

The London County Council have decided to clear out a large insanitary area at Bethnal Green, by utterly destroying the houses and removing the occupants to another quarter. The financial consequences of the scheme will not likely be less than \$1,500,000, but the benefit to the public health, it is hoped, will be commensurate. There is some protest against this form of expenditure, and not without reason on its side. It is held by many people that the owners of buildings and lands should be compelled to keep them in good order, and that the ratepayers should not be victimized in order to bring things to a healthy state again. But the question remains, when the mischief is done, of what the best way is to remedy matters. If public money is not to be spent for the public good, then what object can it be legitimately raised for, and for what purpose can it be profitably expended? The criminally careless owners should be fined heavily, and so help to defray the enormous expense of rehousing the tenants of the slums which are to be made clean. We should think that this sweeping reform would do something towards aiding General Booth's great scheme for improving the condition of the lower classes.

Great Britain imported during 1889 \$2,302,872 worth of poultry, alive and dead, and it would appear that a profitable market might be found there for Canadian poultry. The United States, despite the duty of three cents per pound on live and five cents per pound on dressed poultry, will not be able to get along without coming to Canada again this year as usual for their Christmas supply of turkeys, geese and chickens; but with poultry, as with eggs, it is becoming necessary for us to look for other markets, and Great Britain at once presents herself as the most likely to return good results. The questions which present themselves are:—1. Can our poultry be placed on the British market in good condition, and how? 2. Are the prices in Great Britain sufficient to warrant a fair return for consignments sent? Little is known experimentally as to whether and how poultry can be placed in good condition in Great Britain, because Canadian trade has not hitherto run in that direction, owing to having a sufficient market near at hand. The matter is now being looked into by the Government of Canada, and an experienced shipper of eggs and poultry has been sent to England for the purpose of making a thorough enquiry into the trade. His report will, if possible, be given to the public in time for the December shipments of poultry. As regards the second question, the prices of poultry, as reported by the High Commissioner in London, appear to be good, and it is further to be observed that poultry is cheapest at this season of the year, and prices will be higher about Christmas. The steamship companies are divided as to whether cold storage is necessary from November until March, but the experimental shipments now being made will solve the question. There is every reason to conclude that poultry of good quality, well placed on the market, will yield a remunerative profit.

Mr. Charleson, Inspector of Quebec Forest Reserves, recently explored the northern territory of that Province in search of timber limits. He traversed 14,000 miles, and in the course of his wanderings made the discovery that the River Ottawa rises in Lake Camachigima instead of in Grand Victoria, which was until recently supposed to be its source. The waters of Lake Camachigima flow from one end into the Ottawa, and from the other towards Hudson Bay. The mission on which the exploration party was sent was to estimate the value as an asset of the Province of Quebec, of the unleased timber lands on the tributaries of the Ottawa which are navigable for timber rafts. The facts and figures obtained by Mr. Charleson are reserved for his official report, but he has stated that there is an area of white pine lands between Grand Lake and Fort Barrie which is unequalled in the Province. There is also fine farming land along the shores of Grand Lake Victoria, and the Indians are anxious to receive seed barley and wheat to experiment with. Game is plentiful in the region about Lake Temiscamiquie, but the deer are being slaughtered and driven away by the dogs of the white hunters, who kill nearly all their game contrary to law. The great wealth of the Upper Ottawa, however, is its timber, particularly white spruce, estimate of which will shortly be published in Mr. Charleson's report to the Government of Quebec. There is about a million dollars worth of timber in the unexplored region of about 2,000 square miles. We have pointed out before the fact that here in Canada we have vast fields for adventure and exploration. There is no need for men who seek for excitement of this kind to go to Darkest Africa for it. They can find in our own Dominion and Newfoundland regions where the white man has seldom or never penetrated, and who knows what treasures may be discovered in these places.

A short time ago there was a cartoon in *Punch* representing the ghost of Kamezes II, holding himself up as a warning to his Imperial Majesty the Czar, and truly the children of Israel are in bondage in Russia, although the bondage may differ from that in which they were in Egypt three thousand years ago. There are about ten millions of Jews in Europe. Of these five millions inhabit the pale of Jewish settlement in Russia. Besides the ten Provinces of Poland the pale includes sixteen Provinces of the western frontier. It covers a territory about once and a half as large as France. It has ports upon two seas; is inhabited by Russian Christians as well as Jews, and may be considered as in every respect equal to the best parts of Russia. But even within the pale the Jew is only permitted to live under certain conditions in certain spots, and to travel by specially granted official permission. He is not allowed to own land, nor to rent it, nor to own any immovable property, nor to employ Christian labor. He is subject to the law of conscription, but may never rise to a rank higher than a private soldier. The army, the navy, the government service, medicine, law, have been, some of them absolutely, others practically, forbidden him. Commerce alone has been left open. While the rich Jew has been able to

