

Enclosure 3.

SUMMARY of the REPORT of M. TISSERAND, Councillor of State and Director of Agriculture, to the SUPERIOR COMMISSION of the PHYLLOXERA, in 1890.

In 1888 and 1889 the phylloxera has appeared in three new departments, and an attack has been recognised for the first time in eleven subdivisions. In addition to the treatment applied directly by the State, the Minister of Agriculture has continued to give subsidies to the departments and communes which have devoted money for the defence of their vineries. The State subsidy in 1888 amounted to 181,000fr., and in 1889 to 194,000fr.

In the meantime individual efforts have not been diminished. The defensive steps taken extend over 100,000 hectares: by submission, 30,000 hectares; by sulphide of carbon, 58,000 hectares; and by sulpho-carbonate of potassium, 9,000 hectares. These figures prove the value of the insecticides, which have preserved many important vineyards. A number of syndicates were formed in 1888 in various departments, embracing upwards of 21,000 proprietors, with an average of rather more than one acre to each. In 1889, 681 syndicated were subsidised: these comprised 21,687 proprietors, with nearly 24,000 hectares of vines, to which the maximum allocation of 25fr. per hectare was granted.

The energy shown for the conservation of the existing vineyards has also increased with regard to the reconstitution of the destroyed surfaces. The course which the Superior Commission has followed for more than six years continues to be confirmed. The extent of reconstituted vines by American varieties progresses with so great a rapidity that the time will be not far distant when the vineyards will occupy a superficies of area at least equal to that which they covered before the appearance of the pest.

The total of American vines planted was—

In	1881	8,904	hectares,	17	departments
			in		
"	1882	17,096	"	22	"
"	1883	28,012	"	28	"
"	1884	52,777	"	34	"
"	1885	75,292	"	34	"
"	1886	110,787	"	37	"
"	1887	165,517	"	38	"
"	1888	214,787	"	43	"
And in	1889				
there	were	299,801	"	44	"

Thus there has been an augmentation of nearly 100,000 hectares during the last campaign. If this reconstitution goes on in the same progression, in four years France, whose vineyards are already the greatest in the world – viz., 1,838,000 hectares – will

cover 2,600,000 hectares, or a greater area than has ever been. The departments which hold the first rank in this work of reconstitution are – the Hérault, with 110,000 hectares; the Aube, with 27,000; the Gard, with 24,000; the Gironde, with 19,000; the Eastern Pyrenees, with 20,000; and the Var, with 19,000.

While incessant experiments are being made with the view of obtaining the best results by hybridation, the mass of our viticulturists endeavour to conserve the French vines by grafting. Nurseries and fields of experiment have already existed in many departments, and their number is increasing. Professors of Agriculture have established schools of grafting, comprising numerous pupils, and the Government has largely increased, by subsidies and medals, the organization of these schools.

As in the past, the Government has not grudged subsidies in aid of the reconstitution of vineyards by means of resistant vines; and in addition to the direct subsidies under the special head of “Phylloxera,” an additional stimulant has been given by the law of 1887, which relieved during four years from land-tax lands which were newly planted or replanted in vine in the departments which had been ravaged by the pest. In 1888 the benefit of that law was received by 4,270 communes, covering 108,000 acres; and this allowance of tax amounted to 1,600,000fr., being 480,000fr. more than the sum expended in the year for the whole Service of the Phylloxera.

During the five years that have elapsed since the phylloxera appeared in Algeria, the invasion has been localised, thanks to the energetic measures pursued. The defence has exacted great sacrifices; but these cannot be regretted in presence of the results obtained, and of the constantly increasing extension of the Algerian vineyards. The vines there now cover a superficies of nearly 100,000 hectares, which produced in 1889 2,500,000 hectolitres of wine.

If now we cast our eye over what has been passing in foreign countries, we see that the culture of the vine is now extending everywhere. In Chili, in Uruguay, in the Argentine Republic, and in Australia a great number of vineyards are now established; and the special exhibition of wines at the Paris Exhibition shows the importance which these countries will take in the near future in competition with old Europe, which has alone up till now supplied the markets of the world. If, however, the production is increasing in many countries, it should be remembered at the same time that the phylloxera has also penetrated into nearly all, and is making great ravages there. The measures organised in Germany, in Switzerland, in Italy, in Spain, in Austria-Hungary—everywhere, indeed, where the pest has appeared—have been based upon the experience so dearly acquired in France; while the same means of reconstitution which had been adopted in France were adopted, and other nations have not hesitated to have recourse to the wisdom of our professors and agents to guide them in their defence. At the request of the Government of the Cape, one of our professors went last year to examine the state of the vineyards in that country, and to devise measures to be taken to combat the pest. In Spain and Italy—the two countries which next to France produce most wine—the contagion continues to extend itself; numerous vineyards are attacked, and many are already destroyed. Spain sees her richest provinces ravaged. In Barcelona, Tarragone, Malaga, and Almeria the attack is multiplying. In Malaga the small proprietors are constrained either to sell their holdings at a very low price or to abandon them. In Italy the superficies of contaminated or threatened vines is already 160,000 hectares; and in the presence of

so great an extension of the pest the Government has renounced over certain districts of the territory the steps which had been taken at first, and occupies itself now chiefly with reconstitution by American grafting. Phylloxera, which had only appeared in the north of Italy in the Provinces of Como and Liguria, and in Sicily, has now appeared in Tuscany, Calabria, Sardinia, and elsewhere. In Hungary the ravages of the insect are very grave. On the 1st of January, 1889, the extent of territory invaded by phylloxera was 115,000 hectares, of a third of the whole of the Hungarian vineyards; and of these more than 42,000 hectares were entirely destroyed. During 1889 the pest has appeared in 182 new communes. Austria has not been spared any more than Hungary. In the Provinces of Styria, Carniola, and Istria, where there are more than 60,000 hectares of vines, nearly 15,000 have been attacked. In Dalmatia, where the culture of the vine is the largest, the devastating insect has not yet shown itself. The Austro-Hungarian Government encourages treatment by insecticides and reconstitution by American grafting. In Switzerland the phylloxera continues to gain ground, but slowly, thanks to the measures that are taken in each canton to arrest its march. In Germany and in Russia the situation is nearly stationary: the progress of the pest is insignificant, and the legislation of both countries enables the centres to be destroyed as soon as the pest appears. In Portugal the pest continues to extend its ravages: every year the number of localities invaded is greater, principally in the north, where there are 100,000 hectares of invaded vines, of which 36,000 are entirely destroyed.

On the whole, it will be seen with satisfaction that nowhere are the defence and the reconstitution conducted with more vigour than in France, and that if we have been the first to be struck, and more cruelly than any other country, we shall equally be the first to gather the fruits of our researchers and our perseverance in completing a work which interests at once the public health, the finances of the State, the fortune of thousands of proprietors, and the subsistence of many millions of workers.