

ily's use; it was only as a luxury that the consumer bought yearly a certain quantity for his table. Lately it has been discovered that this industry, heretofore unexploited, could be turned into a gold mine for the farmers; and that, in order to extract this gold which would go to swell the income of the farm, this industry must be given a wider scope and a new direction. The awakening has been general. Here, the late Government distributed to 50,000 owners of maple-bushes a very valuable pamphlet on the manufacture of maple syrup and sugar, and drafted a Bill designed to give protection to the producer. At Quebec, at the same time, the provincial government opened in different parts of the province schools for the practical teaching of this industry. In a word the movement is spreading all over and gives good promises for the future. A society, comprising some of the most notable producers, and persons interested in this industry, and of which I am president, although not myself a producer, was formed two years ago, and apparently has taken upon itself the important as well as patriotic task of acting as intermediary between the mass of the producers and those authorities who see to the making of laws, the protection of rights, the opening of markets, etc. I have always myself taken a deep concern in this industry, although the number of producers to be found in my county is not at all commensurate with its extent. That was my reason, as early as 1906, for rising in this House to speak in favour of this industry. On that occasion I was spokesman for a powerful association of farmers of Vaudreuil.

At that time, already distant, I was given encouragement. And I am glad to say that greater care has since been given to the inspection of adulterated products, but adulterators can never be proceeded against too rigorously. It is only of late that the Government seems to have resolved seriously to enact a law for the protection of that new agricultural industry, and I shall not be sparing in my congratulations.

First of all, before taking up the Bill, we may ask if this industry deserves to be noticed by this House. Is the maple industry, meaning thereby the extraction of the sap to be manufactured into sugar or syrup, profitable to the producers and consequently for the country in general? After a close study of the question, and after comparing it with the other money-crops on the farm, I find that many of these are on the whole

less productive than the sugar industry. I am satisfied that it will come as a surprise to many to learn that the sugar industry, until now considered insignificant as a source of income, does, on the contrary, bring to the farmer quite a profit. If we may rely on the last census, the annual production of maple sugar exceeds that of the fruit-growing industry. Our orchards and fruit trees of various species have yielded approximately, in 1911, \$1,470,000, that is 14 per cent less than the maple-tree. The value of maple sugar and syrup manufactured in 1911 exceeds the value of sheep sold and killed on the farm in 1910; is almost equal to the value of poultry sold and killed in the same year; amounts to more than the quantity of cream sold and is six times greater than the value of the total yield of honey and wax. Take my own county; according to statistics I myself gathered last year, 123 farmers have together notched 96,465 maple trees, from which 13,740 gallons of syrup and 18,811 pounds of sugar were manufactured, representing a total value of \$19,712. The number of producers in the county exceeded 123, but only that number have answered the circular I sent around.

The annual product of the maple-tree reaches about \$2,000,000 and if there was provided proper protection, it would in a very few years amount to \$6,000,000, the increase going into the pockets of the farmers and those who engage in the sugar industry. If then the Government would give the same care to the development of that industry which it gives to the other farm specialties, enough sugar and syrup could be produced to supply the whole Canadian market. Our sugar and syrup could take the place of all other known sugars and syrups. Now, what is required to rebuild or, if you prefer, to build up, this industry, are the combined efforts of all who are directly or indirectly interested in the development of agriculture. We know from past experience that by a well distributed propaganda, we have almost created the dairy industry and stock-raising. Many other astonishing results have been obtained from a systematic propaganda organized by the various governments, from the laws of these governments and from the combined efforts of the farmers and educated and patriotic persons. The maple industry, during this last decade, instead of expanding, has been steadily declining till it could almost be said to be on the eve of disappearing, when competent and devoted men suddenly decided to come to its rescue