escape by bribery from many of the vexatious applications of the laws, for the poor Jew the case has been more grievous. The prohibition to own land or to rent it has closed one great field of labor—agriculture. Every poor Jew must make his living in the towns or out of the necessities of his countrymen. But a given number of trades can evidently find employment only for a given number of tradesmen. In the petty retail trade to which his small means restricted him, the Jew dealer has had to buy a license to sell almost every separate article—tea, salt, tobacco, spirits are each separately taxed—necessarily recouping himself in the prices charged to his customers. Hence his invidiousness. Anti-Jewish riots broke out in 1881. From north, south, east and west of the territory occupied by the Jews stories came of arson, robbery, massacre and outrage. This led to an Imperial rescript which took cognizance, not of the sufferings of the Jews, but of the "sad condition of the Christian inhabitants," which had resulted in "protests as manifested in acts of violence and robbery." Since that period the laws against the Jews have been more severe, and it is now contemplated to enforce a complete code of repressive measures against that most unfortunate people.

A remarkable instance of the law's delays has just been brought to notice by the giving of judgment in a case which has been proceeding nearly 200 years in the Imperial Court of Leipsic, which is now the supreme tribunal in Germany. It is a suit which was commenced early last century by the free Hanse town of Lubeck against the government of Mecklenburg, with the object of obtaining a declaration that said town has the sole privilege of free navigation and fishery in several rivers and lakes. Lubeck's claim is founded on the charter of the Emperor Barbarossa. Lord Cockburn used to say that a Scottish lawsuit gave him the best idea of eternity, but he can have known nothing of German procedure.

The secret of success in raising and selling poultry, as in most other things, is to aim at having the best. We gave a few hints as to breeds suitable for table use, or as egg-producers, in *THE CRITIC* a few weeks ago, and if this first point is observed, and the fowls well fed and properly dressed for marketing, there can be no doubt that a superior article will be produced and bring the highest price attainable. Disputes have often arisen as to whether poultry should be drawn for market. Some dealers say that poultry keeps better if undrawn—it certainly looks better, but most people will agree with us that the most delicate flavored fowls are those which have all the entrails removed soon after killing. The crop especially should not be permitted to remain in the bird, as food in it may taint the meat. Of course fowls should be starved for a day before killing, as the flavor is much better when they are so treated. The custom of removing the feathers by scalding is a most pernicious one, and injures the quality and flavor of the meat more than anything else. Hand-picked fowls will bring a higher price than those that have been soured in scalding water, with the result that the skin is half cooked and the disagreeable flavor of feathers allowed to penetrate the flesh. In brief, to put superior poultry upon the market there are four things to be observed.—First, secure a good breed; second, feed well; third, starve them a day before killing; and fourth, let the process of dressing for market be carefully attended to with scrupulous nicety. The latter should be done immediately, or as soon as possible after killing. Feathers should be picked by hand; entrails should be removed and the gizzard, liver and heart replaced in the bird; leave no traces of blood on any part, and see that the bird is clean, dry and perfectly cold before packing. If warmth or moisture remains the inevitable result will be mustiness in a very short time, and the flavor will be ruined. Careful attention to the foregoing directions will insure a place at the top of the market.

In a late number of the *University Monthly*, the organ of the University of New Brunswick, we find an article by Mr. W. F. Ganong, Assistant Professor at Harvard, which seems to us full of valuable suggestions. Mr. Ganong proposes a system of what we might call co-operative union between the colleges of the Maritime Provinces. This scheme would mean a sort of Maritime University Confederation, without any of those features which have made the various consolidation and amalgamation schemes distasteful to most of our colleges. Mr. Ganong suggests that, without any changes of situation, government, or tradition, there should be established a uniformity of standards that would permit of a ready transference of students from our college to another, as is the case in German Universities. No college would relinquish any portion of its privileges or authority, but instead of each striving, with inefficient means, to outstrip its rivals, each would aim to supplement the defects of its sister institutions. Each college would strive to develop a specialty,—over and above the particular denominational work of such as are sectarian. Thus Dalhousie might aim to make herself peculiarly eminent in physics, or jurisprudence, King's in engineering or classics, Acadia in mathematics or economics, the University of New Brunswick in Philosophy or English. The subjects, of course, are divided thus merely as an illustration, and with no reference to real or imagined leanings on the part of the colleges named. Under an arrangement like the above, a student who, after graduating in arts at Acadia, was desirous of taking a post-graduate course in physics or in classics, instead of going away to Harvard would go to Dalhousie or to King's. No one of our colleges is rich enough to emulate the great Universities in all departments of learning. But each might effectively emulate the great Universities in some one department, giving a good pass course in all branches, and facilities for advanced specialization in one branch. This would lend our scattered institutions the rank and effectiveness of a powerful Maritime University, and would keep our young men at home. At the same time, no vested rights or privileges would be disturbed. Mr. Ganong's idea seems worthy of careful consideration on the part of our educationists.