

sently, begun by him at Washington with a lavish expenditure of money. At that time, the slave power was preponderant in the person of Franklin Pierce. Lord Elgin informed the pro-slavery leaders that either they must grant to Canada reciprocity, or else they would soon have to admit into the Union six or seven new free States, with a population intensely hostile to slavery. The result was the reciprocity treaty of 1854, which remained in force until March 16, 1866. While the treaty was operative, the population of Canada increased at least forty per cent. Since the abolition of the treaty, the population has grown much more slowly, and it is now probable that a period of stagnation has been reached. A renewal of the treaty of 1854 would enable Canada to induce and retain immigration and prevent emigration. Even a gain of twenty-five per cent in her population in ten years would give Canada a total increase of 1,250,000 citizens, who, if the value of an individual be put so low as \$1,000, would be worth \$1,250,000,000. Again, the continuation of the existing bonding privileges for ten years would secure for the Canadian Railway \$250,000,000 in traffic earnings. There would be still another source of profit. The present annual products of Canada's farms, fisheries, forests and mines, and the earnings of her vessels engaged in the coasting trade, cannot be appraised at less than \$500,000,000. Reciprocity would secure to the producer in Canada an average increase in price of ten per cent, not only upon the portion exported, but upon the portion consumed at home. The annual value, therefore of the reciprocity to the Canadian producer of natural products and to Canadian vessel-owners, would be not less than \$500,000, which would be not less than 500,000,000, which would amount to \$500,000,000 in ten years. It follows that the total gain to Canada from all of the three sources enumerated would be, in ten years, \$2,000,000,000. On our side, we should simply acquire access for our manufactures to a market furnished by but five million consumers, wherein we should have to compete on equal terms with British and Canadian articles.—Collier's Weekly.

#### FRANCE'S NEW CABINET.

[Written for the "Deseret News" by Antoine Muz Zaelik.]

The new French cabinet has just been constituted under the presidency of M. Duprey. It is entirely made up of moderate republican, and the name of its premier who has occupied that envied position already under Casimir Perier's presidency is a program by itself. Pres. Gambetta's school, who has never had much esteem for the radicals. He is a conservative man in the best sense of the word, partisan of all reasonable progress, but at the same time a most decided adversary of all utopia, whether social or political and for these very reasons was never very much in love with Brisson's cabinet and is doubtless very glad of its downfall.

The French President not being responsible before the congress has to choose his cabinet according to the wishes of the majority of the two chambers, which often vacillates between the extreme parties. The principal and most interesting personage in the present cabinet is unquestionably M. de Freycinet who seems to be the French Benjamin. Since he entered public life in 1870, he has been a member of five or six cabinets, and four times "prime" or president of the council. A few years ago he was elected a member of the French academy against a dozen competitors, and more recently he had his senatorial dignity rewarded for another period of nine years. The moment

seems propitious to examine his career and to discover the secret of his success.

At the age of seventeen he entered the Polytechnic school, and was graduated fourth in 1848. During the second empire he was entirely occupied as a government civil engineer and entrusted with several scientific and industrial missions in foreign countries, and wrote a series of remarkable reports upon sanitary questions and the work of women and children in English factories. Although not taking an active part in politics, other than being a member of the general council for the department of Taru-et-Garonne, M. de Freycinet was considered a fair imperialist, and was sufficiently popular at court to receive the decoration of the Legion of Honor from the very hands of Empress Eugene herself. It is true that this favor was bestowed on the eve of the Franco-German war.

