

offset for any loss of trade that might result from tariff discrimination. But in this, as in most of the affairs of life, probability is, as Bishop Butler long since taught us, the very guide of conduct. Each elector must, therefore, determine the balance of probabilities for himself.

SOME of the bulletins which are being issued from the Laboratory of the Inland Revenue Department, at Ottawa, are suggestive as well as instructive. They show that even in Canada, notwithstanding all precautions, the process of adulteration is carried on to such an extent as leaves one almost in doubt as to whether it is possible to procure any one of the various articles of merchandize which are used as ingredients in the ordinary food of the household in a state of absolute purity. In the case of even such common and inexpensive condiments as mustard and pepper, it is shown that the commodities we are accustomed to purchase under those names contain, in many cases, very large percentages of foreign substances, and are seldom, or never, to be had in their native purity. Referring to the article of mustard, Mr. Macfarlane, the analyst, represents some people as asserting "that the public have come to understand that it is just as well that this state of affairs should continue to exist, and that so long as the mustard contains nothing injurious, and is marked or sold as 'compound,' the said public has not much to complain of." On the other hand, the analyst observes that "it may be maintained, as in the case of coffee, spices, etc., that some limit should be set to the amount of diluting substances added." We should think so. To us it seems tolerably clear that this is one of the matters in regard to which a special responsibility rests upon the Government to protect the people, for it is a matter in which it is difficult or impossible for them to protect themselves. For the present the Department is contenting itself with publishing in its bulletins not only the results of the analysis, but the names of both the vendors and the alleged manufacturers of the articles of which samples are taken. So long as these names appear only in the official bulletins, and are seen only by the few into whose hands these documents fall, we fear this plan will not prove very effective. It is greatly to be desired, we think, that the newspapers should give the public, from time to time, the benefit of the work of the Department by publishing names and facts in full.

THE foregoing remarks have reference to adulteration as affecting the quality of commodities such as are manufactured mainly for home consumption. Another aspect of the question, of no less importance, is that which relates to the quality of products manufactured for export. If we would become an exporting people, it is of the utmost importance that every precaution should be taken to guard the purity and excellence of the goods which are sent abroad. We recently had occasion to speak of the excellent reputation which has been secured for Canadian cheese, and to congratulate the Government on the steps it is taking with a view to raise the quality of our butter to an equally high standard. We are not aware that the admitted inferiority of a great deal of the latter is due, to any great extent, to adulteration, but there can be no doubt that the temptation to introduce an admixture of other and cheaper ingredients will increase as the trade itself grows. The history of the United States' export trade in cheese and butter conveys a most salutary lesson in this matter. A late number of *Bradstreet's* says: "The real character of our butter exports is well seen in the average values of foreign products in the London markets last year. The average price of butter imported from Denmark, as given in the December report of the Secretary of Agriculture, was 24c., from France 23.6c., from Sweden 23.4c., from Holland, 22.1c., from Germany 23c., from Belgium 22.5c., from Norway 24.3c., from Australasia 20.1c., from Canada 18.2c., and from the United States 17.7c." From other statistics quoted in the same paper it appears that the exports of United States' butter during the last ten years have fallen from 31,500,500 pounds in 1881, to 29,748,042 pounds in 1890, and the average price received in the foreign market from 19.8c. to 14.1c. per pound during the same period. The decline in the exports of cheese during the decade has been even greater and the depreciation in price scarcely less. And this result is directly due, *Bradstreet's* frankly admits, to the practice of adulteration and the competition of spurious and sophisticated forms. The lesson to be learned from the costly experience of our neighbours is full of encouragement as well as of warning, and gives every reason to hope that should the measures

now being adopted to improve the quality of Canadian butter prove as successful as the somewhat similar reforms in cheese-making have been, we may confidently expect a correspondingly large and profitable export trade in the former commodity to spring up at an early day.

THE address recently given by the Hon. G. W. Ross, Minister of Education, in the theatre of the Normal School Building, of which an extended report was given in Saturday's *Globe*, contains an interesting survey of the development and growth of public school education in Europe and America. The address shows the results of a good deal of historical reading, though from the sociological or philosophical point of view it is, perhaps, a little disappointing. From the Head of the department of public instruction, in the largest and wealthiest Province of the Dominion, we should have been glad of some discussion of fundamental principles. It is obvious, for instance, that the more universally education and the enlarged intelligence and thoughtfulness it brings become diffused among the people, the more needful will it be that the relations of the State to the work of public education shall be clearly defined and broad-based upon some principle that can be defended as just and equal. So far as the public schools are concerned there is no room for doubt or cavil. They are for the children of all the people, and it is meet that they should be supported at the expense of all the people. It was when the Minister came to the universities that he failed to apply principles, and appealed to precedents only. After quoting numerous facts to show, what needed no proof, viz., that the "tendency across the water is to be generous with the universities, notwithstanding"—an objector might say because of—"the conservatism of those countries," Mr. Ross went on to say, "Surely we in Canada should fortify ourselves to deal liberally with the universities." If he means that this liberal dealing should be of the kind which he afterwards recommends, the outcome of the patriotism and generosity of the people, all will heartily approve his words. If the idea is that further aid should be bestowed upon the provincial institution from the public chest, some troublesome questions will at once arise. Does Mr. Ross maintain, for instance, that it is in the interests of the whole people that students should be trained for the medical profession at the public expense? A few moments of his lecture might at this point have been well devoted to showing how it can be for the good of the people that the University, the entire resources of which are imperatively required to maintain and increase the efficiency of its Arts work, which is, *par excellence*, the department of its work which interests the public, should have been permitted by the Government to sink so large an amount of its available funds in the new Science Buildings, which are admittedly far more extensive than can be required for the science work of the Arts course proper. Will not the public justly hold the Minister responsible for the mistake, not to say misappropriation, which was made when one of the six independent medical colleges of the Province was chosen to be the ally and beneficiary of the Provincial University, to the great and, so far as appears, just dissatisfaction of all the friends and patrons of the other five, thus unfairly discriminated against? The injustice of this diversion of the public funds appears all the more indefensible in view of the recent protest of the teachers in the Department of Modern Languages in the University, some of whom have been kept working as mere lecturers, with inferior status and smaller pay, for more than twenty years. It is said that the promotion of these to the position of "professors" is impossible for want of money. Certainly, if most of them are not qualified for professorships they ought to be, and it would be little to the credit of the University to have kept incompetent men so long in teaching positions of so much importance. But if an act of simple justice is denied or delayed for want of funds, while enough and much more than enough of capital has been sunk in buildings not needed for the proper educational work of the university, the fact is one of a kind not well adapted to encourage the public to deal more liberally with the Government institution under which such maladministration is possible.

