

I had the honor of holding lengthy conversations with some of them on the subject. The members of the Board of Commerce and Arts of Venice did me the honor of sending me interesting works on the statistics of the navigation and commerce of the Adriatic. I have sent them to the Library of the Legislature, Quebec. The Board of Commerce of Venice, is desirous of opening communications with the Board of Trade in Canada, and one of its members, Mr. Councillor Eugenio Vio, kindly offered his services to give us all the information we may require, with respect to the Italian Trade. Several merchants also expressed a wish to have samples of our leather. If our hides, undressed leather and sole leather suit, they may be the object of a profitable trade between Quebec and Italy. The same applies to our tan-bark extracts which would find a ready sale there. White petroleum well refined, our prepared phosphates would also find a ready and profitable market. Many questions were asked as to the quality of Canadian coal, and its advantages as compared with other coal. Almost all the coal used in Italy comes from Styria. It is worth about 80 per cent of the value of Glasgow coal.

They are also anxious to know the prices, on board, of our pork, wheat, barley and especially our oats. For a return cargo we would have all the products of Italy such as fruits, oils and wines, amongst which I may mention the celebrated Braganza vintage, which is as good and as dry as the best Xerès. The owner of this celebrated vineyard told me that he could sell this wine, bottled, packed and placed on board at Genoa for 20 francs per dozen and 24 francs for the best.