

perty in the Spring, but will purchase the ore with which to commence operations.

The preservation of foods and fruits is a subject of great interest as upon it depends to a great extent the abundance or scarcity of some of these at various seasons of the year, and the price we must pay for the same. Fruits and vegetables preserved in tins after being boiled are expensive and do not retain their natural flavor. The acids of the fruits thus preserved act to a certain extent upon the tin and cause such fruit when consumed to produce at times very unpleasant results. Professor Charles E. Monroe, of Annapolis, states that the ordinary fruit acids, such as those contained in apples, tomatoes, rhubarb, lemons, etc., all act upon tin. Some cider which he examined, and which had been stored in a tin fountain, contained one hundred and seventeen milligrammes of metallic tin to the litre in solution. One case was given where persons eating fruit preserved in tin cans were made violently sick, and tin only was found in the fruit. Dried apples which were formerly a staple article, are now rarely seen. In their stead we have what are known as "evaporated" apples. The apples after being peeled, cored, and sliced in one operation, are placed over the fumes of burning sulphur which prevent them becoming brown in color. They are then placed on trays in a chamber and air heated to about 200° Fah. passed over them until the greater quantity of water is carried off. So little of any substance except water is withdrawn that when these evaporated apples are cooked it is impossible to distinguish them from ordinary cooked fruit. This process has we believe been conducted successfully with cabbages and potatoes as well as with such small fruits as cherries and raspberries. It is not unreasonable to expect that in the near future "evaporation" will be the process by which fruits and vegetables generally will be preserved.

Montreal Island is usually said to be in the St. Lawrence, but from a paper read before the Association for the Advancement of Science, at its Boston meeting, we learn that if the River Ottawa should cease to exist, and the River St. Lawrence should remain, what is now the island of Montreal would probably—from the high level above Ste. Anne and below Vaudreuil, of the bed of the then extinct Lake of Two Mountains, and also from the very considerable fall, which would, on the disappearance of the Ottawa, take place in the St. Lawrence below the Cascades Rapids—be an island no longer; but if the St. Lawrence should cease to exist and the Ottawa should remain, what is now the Island of Montreal would be an island still. The author holds therefore, that the Island of Montreal is an island in the River Ottawa, and should be designated as such.

J. T. D.

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE PENSION ACT.

*To the Editor of the EDUCATIONAL RECORD.*

SIR,—In the correspondence department of the January RECORD is published a communication from "Teacher," in which he appears to think that teachers are chosen somewhat as in the theory of the "elect,"—being obliged to teach, whether they will or not. Now there is no reason at all why a teacher, when dissatisfied with his profession or pay, should not leave it for something more lucrative, if he can find it. The true way of benefiting teachers in this Province is to raise their salaries, not to cut off from 2 to 6 per cent. from that which they already have. This would make the profession self-supporting, as teachers could lay by enough in the "prime and flower of their days" to take care of themselves when superannuated.

Yours,

J.