

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

RIVER COWICHAN.

A contract was entered into to clear away the obstructions, by the 31st March, 1879.

Unfavourable weather prevented the completion of the work according to contract. An extension of time has been granted.

BEAVER ROCK--VICTORIA HARBOUR.

The work was continued throughout the year. The specified depth of 14 feet at low water has been reached in places; but at many points from 12 to 30 inches have to be taken off.

LANDS AND LEASES.

A statement of full detail is given (Appendix 14, pages 67-73) of all property purchased and sold by the Department during the fiscal year, setting forth the names of the parties interested, the price paid, and the circumstances under which each transaction took place; likewise of the property declared to be no longer under the control of the Department.

ARBITRATIONS.

During the year 2 claims were referred to arbitration. In one an award of \$4,950 was made. The second has been referred to the whole board for enquiry and award. (Appendix 15, pages 74-75.)

TELEGRAPH, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The telegraph is in operation as follows:—

	Distance miles.
From Victoria, Vancouver's Island, to Sañich, V. I.....	15
From Sañich, Vancouver's Island, to Swinomish, Washington Territory, including five submerged cables.....	60
<p>These cables are each $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in diameter, with seven conducting No. 19 copper wires, twisted together and insulated with two coverings of gutta percha $\frac{3}{8}$ inch diameter with armour of twelve No. 8 galvanized iron wires. The total length of the cables is 16$\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Weight about 5,000 lbs. to the mile.</p>	
From Swinomish to Matsqui, on the River Fraser.....	68
Matsqui to New Westminster, “	36
Matsqui to Hope “	59
Hope to Yale “	14
Yale to Lytton “	57
Lytton to Quesnel “	271
Quesnel to Barkerville, Cariboo “	52