

winter in Europe. They should certainly pay for the privilege of squatting on our territory, and carrying off the best fish to foreign markets. As for the labour and system of pay the fisherman is ground down, doubtless, under a contract of dependence; his work from day to day is merely chance, and in many instances after the season is over, he finds himself in his employer's debt. This system of slavery should not be allowed; it is now time to expose it, and I trust that some philanthropist will take up this matter in the interest of the poor fellows who toil on the sea risking their lives for a mere existence. This disgraceful system of sweating the Canadian deep-sea fishermen should be thoroughly explained at the approaching International Fisheries Exhibition in London. A subject of this nature comes under class II, "Economic condition of Fishermen," section J, "Contracts of Partnerships." The Committee offer a prize for the best essay on fishing industries, and as the matter is of great interest to Canada, some one should attempt it.—C.

DEPARTMENTAL BLUNDERS.

A New Brunswick Inspector of Fisheries has brought the Government into trouble by interfering with riparian rights. It appears that the Department at Ottawa in its efforts to enforce an order-in-council in direct opposition to the second section of the Fisheries Act and in defiance of the judgment of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick, which has recently been confirmed by the Court of Appeal at Ottawa, ordered this Inspector to follow out their instructions. The first suit was that of Spurr *vs.* Venning, which we believe went to appeal. Three suits have since gone against the Department, *viz.*, J. H. Phair, Esq., of Fredericton *vs.* the Inspector of Fisheries, for seizing his fishing tackle; Mr. Phair's damages amount to \$511. The second suit was brought against the same officer for the same action, by Judge Steadman, and resulted in a verdict for damages to the extent of \$3,000. The third suit was brought by Mr. Hanson, of the Crown Lands Office, against the same officer for a similar seizure, and a verdict was given for \$1,000

damages. In all the Department will have to pay \$5,731 for ordering an officer to carry out the instructions of the Government. The above does not include the costs. All this through ill-considered instructions submitted by the Minister at a meeting of Council from whence the order emanated.—C.

ORNITHOLOGICAL QUERIES.

Young Pigeon Hawks (*Hypotriorchis columbarius*, Gr.) were abundant in the Province of Quebec this year. Can any of our correspondents give us additional information regarding the nidification of this species?

A Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*, Bonaparte) was shot lately by W. H. Rintoul, Esq., on the south side of the St. Lawrence, not far from the river. It is in this year's plumage, indicating that it was bred not far from the Island of Montreal. Have the notes of the Whip-poor-will been heard on the Island?

Can any of our readers give us the chemical composition of the saliva used by the Chimney Swallow to build its nest? Why does this Swallow prefer breaking off dead twigs from a tree by force of flight in preference to selecting the same kind of branches which have fallen to the ground?

We notice the Purple Martin (*Progne purpurea* Boie.) every summer in the neighborhood of Montreal. Can any person inform us if they nest on the Island?

How far east in Ontario has the nest of the Ground Robin or Towhee Bunting been found?

Did anyone discover the nest of the Western Grebe (*Podiceps occidentalis*, Lawr.) nesting in the Province of Quebec? The young birds are shot sometimes near Montreal in the fall.—C.

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES.

BY THE EDITOR.

Mr. F. B. Caulfield, a member of the Montreal Branch of the Entomological Society of Ontario, obtained the prize at the late Montreal Exhibition for a collection of insects methodically arranged, illustrating the native species injurious to vegetation.

One important omission, probably not thought of, at the late election of officers of the Province of Quebec Forestry Association