

were a necessity to add a certain amount of saccharine matter to the grapes raised in Canada to manufacture wines and brandies therefrom, I do think that the Cultivation of the Vine would be still profitable and otherwise desirable: such Canadian wines as I have spoken of, are, by far, a better and a more wholesome stimulating beverage than any other produced in the country by other means, and a more desirable article than the great bulk of imported fermented liquors. If the taste of the people was educated to the use of such wines, and if our farming population was induced into the production of the same, I consider that it would be a great boon to the country, both in a moral and an economical point of view; no matter whether or not we should be compelled, by the nature of our climate, to add a certain amount of extraneous saccharine matter to our grapes.

*Question 15.* Is it necessary to add spirits to any of the wines?—It is necessary to add spirits to some wines for long keeping and travelling; in France spirits are added to many wines, even of very good growths to suit the taste of some consumers, and for reasons already mentioned. A certain quantity of the Cognac brandies are every year undergoing the process of further distillation to be expedited in a more concentrated form to manufacturers and merchants of Champagne wines. However, except for the last mentioned wines, generally speaking, spirits are not added to wines of a superior growth in France, but this process of alcoholization of wines is every year, and for wines of good quality, resorted to under the surveillance of the authorities.

*Question 16.* Do you think that the question of vine culture is now as fully tested in Canada as to enable any one to calculate his chances in undertaking it?—I do not think that the question of vine culture is yet so fully tested in Canada as to enable any one to calculate his chances in undertaking it. I am convinced that enough has been accomplished to show that we can cultivate vines in the open air in Canada without more expense than in Europe, and that a good ordinary wine may be made out of grapes so raised: from that it can be concluded that the vine culture could be rendered a profitable enterprise; but a good deal of experimental trials, under a variety of circumstances will have to be made before the conditions of vine culture and wine-making, as an industrial pursuit, can be added to the common stock of practical knowledge of our agriculturists.

*Question 17.* Are you of opinion that any encouragements are necessary to those who have embarked capital in this enterprise to bring the problem to a practical general conclusion?—I am of opinion that encouragements of some kind are necessary to those who have embarked capital in this enterprise to bring the problem to a practical general conclusion. The experiments, of which I have spoken in my next preceding answer, have to be made at the expense of some one, and in a young country like ours, there are very few fortunes which would allow their proprietors to attempt all that ought to be done; a very great deal, I must say has already been accomplished, and so far very successfully, by private efforts, but as more is to be tried I would be afraid of a defeat of the object, if the public was not to do its part in the attempt to thoroughly fathom this, in my humble opinion, very important problem.

J. M. DE COURTENAY, Esq., of Amherstburg, examined:—

*Question 18.* Have you had any experience in the culture of grape vines, and in the manufacture of wine; if so, where, for what length of time, and to what extent?—I have had thirty years' experience in the Cultivation of the Vine and the manufacture of wine. Comprising twenty years of practical experience in Italy and France, besides excursions to Germany in order to examine their system, and ten years' experience in Canada, the result of which has been demonstrated by the Clair House Vineyards, and by the success of the "first oozes" of Canada wine at the Paris Exhibition. Our young establishment, which certainly might have compared favorably with any similar one of the same age, was prematurely crushed by a clause we discovered in the Inland Revenue Act after the first part of this Session. I had the honor to forward, for the information of the Select Committee, a pamphlet (the *Canadian Vine Grower*) where most of the queries submitted will be explained more fully than it would be possible for me to do at so short a notice.

*Question 19.* Can you inform the Committee how the grapes grown in Canada compare with those of different regions of France and Italy, as regards the production of wine?—I have the honor to refer you to page 31 of the *Canada Vine Grower*; under the head of "Choice of Plants" the Select Committee will discover most of what I can say upon this subject. In the appendix of the same pamphlet, page 42, will be found