After the disaster of Sedan and the formation of the government of national defence, M. de Freycinet offered his services to Gambetta, who was then minister of the interior. He explained to Gambetta his idea of the general situation of the country, the resources and means of defense that still remained in spite of the immense reverses already experienced. The young and ardent defender of the country was entirely captivated by the modesty and luminous intelligence of the engineer as well as by his energetic will, and at once named him prefect of the Taru-et-Garonne; but Mr. de Freycinet was not a man to remain a great while in a prefecture when he believed that he would be of more utility elsewhere. As soon as Gambetta arrived at Tours, a month later, in October, '70, Mr. de Freycinet hurried thither and demanded more active service. Having united in his hands the departments of war and interior, Gambetta appointed the prefect as his personal delegate for the war department. In this position de Freycinet's administrative experience and vast technical knowledge enabled him to render invaluable service to the provisional government. In less than four months 600,000 men were equipped and sent to meet the enemy. This force represented an average organization of two regiments, or 6,000 men a day. That is more than the great Algiers has ever done here in our war with Spain. In a book written in 1871, Mr. de Freycinet has retraced with an abundance and precision of details, a clearness of exposition and a simplicity of recital, all the tremendous efforts he made at that period to impress upon the direction of military officers that activity and energy so necessary to sustain and encourage the resistance and to raise, equip and instruct the recruits who fought the German army for four months. Of all Gambetta's co-workers, Mr. de Freycinet is the one who contributed most efficaciously to the organization of the provincial government and to the arming of the nation while Paris was besieged. He had the technical qualities that were indispensable for the solution of a great number of special problems, a methodical mind, a tenacious activity and an indomitable pertinacity. De Freycinet's political enemies have tried to belittle this glorious work, but history, which will be severe on Alger's administration, will undoubtedly say that he served his country well at one of its most critical periods.

Mr. de Freycinet retired from the government after the armistice and was a candidate for the national assembly in July, 1871; being defeated, he went back to private life, where he remained until the senatorial election of 1876. For five years after the war the members of the government of

national defense had been outrageously abused, their acts and motives misconstrued, Mr. de Freycinet considered that the time had come to ask the electors of Paris to show by their votes whether one of the most important agents of that government was worthy of their confidence. The response was his election on the first ballot by a large majority. From that moment began his political career.

In the senate M. de Freycinet took a leading position. He was named chairman of the army committee and presented a remarkable report on the new law providing for the reorganization of the military forces. The following year he became minister of public works and immediately afterwards introduced his great project of extending the railway and water communications of France, a project involving the expenditure of 66 millions of dollars, which has been only executed. M. de Freycinet next position was president of the council and minister of foreign affairs. Although a Protestant, his desire to deal gently with the Catholic religious congregations caused his downfall, and a passing difference with his friend Gambetta excluded him from the ministry formed by the ex-dictator of Tours and which succeeded his own. However, Gambetta was, in his turn, soon thrown out of office and M. de Freycinet returned to power as premier and minister of foreign affairs. Again minister in 1885 and 1886, he was finally named minister of war in the Floquet cabinet of 1888. He has retained this post in the three ministries that have been formed since. When he became secretary of war there was a great outcry among conservatives. They threw up their hands in despair at the idea of a civilian directing the war department, although the examples of England and the United States were cited as proofs that the plan was perfectly feasible (but then the great organizer Algier had not yet been discovered), and the result is that M. de Freycinet has made a most admirable minister of war; even his political enemies are now obliged to admit it. And in his present administration we may feel assured that justice will be rendered to Dreyfus. For the present minister of war is a most honorable man, as shows his position of fortune—M. de Freycinet being yet a poor man.

When the members of the French academy were unable, owing to the great number of candidates, to agree upon a successor for Emile Angier's seat, one of their number said: "Why not take de Freycinet? He is already a member of the academy of science, it is true, but the French academy has always coquetted more or less with the distinguished members of the other sections of the institution, and it is a tradition to call to our ranks eminent statesmen, who have the gift of eloquence, even though their literary language be light." So the prime minister instead of soliciting a seat with the immortals, was politely invited to take it. And he is certainly not out of place among the distinguished men in all walks, who occupy the other thirty-nine fauteuils.

What is the secret of Mr. de Freycinet's success and popularity? For the recent vote renewing his senatorial term shows that he has conquered a great popularity among all the republican groups. First of all, he is a very honest man; no one has ever been able to say that he uses his public office for private ends. Next he is gifted with a remarkable intelligence; he has a fine supple mind and a marvelous faculty of imitation, which enables him to be in his place everywhere, and to speak upon all questions with authority. As