

in this trade, the head men of which being in France, did not see matters as clearly as those who were in America.<sup>1</sup> 1688.

At last some of these last renounced the fur trade, the profits of which declined from day to day, and took up once more the oft-miscarried project of establishing sedentary fisheries in the river St. Lawrence; but they were disgusted with it from the outset.<sup>2</sup> The Sieur Riverin was almost the only one who was not alarmed by the difficulties, or induced by the failure of his first attempt to renounce the enterprise. But with industry and courage considerable capital is required to push such establishments, and this Sieur Riverin lacked. He induced some private parties at Paris to join him; but he derived scarcely any advantage: all wished to reap before the harvest was ripe, and their impatience at last rendered all his projects abortive.<sup>3</sup>

Sedentary  
Fisheries in  
the St.  
Lawrence.

He began in earnest during the summer of 1688. He established his fishery in the vicinity of the River Matane, the mouth of which he found capable of receiving vessels of two hundred tons, a point hitherto unnoticed. All this southern shore of the St. Lawrence, for a space of twenty leagues, is very abundant in codfish, and Riverin wrote to Mr. de Seignelay that more than five hundred boats could

Abundance  
of codfish  
and whales.

<sup>1</sup> The importance of this trade, which Dongan was the first to grasp at, was developed under Burnet and Colden. See Colden's *Five Nations* (N. Y. reprint), introd., vii.; Papers relating to the Acts of the Assembly, N. Y., 1724.

In this year, 1688, a Bureau of the Poor was established at Quebec, each citizen and community contributing, and forming a fund of 2000 livres. Subsequently, Bp. St. Valier established a General Hospital or House for the Aged, Infirm, and Incurable, and placed it, in 1689, under Margaret Bourgeoys and the Sisters of the Congregation. Juchereau (*Histoire de*

*l'Hotel Dieu*, pp. 355-6; Faillon, *Vie de M. Bourgeoys*, i., p. 329); but, in 1692, replaced them by the Hospital Nuns, on receiving royal permission for the establishment of the Hospital. *Edits et Ordonnances* (i., p. 271).

<sup>2</sup> Louis XIV. to Frontenac. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 454. See, as to his failure, *ib.*, p. 585. Canada Doc., II., v., p. 267. Ferland, *Côtes de la Gaspésie (Soirées Canadiennes)*, p. 328. Compare Ante, vol. iii., p. 145. Quebec L. and H. Soc., vol. iv., p. 27, &c.

<sup>3</sup> In 1700 these partners seized all the property at Mount Louis as their own, and ruined him. N. Y. Col. Doc., ix., p. 585.