LAST SESSOIN'S LAWS.

The Minister of Justice Reports Upon the Legislation of Last Session.

Japan's Protest Against the Legislation Specially Directed Against Asiatics.

Premier Semlin laid before the legislature yesterday a decidedly interesting series of papers having reference to the acts of the legislature last session, the first of these documents being a communication from the clerk of the Privy Council transmitting a report of the Privy Council approved by the Governor-General on December 17 last and dealing with a report of the Minister of Justice bearing date of the 8th November last. The Privy Council concurred in this report of the Minister of Justice, which was briefly that the statutes of 1898 might be left to their operation without comment with the exception of the measure giving effect to the Revised Statutes of British Columbia, the act respecting the C.P.N. Co., Ltd., the act specially relating to the employment of Chinese or Japanese on works carried on under franchises granted by private acts, and the several private acts with which the anti-Asiatic labor clause had been incorporated. The report of the Minister in its entirety follows:

Department of Justice, Canada,
Ottawa, 8th November, 1898.

To His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council:

The undersigned has had under consideration the statutes of the province of British Columbia, passed in the sixty-first year of Her Majesty's reign (1898), and received by the Secretary of State for Canada on 8th June, 1898, and he is of opinion that these statutes may be left to their operation without comment, with the exception of those hereafter especially referred to.

Chapter 40—An act to give effect to the Revised Statutes of British Columbia.

This statute relates to the recent revision of the provincial statutes, and gives effect to the revision. Without referring particularly to the various objections which have been stated in the reports of the undersigned's predecessors in office upon the statutes contained in the revision from time to time as they were enacted, the undersigned intends that these objections, so far as applicable, shall be considered to apply to the Revised Statutes. Having regard to previous comments and to the above observation, the undersigned does not consider it necessary to make any special remarks with regard to any of the Revised Statutes other than chapter 107, the Jurors' act, as to which he observes that sections 75 to 82, inclusive relate to juries in criminal cases, and appear to contain substantially re-enactments of the corresponding provisions of the criminal code, 1892. These affect matters of criminal procedure, and are ultra vires of the legislature. The undersigned does not propose, on that account, that the statute should be disallowed, because the provisions in question are not inconsistent with the criminal code, and to disallow the statute which gives effect to the revision might cause serious inconvenience. It is very undesirable, however, that a provincial legislature should enact rules of criminal procedure, even although they be copied from the criminal code. Such rules can receive no effect from provincial enactment, and as amendments are being frequently made to the code, the provincial rules might soon become inconsistent therewith, in which case there would be a liability to error from having incompatible rules affecting the same subject appearing upon the two statute books. The undersigned considers, therefore, that the sections in question should be repealed, and he recommends that the provincial government be requested to introduce the necessary legislation at the next session of the legislature.

Chapter 49—An act respecting the Canadian Pacific Navigation Company, Limited.

Among the powers conferred upon the company is one stated in the following terms:

"(a.) To purchase, charter, hire, build or otherwise acquire steamships and other vessels of any description, and to employ the same in the conveyance of passengers, mails, cattle, produce and merchandise of all kinds, and in towing vessels of all kinds, and lumber, between any parts of British Columbia and elsewhere, as may seem expedient, and to acquire any postal or other subsidies."

It is beyond the authority of a provincial legislature to authorize the establishment or operation of a line of steam or other ships connecting the province with any other or others of the provinces or extending beyond the limits of the province or between the province and any British or foreign country. The words "and elsewhere as may seem expedient" in the paragraph quoted, would seem to indicate that it is intended to authorize the company to carry on a shipping business between the province and other places outside the limits of the province, and they should, for that reason, be struck out. The undersigned recommends that the matter be called to the attention of the provincial government, and that the government be requested to state whether a proper amendment will be made within the time limited for disallowance. Meantime, the undersigned withholds any further recommendation with regard to this act.

Chapter 28.—An act relating to the employment of Chinese or Japanese persons on works carried on or under franchise granted by private acts.

