

quins friends of the French, who could thus live more safely in the country. But it proved otherwise, for the Iroquois were very powerful, so that the Algonquins were beaten, and, after a time, looked to the French to protect them instead of being a safeguard to the young colony.

10. Another source of trouble to Champlain was the constant change of governors. In 1612, De Monts gave place to the Count de Soissons, who died the same year, and was followed by his brother, the Prince de Condé. In 1616 Condé sold his office to the Admiral de Montmorency for 11,000 crowns, a fact which shows Canada was beginning to be valued. Montmorency became dissatisfied with the trouble his office gave him, and, in 1624, handed it over to his nephew, the Duke de Ventadour. These governors lived in France, and never came to Canada, but each one in succession made Champlain his **Deputy-Governor**. All these changes disturbed his plans, and obliged him to spend much time in going to France, in order to maintain an interest in the colony, which grew very slowly, the settlement of Quebec having only sixty inhabitants in the year 1620.

11. The "**Company of Merchants**" was a third great cause of much anxiety to the Deputy-Governor. According to their charter, the company should have supplied the settlers with all that was necessary for a young colony, until the people could support themselves. But the merchants thought only of the profits of the fur trade, and the colonists, not being able to clear the land and raise food for themselves, engaged in hunting, and thus had to depend upon the ships of the company for their chief support. Champlain had to complain so often of the bad faith of the merchants, that at length their charter was taken from them, and given to two gentlemen named De Caën, in 1621; but these only made matters worse, and six years afterwards things were altogether changed.