

found of any prosecutions under the common law. It was not until the 33rd year of King Henry VIII. that any means was provided for prosecuting persons for gambling, playing games of chance or betting with cards and dice. There was passed in the reign of Edward 4th, a law against sports which might cause a breach of the peace.

IDIOSYNCRACY OF CRIMINALS.

The Toronto papers recently made mention of "Jack the Ripper," whose reputation was achieved in London, England, for ripping up the bodies of females, without taking the shortest and easiest way of killing them. The Toronto "Jack the Ripper" contented himself with cutting and slashing the garments of females hanging upon clothes lines, etc. Some years ago a man living in Beaverton was convicted of destroying valuable dresses and ladies' fur coats by the use of a syringe filled with sulphuric acid. This man was a woman-hater. Little could be learned of his previous history. He seemed to think he had a mission to prevent extravagance in female dress, or to suppress pride and social ambition.

In the Birk and McPherson case, a trial for rape and murder, the defendants were convicted and sentenced to be hanged, but the sentence was afterwards commuted, and the prisoners were, in a few years, discharged from custody. One was subsequently lynched in Montana for an offence. The other returned home and was subsequently charged with rape and escaped to the United States and has never been found.

In the investigation before the Coroner's jury, the inquest was adjourned many times. From the first, the evidence pointed strongly to one of these men as guilty, but no trace could be found as to the second man. The detective who was employed on the case strongly opposed arresting one of them until the other was found. And his opinion was found to be correct. In the course of the investigation, it was very desirable to procure the trousers worn by McPherson on the night of the assault on the woman. The ingenuity of the constable and the common