The act is given the short title of the Labor Regulation act, 1898, and is in effect similar to the bill passed by the legislative assembly of the province of British Columbia in 1897, entitled "An act relating to the employment of Chinese or Japanese persons on works carried on under franchises granted by Private acts," which was reserved by the Lieutenant-Governor for the pleasure of His Excellency-in-council, and which was the subject of a report by the predecessor in office of the undersigned, approved by His Excellency-in-council on 15th December, 1897, and as to which His Excellency's government declined to give effect. The act defines the terms "Chinese" and "Japanese" as meaning any native of the Chinese or Japanese empires, or their dependencies, not born of British parents, and as including any person of the Chinese or Japanese races. It disqualifies from employment by persons or companies exercising provincial franchises Chinese or Japanese persons as so defined, and renders such persons or companies employing them liable to penalties for such employment.

Chapter 10.—An act to confirm an agreement between Her Majesty, in right of her province of British Columbia, and Frank Owen and William John Stokes, and to incorporate the Cariboo-Omineca Chartered company.

Section 30 of this chapter provides that "No Chinese or Japanese persons shall be employed in the construction or operation of the undertaking, hereby authorized, under a penalty of $5 a day, for each and every Chinese or Japanese person employed in contravention of this section, to be recovered on complaint of any person under the provisions of the Summary Convictions act.

Chapter 30.—An act to amend the British Columbia Public Works Loan act, 1897.

Chapter 44.—An act to amend the Tramway Incorporation act.

Chapter 46.—An act to incorporate the Alice Arm railway.

Chapter 47.—An act to incorporate the Arrowhead and Kootenay railway company.

Chapter 48.—An act to incorporate the British Columbia Great Gold Gravels Dredge Mining corporation.

Chapter 50.—An act to incorporate the Canadian Yukon railway company.

Chapter 52.—An act to incorporate the Downie Creek railway company.

Chapter 53.—An act to incorporate the East Kootenay Valley Railway company.

Chapter 54.—An act to incorporate the Kitimaat Railway Company, Limited.

Chapter 55.—An act to incorporate the Kootenay and Northwest Railway company.

Chapter 56.—An act to incorporate the Mountain Tramway and Electric company.

Chapter 57.—An act respecting the Nanaimo Electric Light, Power and Heating Company, Limited.

Chapter 58.—An act to incorporate the North Star and Arrow Lake Railway company.

Chapter 59.—An act to incorporate the Portland and Stikine Railway company.

Chapter 60.—An act to incorporate the Red Mountain Tunnel Company, Limited.

Chapter 61.—An act to incorporate the Revelstoke and Cassiar Railway company.

Chapter 62.—An act to incorporate the Skeena River and Eastern Railway company.

Chapter 63.—An act to incorporate the Skeena River Railway, Colonization and Exploration company.

Chapter 64.—An act to incorporate the South East Kootenay Railway company.

Each of these statutes contains a provision similar to section 30 of chapter 10, prohibiting the employment of Chinese or Japanese persons by the respective companies.

These enactments have been the subject of complaint by the Japanese minister at the Court of St. James and the Japanese consul at Vancouver. Copies of the communications of these gentlemen upon the subject are submitted herewith. In a despatch to His Excellency the Governor-General from the Right Honorable the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, dated 20th July last, referring to this legislation, His Excellency is requested to impress upon his ministers that restrictive legislation of the type of which the legislation in question appears to be, is extremely repugnant to the sentiments of the people and government of Japan. It is stated that His Excellency should not fail to impress upon his ministers the importance, if there is any real prospect of a large influx of Japanese laborers into Canada, of dealing with it by legislation of the Dominion, on the lines of the Natal act, a copy of which accompanies the despatch of the Colonial Secretary, and which, it is stated, is likely to be generally adopted in Australia. The undersigned submits herewith copy of the Natal act in question.

