

The belief in the uselessness of the grand jury system has pervaded the far west. By the constitution of South Dakota, adopted two years ago, the legislature is authorized to modify or abolish it; the legislature has accordingly reduced the number of jurors to six, of which five may find a true bill. The constitutions of Wyoming and Kentucky cut the grand jury down to twelve, and the former permits its abolition. In civil cases both the latter State and Arizona make nine petit jurors competent to return a verdict in civil cases.

A desire to observe the letter rather than the spirit of their constitutions is to be observed in many States. Several of these have a constitutional provision that no act shall take effect until it has been published throughout the State, in order that the citizens may first become familiar with it; but the same provision also enacts that "in case of emergency," or if the "public welfare requires," it may take effect at once. In Indiana one hundred and fifty-five out of two hundred of the acts of last session declare that that particular act is a "case of emergency," and consequently it goes into effect forthwith. In Tennessee, two hundred and thirty out of two hundred and sixty-five acts are thus instantly made law, one of which is to amend a township charter by inserting after the word "lot," in one place, "thence west four chains to a stake, thence north four and one-half chains to an oak tree, thence west three chains to a stake, thence north two chains to the corporation line at the coal chute," after which follows "Sec. 2. Be it further enacted that this act take effect from and after its passage, the *public welfare requiring it.*" Out of one hundred and eighteen acts of the Texas Legislature, one hundred and thirteen contained the "emergency clause."

Notwithstanding many of the vagaries and peculiarities of our neighbors mentioned above, we can glean a great deal of good from their legislative enactments, and the time of our House of Commons would be very much better employed in applying to our own country the more useful of their statutes than in bringing in a stereotyped form of "majority" and "minority" reports, which in many instances might equally well, except as to details, have been written before the first meeting of the committee.

MUSIC IN COURT.

"In every age and in every clime there are varieties of musical idiom which are unsympathetic, if not unintelligible, to other generations than those among whom they are first current; and, still more, the very principles that govern it have been and are so variously developed in different times and places that music which is delightful at one period or to one people is repugnant at another epoch or to a different community." Thus saith the Encyclopedia Britannica (*sub nom.*, Music).

'Tis well in reading the law to remember that there is music and music; music of the stars and music of more mundane performers.

Those who have heard the musical performances of public school children can sympathize with Mr. Webber, of La Porte, Ind. The school authorities in