THE *Empire of Saturday* had an interesting article in which the treatment of our Indian tribes by the Canadian Government was fully detailed and compared with that to which those on the other side of the boundary line have been subjected by the Government of the United States. It is needless to say that the comparison was very much to the disadvantage of the latter. Nor can

there be any doubt that it is in the main just and truthful. This will be admitted by very many of the friends of the Red man in the United States. Whether, if the pressure of population and the demand for land had been as great on our side of the border as on the other, the comparison would have been so favourable to us is a question into which we need not enter. The main point for us as Canadians to consider is whether our own methods are the wisest and best possible. We are glad to be able to accept, with some modifications, the picture of the peace and comparative content prevailing among the Indians on Canadian reserves as a truthful one. We fear it has not always been so, but at the present time the absence of serious complaint may be accepted as proof that the Indians are being fairly treated by the Indian Commissioners and agents, and their supplies honestly provided and promptly distributed. The question that forces itself upon the mind in contemplating the picture of quiet and contentment on the reserves is with regard to the future. Is it to be always thus? Is this life in bands and on reserves to last forever? Are Indian customs and traditions to be perpetuated? The life of the average Indian on the reserve is clearly a life of barbarism or semi-barbarism, not of civilization. The writer of the article in question puts the number of Indians in the Dominion at 121,520, and estimates that nearly 7,000 Indian children are on the rolls of the public school, either the day, the industrial, or the boarding schools. This may mean an average attendance of one-half to two-thirds that number. This again must mean that not more than one in four or five of the Indian children of school age is receiving any kind of instruction fitted to raise him from the condition of barbarism in which he has been born and is growing up. Ought a Christian people to be satisfied with such a mode of disposing of the aborigines, of whose ancient domain they have possessed themselves? Is it creditable to us and our methods that even in the older provinces where some of the Indians have made sufficient advancement to be thought worthy of votes, they are still treated as wards of the Government, and are freed from the obligations and responsibilities of citizenship? Surely this is a question which ought to be fairly faced, in our own interests as well as that of the Indians; else if their numbers increase, as they should do, on the one hand, and the population of our prairies increases as it should, on the other, we may one day find ourselves with a very troublesome Indian question on our hands, and that too long after the new method adopted by our neighbours shall have been successful in enrolling the next generation of their Indians as industrious, full-fledged citizens. Is there any good reason why twenty-five or at most fifty years of universal compulsory education, with judicious allotment of lands in severalty, should not make good Canadian citizens of those who are now scarcely better than little Indian barbarians, and thus settle the Indian question forever?

THE *Winnipeg Commercial* of February 2nd devotes a large portion of its space to a series of articles dealing with the resources and prospects of the great Saskatchewan district, which was opened to the outside world by railway communication last fall. Saskatchewan is the largest and most central of the four provisional districts which were carved out of the North-West Territory by the Dominion Parliament in 1882. It contains an area of 106,700 square miles. "In shape it is an oblong parallelogram which extends from Nelson River, Lake Winnipeg and Manitoba, on the east, to the 112th degree of west longitude on the west, and lies between or, rather, slightly overlaps the 52nd and 55th parallels of north latitude. It thus includes a larger proportion of the so-called fertile belt than any of the other territorial districts, and is almost centrally divided by the main Saskatchewan River, which is altogether within the district, and by its principal branch, the North Saskatchewan, most of whose navigable length lies within its boundaries." Notwithstanding its high latitude, its climate is said to be very similar to that of Manitoba. It is clear, dry and healthful, and is not to any noticeable degree colder than that of the more southerly province. The district is believed to be safely out of the storm belt. It has never, so far as known, been visited by the terrible blizzard or the death-dealing cyclone of the Dakota plains. The soil in the region around Prince Albert is the deep black mould of the western prairie, of the very richest description, and of such a depth that it has been pronounced practically inexhaustible. East, west and south of Prince Albert, which is the terminus of a branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway