

able opinion abroad of our climate and resources would be greater than that of almost any other fact that we could establish. Mr. De Courtenay has also a correspondence with Mr. Hutton and Professor Hincks, on the producing of silk. He is of opinion that the leaves of the common bass wood would answer admirably to feed the silk worm, and he does not consider the climate unsuitable to the business. We have not space for the correspondence on this subject, but we make the following extract from a letter dated October 27, 1859, which is to some extent a summary of Mr. De Courtenay's views in regard to the climatic points of the question, both in reference to silk and wine:

"Theorists and Botanical Professors declare that the long and harsh winters of this country would render the production of Silk or Wine impossible.

Allow me positively to declare, as a practical man, that the length and severity of the Winter has nothing whatever to do with the production of either Silk or Wine.

Two thousand six hundred degrees (centigrade) of Summer heat is required for the successful and economical production of Wine, Silk, Indian Corn, and Hemp.

This part of the country produces Indian Corn in abundance.

Belgium produces Silk and Wine, and cannot produce Indian Corn.

It is further my opinion that the Winter here is neither as long or as severe (for all practical purposes) as that of Northern Italy, where Silk and Wine are grown in abundance. I have lived there for many years, and have always had from fifty to one hundred head of horned cattle, which I have been ever obliged to keep constantly housed from the fifteenth of October to the fifteenth of May.

Here, my cattle are now in their pastures, and will certainly return there before the first of May.

VAL DE COURTENAY,
Bury, 3rd August, 1859.

TO THE HON. THE MINISTER OF FINANCE:

SIR:—Circumstances have lately come to my knowledge that convince me of the certainty of being able to establish vineyards on the hilly parts of this district, having a rocky, gravelly and sandy soil, and of a Southern or Western aspect.

The Blue-Berry buds forth about a month before the Grape, and notwithstanding the growth being in frosty situations, it is as often as free from Spring frosts in this country as in Northern Italy and Switzerland.

I have, within the last week, observed blueberries situated at the base of a hill of mine, having a Southern aspect, and they are in a

prosperous condition, notwithstanding the late frosts of this year.

It is an admitted fact that vines do not suffer from the most severe winter frosts when they are pruned low. The Crimea is a proof of the axiom—as is also Neufchatel in Switzerland, remarkable for its wines, and where the climate is much less favorable than here.

Judging from the period of the budding of the blue-berry, the grapes would, in fair situations, have here nothing to fear from the late Spring frosts, and autumn frosts are beneficial to the wine grape, and I consider them absolutely necessary to the production of good wines.

I forward the following opinion obtained from Messrs. Foigneux et Moreau, the best authorities of Northern wine-growers:

"1. Where the culture of Maize cannot be carried on, that of the vine must cease also; when the one does not ripen the ear, the other will not ripen its fruit.

2. Where kidney beans (haricots) will not ripen their grains, you will have much difficulty in obtaining the grape.

3. Finally, the vine planted in clay soil, or moist land, is exposed to the late frosts, and will give you much acid, and little sugar, and sugar, then alcohol, since it is the one which makes the other, and if alcohol, then the richness and keeping quality of the wines. According to this, the following are the principal considerations which must govern you:

1. That it be suited with the proper soil where it should be cultivated.

2. That the vegetation may be late in spring, so that it may more easily escape the disastrous action of the spring frosts, which cause the extensive destruction in the vineyards.

However, it is less the effect of the frost, than that of the burning sun which succeeds, which produces this result—therefore, if we should so manage that the vines may escape the immediate action of the morning sun; in the contrary case, there happens to the frozen buds what happens to all delicate vegetation when it passes suddenly from a state of excessive refrigeration to an elevated temperature.

Consequently, we should choose an exposure towards the South or West in localities exposed to spring frosts, so that the sun may not strike the buds till after the frost has disappeared.

From the above, and from many other reasons, I am convinced that I could produce excellent wine in this country, and I have a good hill of a Southern aspect of nearly 300 acres in extent, and of sufficient declivity to increase considerably the natural heat of the country. I also consider the Eastern Townships of the Province a part of the Canadas peculiarly adapted for a wine country. The West does not sufficiently preserve the covering of snow through the winter, and the early springs expose the grapes to white frosts. The advantages of securing a successful culture of the grape are manifest.