It appears, therefore, that this matter is regarded by Her Majesty's government as one of Imperial interest, and the representations of that government upon the subject should accordingly be carefully considered in determining upon the course to be pursued with regard to the legislation. In the meantime, it may be well to communicate with the government of British Columbia upon the subject, enclosing copies of the complaints of the Japanese minister and consul, and of Mr. Chamberlain's despatch of 20th July, 1898, in addition to the communication which has been sent pursuant to the recommendation made by the undersigned on 28th October last. The provincial government should be asked to give the matter early consideration, and state, for the information of Your Excellency's government, any facts or reasons which they desire to be considered. It is also important to ascertain whether the provincial government would be prepared to recommend the repeal of chapter 28 and of the anti-Japanese and Chinese sections of the other chapters above mentioned. A communication should also, in the opinion of the undersigned, be addressed by Your Excellency's government to the principal secretary of state for the colonies, stating what has been done so far with regard to this legislation, and a copy of the statutes should be forwarded to him. Further action, the undersigned considers, may be delayed until a reply has been received from the provincial authorities. The undersigned recommends that a copy of this report, if approved, and of the papers accompanying the same, be transmitted to the Lieutenant-Governor of the province for the information of his government.

Respectfully submitted,
(Sgd.) DAVID MILLS,
Minister of Justice.

The first letter among the documents referred to in the concluding paragraph of the minister's report is from S. Shimizu, Japanese consul at Vancouver, addressed to His Excellency the Governor-General and protesting against the proposed discrimination against the subjects of a friendly nation, on the following grounds:

"1. That no satisfactory reason has been or can possibly be given for such discrimination in the legislative assembly above stated.

"2. That the article of the revised treaty of commerce and navigation between Japan and Great Britain provides that 'the subjects of each of the two high contracting parties shall have full liberty to enter, travel or reside in any part of the dominions and possessions of the other contracting party, and shall enjoy full and perfect protection for their person and property;' and the article 15 of the same that 'the high contracting parties agree that, in all concerns, commerce and navigation, any privilege, favor or immunity which either contracting party has actually granted, or may hereafter grant, to the government, ships, subjects or citizens of any other state, shall be extended immediately and unconditionally to the government, ships, subjects or citizens of the other contracting party, it being their intention that the trade and navigation of each country shall be placed in all respects by the other on the footing of the most favored nation.'

"3. That though the Dominion of Canada does not participate in the revised treaty referred to, it is contradictory to international usage that a nation, subject to the duties and privileges of international law, be adversely discriminated in legislation in a friendly country.

"4. That while the legislators of the province of British Columbia apparently look upon the Japanese in the same light as Chinese, it is a well-known fact that the education and character, customs and manners of Japanese are entirely different from those of Chinese, so that the principal argument of the legislators is contradicted by the fact.

"5. That the number of Japanese residents in British Columbia, not exceeding one thousand and odd persons, is less than one-tenth that of Chinese.

"6. That the government of Japan controls the movements of emigrants by enforcing the emigration regulations, no intending immigrant being allowed to leave the country unless the proper authorities are satisfied that he has good reason to emigrate to a certain country, so that the emigration into any country can be restricted to proper extent by the government of Japan.

"7. That such discrimination would tend to be detrimental, to some extent, to the development of the international trade between Canada and Japan, which the governments of the two countries are endeavoring to foster."

Upon these grounds the representative of Japan asked the disallowance of the legislation complained of.

This protest bore date of the 10th May last, and on the 16th, 20th and 28th of the same month supplementary protests were written upon the same grounds, while on the 20th July Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain acknowledged to the Governor-General receipt of copies of these protests, requested copies of the acts to which Consul Shimizu took exception, with the opinion of the Canadian government thereon, and concluded his official note as follows:

"In the meantime I have to request that you will impress upon your ministers that restrictive legislation of the type of which the legislation in question appears to be, is extremely repugnant to the sentiments of the people and government of Japan, and you should not fail to impress upon them the importance, if there is any real prospect of a large influx of Japanese laborers into Canada, of dealing with it by legislation of the Dominion parliament on the lines of the accompanying Natal act, which is likely to be generally adopted in Australia."

Another communication from Mr. Chamberlain, dated the 11th August, transmitted a foreign office note covering the following protest from the Japanese minister:

Japanese Legation 3rd August, 1898.

