

in their calculations. They wished, at any price, to retain their trade of 35,000 tons of foreign sugar, and to this end were quite willing to sacrifice the interests of home industry and of agriculture. The latter prevailed, and French commerce now handles about 860,000 tons of sugar annually both in France and in foreign countries.

To this great commercial movement, created by the new industry, must be added the carriage and consumption of about 2,000,000 tons of coal, which are annually used in the manufacture of sugar in France, and the numerous other industries which support thousands of families who in their turn, create new sources of wealth.

It is established beyond a doubt that France would have been unable to free itself so easily from the terrible consequences of the last war, without the assistance of the immense agricultural wealth of the whole country due principally to the beet root sugaries in the north, and vine-growing in the south.

It will be interesting to recall, in a few words, the different phases of this, protection to the beet-root-growing industry in France since 1821. I cannot refrain from here giving the following extract on this question from Mathieu de Dombasle, France's greatest agriculturist of the age, and one of its best patriots. In discussing this very subject of the national importance of fostering the sugar beet industry, he said, in 1829 :

" France produces but a small proportion of the sugar consumed in the Kingdom. However, the increase in production has been so rapid within a few years, and so many manufactories are being opened, that it is easy to foresee, if nothing happens to deaden this movement, that it will not take many years before France can suffice to itself in this production. It is somewhat remarkable that this industry has taken root only in France in Germany, where the manufacture of beet sugar had its first beginning—where it had taken a considerable extension, under the impulse of the continental blockade, it was completely crushed out, by the free competition of the sugar from the Indies." He says further: " It is probable that a nation conveniently situated for this industry, and which will have secured its foothold in the country before other nations can do so, may later—perhaps for many years—not only suffice to its own consumption, but also sustain a successful competition against foreign sugar even in foreign markets." I may here say that in Canada the question of any further protection to this industry can never arise, since the protection in favor of beet sugar factories would be enormous, and more than was ever asked for in Europe. Imported sugar pays a duty of 45 per cent. of its value and costs at least from 10 to 12 per cent. for import charges, which would give the manufacturer a safe protection of more than 55 per cent.

M. de Dombasle then goes on to show how favorable the new industry would become to agriculture in general, and how much it was for the interest of the whole French nation, and therefore of the French Government, to give to beet sugar factories the encouragement necessary to the