

with the representatives of commercial interests among the people, be enabled to discern betimes openings and opportunities for promoting those interests, and to press them with authority and effect on the attention of the entire Cabinet.

The Movement in the United States.

The question of establishing a Department of Commerce in the Government of the United States has engaged more or less of the attention of commercial men. A movement in that direction was commenced in 1865, by the adoption of the following resolution at the Detroit Commercial Convention:—

"Resolved,—That in order to relieve some of the Departments of the General Government, and especially that of the Treasury, from many of the details with which they are now crowded,—and in order to secure for the various industrial interests of the country the benefits of a systematised, experienced, and permanent Board, it is the judgment of this Convention that a Government Board of Trade should be formed, for the especial oversight and care of all questions relating to our agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial interests, for the compilation of statistics, for inquiring into casualties, and for such other subjects as may properly be included in such a Department."

The subject was afterwards taken up by the National Board of Trade of the United States, at several of its meetings, the idea of that body seeming to be that the Department of Commerce should be an *executive* branch of the Federal Government, the model being apparently the British Board of Trade. Congress was memorialised in favor of a Department of Commerce in the winter of 1869; and the views of the National Board on the subject were subsequently embodied in a proposed Bill, of which the following were the main features:—

1. The Department to be charged with the supervision and care of the agricultural, commercial, manufacturing and mining interests of the United States.
2. With the execution of laws relating to trade and commerce, both foreign and domestic,—to rivers and harbors,—to light houses, port charges, quarantine, emigration, pilotage, tonnage, and the measurement, registry, enrolment and licensing of vessels; and generally of all matters included in the navigation laws.
3. With the execution of the laws imposing duties on imports, and taxes and excises pertaining to internal revenue.
4. With the collecting, collating and tabulating of statistics relating to the agriculture, commerce, manufactures and mining.

There is at present before the Senate a Bill, proposing to establish a Department of Commerce in the United States Government, prepared by Hon. Wm. Windom, Chairman of the Senatorial Committee on Transportation, which will be discussed, if not more definitely acted upon, during the present Congress. But Mr. Windom is looking much further forward; for, besides a "Bureau of Commerce," he suggests another, to be designated the "Bureau of Industry," to include agriculture, manufactures, mines, &c.

Department of Commerce in France.

The Department of Commerce, in France, was established in 1830, and the Minister is a member of the Cabinet. Conjointly with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, he makes commercial treaties, *after consultation with the Chambers of Commerce.*

The Department includes two general divisions,—Home and Foreign. The division for Home Trade is subdivided into four bureaux, each of which is charged with numerous details; and the division for Foreign Trade is subdivided into three bureaux, to one of them being entrusted the subject of commercial treaties.

The Minister of Commerce, in France, is also Minister of Agriculture,—the latter Department embracing three bureaux, (1) relating to agricultural education; (2) relating to the encouragement of and giving assistance to agriculture; and (3) relating to the trade in Grain and Cattle, cattle-markets, slaughtering houses, Corn Exchanges, &c.