial scheme of Cardinal Richelieu, the great minister of Louis XIII. Under his direction was formed the "Company of One Hundred Associates," possessing extraordinary privileges and expected to achieve great things. Its purpose was part of a great national policy which had for its object the elevation of France as a nation to the first place in Europe. This policy was certainly successful, but in the concentration of all the forces of the country upon its object it ultimately led to disaster through the disregard of the rights of the individual citizens.

Among the numerous rights which the company obtained