

suitable to the free zone. Whereas Marseilles receives, in the ordinary course of events, a fairly large quantity of common goods exactly suitable to the free zone, besides receiving weighty and original goods; it is therefore not surprising that the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce should be coloured by the economic function of the port.

On the other hand, the Chamber of Commerce regrets that the free zone should not be open to industrial operations; that is explained by the importance of the industrial function in the port of Marseilles; but when one considers the great future which was opened to this function through the piercing of the Rove tunnel and the annexation by Marseilles of the Berre and the Coronte ponds, it may be said without exaggeration that the future will see an expansion greatly beyond the limits of the free zone which it will be possible to establish.

Let us study now the report presented by Mr. R. Godet to the Chamber of Commerce of Havre, and discussed by the Chamber during its meeting of the 16th of February last. We find there, on the contrary, that the Chamber praises Mr. Candace highly for keeping industrial operations out of the free zone, thereby keeping to the free zone its exclusively commercial character. The Chamber even insists that the free zone should be very wide open to all commercial operations, especially in regard to blending for re-export of wines, alcohols and brandies. Far from believing that the admittance of wines in free zones would injuriously affect national production, the Chamber thinks this admission would create an interesting outlet for French wines and would place them for export on an equal footing with like foreign products.

The Chamber also asks that colonial rough lumber received at Havre with a view to re-export may be sawn, planed, tongue-and-grooved in the free zone, as these operations, which colonies find hard to do, are nevertheless indispensable to facilitate export sales. But the Chamber of Commerce of Havre presents a few observations on the Candace bill regarding additional guarantees which they demand earnestly for distinction between the products leaving the free zone and those leaving the warehouse. It is easily understood that the representatives of Havre should consider it essential to keep the merchandise of known and valued origin which are treated on that market's strictest guarantee. It is impossible not to concur with that conclusion on that point, as we have already called attention to the necessity of the provisions introduced on that subject by Mr. Candace in section 9 of his bill. It should be possible, in case of establishment of a free zone in a certain port, to prescribe additional measures and precautions in the special establishment decree.

The Bordeaux Chamber of Commerce favours the adoption of Mr. Candace's bill. That should surprise no one, considering the important part played by commerce in the port of Bordeaux. However, on one particular point, the Chamber of Commerce takes exception to the Candace bill: they fear that the admission of wines in free zones and the re-export of those wines to foreign countries may cause confusion and misunderstanding which might be favoured by certain tradesmen and might detract from the general reputation of French wines.

We believe moreover that the Candace bill as drafted will satisfy thereon the recommendations both of Havre and Bordeaux on that point. Thanks to the fact that the provisions of the bill are a mere structure within which will be inserted the special rules and regulations provided in the establishment decree of a free zone for each port, nothing prevents wines admitted in a prospective free zone to be established at Havre, from being either refused or admitted, according to the wishes of the authorized representatives of trade, in a free zone established at Bordeaux. That is one of the points where the elasticity of Mr. Candace's bill is shown in the clearest and most praise-worthy manner; it is one of the qualities which should recommend it to adoption by Parliament.