

therefrom, and I have paid visits to the best vine-growing regions of France, and seen some of the vine cultures of Italy, in order to be generally acquainted with these subjects; I have, nevertheless, no pretension to be an authority on the matter.

*Question 2.* Have you made any report of your enquiries on the question of the Vine Culture?—I presented, a few days ago, to the Honorable the Minister of Inland Revenue, a Memorandum on the Vine Culture, and the manufacture of wines and brandy, in relation to questions of duties raised by the operation of the Charter of the "Canadian Vine Growers' Association." I had, previous to that (in 1864), prepared for the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture a short Memorial, in support of the plausibility of the opinion which contended that the Cultivation of the Vine in open air, and the making of wine therefrom, was possible in Canada, an opinion then yet generally looked upon as rather extraordinary.

*Question 3.* What is your opinion about the possibility of a profitable Cultivation of the Vine in Canada?—From the fact that the vine is indigenous in Canada, where that plant comes to maturity, and reproduces itself in the wild state, from what I have read and observed, and, more especially, from what has already been accomplished in the vine-culture by enterprising people, amongst whom, the originators of the Canadian Vine Growers' Association, under the guidance of Mr. de Courtenay as a specialist, are pre-eminent, I cannot help entertaining the opinion, that Canada may be made to produce vines capable of furnishing a good and wholesome *vin d'ordinaire*.

*Question 4.* What were the opinions expressed on the Canadian Wine exhibited in Paris during the last Exhibition?—The opinions expressed on the Canadian Wine, shewn at the last Paris Exhibition, by several *Connoisseurs* to whom I applied, were favorable. Apart of the award of a medal granted to the Canadian Vine Growers' Association, several persons have declared to me, that our wine was "a good ordinary wine," and amongst those persons, I am proud to quote Mr. Maurial, a high authority on the subject, who has written an article in the *Moniteur Vinicole*, of which he is the principal editor, declaring that from all the foreign wines tasted at the Exhibition, the Canadian wine was nearest in general qualities to the French *Vins d'ordinaire*, resembling somewhat the Tavel of one year. He remarked, that our wine, though being the product of a young growth, after having experienced the extreme of cold and warm weather, and long travelling by land and water, still kept its limpidity and distinctive qualities. The tasting of our wine in Paris, at the time of the Exhibition, created in fact, a good deal of astonishment, so far were people there from being prepared to consider Canada as capable of producing such an article, and I had some trouble, at first, in persuading members of the Jury and others to look at our wine at all. "Wine from Canada!" was the common exclamation, in answer to my naturally very timid applications for an inquiry. I mention this in order to show that there was, indeed, no pre-conceived favorable opinion at work toward obtaining a verdict of goodness in the case of our wine. I remember one day, while dining at the hospitable table of a French gentleman, proprietor of a vineyard in Burgundy, to whom I had given a bottle of the Canadian wine for examination, that our amiable host, when arrived at the proper time of the repast, said to his guests, smiling at me: "I shall presently treat you with Canadian wine." We were then served with a wine, which in body and flavor was almost exactly the same as the wine exhibited by the Canadian Vine Growers' Association, but with a little more colour, and evidently showing signs of better making. The wine served on the occasion was the product of the gentleman's Burgundy vineyard, and such was the exquisite manner he had adopted to express his opinion of the article I had submitted to his appreciation. It could hardly be expected that the wine sent, under the difficult circumstances of a new experiment, should have been perfect, so it was not, and defects were pointed out to me; but the conclusion of the best authorized opinions were, that the wine was generally good, and that the vines which had produced it are certainly vines capable of furnishing a very good article.

*Question 5.* Can you inform the Committee how far the grapes grown in Canada compare with those of different regions of France and Italy as regards the production of wine?—I cannot undertake to inform your Committee how far the grapes grown in Canada compare with those of different regions of France and Italy as regards the production of wine. A well-considered answer to such a question would involve a deal of practical experience and comparative studies, of which I am not and cannot be possessed. If I