

our wines more value, in developing the taste for wine and curtailing the consumption of alcohol, two phenomena from which the wineproducers of Canada will be the first to derive profits. Besides, they have not produced a single document of some importance, nor any statistical record to show cause why they should ask the rejection of the Franco-Canadian treaty. They felt satisfied with quoting the "Report of the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonisation for 1891" (pages 99, 100 and 103) and they annexed to their petition the *valuable statistics* prepared by Mr. George Baines, of St. Catharine.

The Report presented to the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonisation contains such a number of mistakes and blunders that it is hardly possible to look at it as a serious document.

The author talks of Vevay, in Switzerland, as one of the wine producing centres of Europe, when the district of Vaud has only 18,000 acres of land planted with vines, producing five million gallons of poor wine consumed in the district of production. That gentleman calls our attention to the hundreds of millions gallons of wine made on the borders of the Rhine; and we know that the entire production of wine in Germany amounts to 14 millions of gallons only.

The author is apparently under the impression that the phylloxera, which was first discovered in France during the year 1870, was already plundering the vineyards in 1852.

But where the petition is most grossly misleading is when the wine-growers of the province of Ontario, with the hope of justifying their opposition to the treaty, claim that their products are similar, as to origin, to the French wines. They support their opposition to this part of the above mentioned Report in which the author, speaking of the large area in Ontario planted with Concord vines, affirms that the vineyards of France destroyed by phylloxera have been replanted with Concord vines with *such great success that they are likely to become the principal vines in the world for the production of daret*. As many mistakes as words. The Concord vines have been rejected by French vine-growers, because they are not sufficiently refractory to phylloxera and produce a wine tasting of musk. The American varieties of vines mostly used in Europe are the Jacquez, Riparia and Herbemont, but not in the least the Concord.

Such blunders on the part of the author of the Report are utterly inexcusable.

Mr. Baines' calculations—which are nothing more than probabilities—are based on the supposition that the vineyards of the province of Ontario contain 4,038,000 vines, whilst the Industrial Office of Ontario, in its bulletin No. 92, published in 1894, sets down the number of vine plants to 3,006,682, of which 2,223,282 only are bearing plant. All the probable calculations made by Mr. Baines and based on the supposed existence of vineyards containing 4 millions of vine plants must consequently be rejected to the extent of nearly 50 p. c., in taking for a basis the Ontario Government's official statistics. The fact is this: owners of vineyards in the province of Ontario cultivate vines for the production of table grapes and very few of them care for making wine.

In conclusion, we may be allowed to say that the wine-producers of the province of Ontario have themselves acknowledged that the Franco-Can-