

1712-25. ed. This obliged the Governor of Louisiana to reinforce the garrison of the Fort of the Natchitoches.¹

State of
Louisiana
commerce
in 1716.

Meanwhile, the exclusive commerce granted to Crozat in 1712, far from accelerating the progress of the Colony of Louisiana, had been prejudicial to it, nor had Crozat derived from it all the benefit he had promised himself. These two things always go together; to acquire wealth by the trade of a colony, it must be peopled, and the inhabitants made consumers of the goods sent there, giving in return. This cannot be attained without great outlay. Those engaged in such enterprises must select carefully the men to whom they confide their interests. Nothing of this was done, and all parties suffered.

To understand well what the sequel of this history obliges me to say on this point, we must go back a little, and state more in detail the actual position of Louisiana, when Crozat obtained the privilege above mentioned, and the position when he renounced that privilege. In 1712 there were in all that province only twenty-eight French families, not half of them engaged in cultivating the soil, or properly styled settlers; the rest were traders, innkeepers and mechanics not permanently settled in any place.

Trade was then conducted only at Maubile and Isle Dauphine, and the only articles were planks, bear, deer and cat-skins and other like furs. The voyageurs or bushlopers, almost all Canadians, went to the Indians, to barter such French goods as they could get, for peltries

St. Denys was on good terms with his Spanish neighbors, and as Spanish authorities show, rendered them good service. Bonilla says he facilitated the entrance of the Spaniards into Texas, and by his amiable manners won the Indians, and gave the most constant proofs of his good faith. Yet the Spanish government ordered him to be carried off to Guatemala, and Ramon to be removed from the frontier, a

disgrace which the latter escaped by death in 1724, having been killed by the Indians. Bonilla, Compendio, § 8. For his visit in 1716, see Bénard de la Harpe, p. 138, &c. Le Page du Pratz, i., p. 10-23. He reached Mexico May 3, 1717, to claim goods seized, but was put in prison; escaped Sept. 15, 1718, reached Natchitoches 24 Feb. 1719. La Harpe, pp. 145-6.