M. le Marquis:—The legislative assembly of the province of British Columbia in the Dominion of Canada, passed in the month of May last an act "to prohibit the employment of Chinese and Japanese persons on work carried on under the franchises granted by private acts, also another act "to amend the British Columbia Public Works Loan act, 1897," and several railway and other private bills, all of which contain provisions prohibiting the employment of Japanese subject in several works, public and private, under the penalty of a fine for each Japanese so employed. The Japanese consul at Vancouver has, therefore, under instructions of the Imperial government, entered a protest to the Lieutenant-Governor of the province in the hope that the necessary approval of the Governor might be withheld from those enactments. His representations were, however, fruitless, and the acts were approved by the Lieutenant-Governor and are now awaiting the assent of the Governor-General of Canada.

My government, although they confidently believe that the legislation so unfriendly and discriminating against Japanese subjects would not receive the sanction of the Governor-General, have instructed me to call the attention of H. M. government to the matter.

The impropriety of such discriminating legislation against the subjects of a friendly state is evident in itself and requires hardly any comment on the part of my government. The Japanese subjects in Canada are not large in number. So far as my government are aware they have always been law-abiding and have done nothing that might necessitate a legislative action adverse to their interests. Moreover, in the opinion of my government, such measures if allowed to become law, cannot but injuriously affect the cordial and commercial relations which now happily exist between Japan and the Dominion of Canada, and which have every prospect of further developments in the near future. I have, therefore, the honor to ask the good offices of Y.L., so that H.M. government may see their way to exercise their influence with the Governor-General of Canada in order that his assent may be withheld from the aforesaid legislation of British Columbia.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) KATO.

The Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., &c., &c., &c.,

At the same time the following note was sent the foreign office:

(Immediate)

Downing Street, 11August, 1898.

Sir:—In reply to your letter of the 6th instant, enclosing a copy of a note from the Japanese Minister at this court protesting against recent legislation in British Columbia for the exclusion of Japanese subjects from employment in that province, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that no reply has yet been received to the communication addressed to the Governor-General on this subject.

A copy of M. Kato's note will, however, be sent to him, with a request that he will press his ministers for early consideration of the matter, and in the meantime I am to suggest that M. Kato should be informed that Mr. Chamberlain is in communication with the Governor-General of Canada on this subject.

I have, etc.,
(Signed) C. P. LUCAS.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

Satisfactory Reports Presented at the Annual Meeting Last Evening.

The annual meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian church was held last evening, Rev. W. Leslie Clay in the chair. After devotional exercises the reports of the various organizations connected with the church were read, all showing marked progress for the year. The financial report was particularly satisfactory, showing as it did that the liabilities had been considerably reduced.

New managers for the year were elected as follows: Messrs. R. B. McMicking, A. B. Fraser, B. S. Heisterman, J. B. Boyle, W. S. Houston, W. G. Fraser, T. H. Horne and W. S. Fraser.

Votes of thanks were tendered the retiring managers, the choir, Miss Murray for acting as organist on Thursday evenings, the Sunday school teachers, Ladies Aid and Y.P.S.C.E.

After the meeting had been formally closed refreshments were served by the ladies.

More cases of sick headache, biliousness, constipation, can be cured in less time, with less medicine, and for less money, by using Carter's Little Liver Pills, than by any other means.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Revenue for the Past Fiscal Year Shows a Market Increase.

Victoria Overshadows All Other Cities United in Revenue Contribution.

The public accounts for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1898, were laid before the legislature yesterday afternoon, and show a total net revenue for the twelve months of $1,439,623.40, as against $1,383,048.24 the year previous, or $608,678.94 in 1887-8, the revenue having more than doubled within the decade. The expenditures for the last fiscal year are set down at $2,001,031.85, an increase of $431,960.22 upon the previous year, but including an investment of no less than $749,541.71 on public works, such as the new parliament buildings, roads, streets, bridges, wharves, etc. The statement of receipts and expenditures shows the following:

REVENUE.

	1897-98.
Dominion of Canada—	
Interest	$ 29,151
Subsidy	35,000
Grant per capita	78,538
For lands conveyed	100,000
Land sales	104,189
Land revenue	10,646
Timber royalty and license	57,647
Survey fees	945
Rents exclusive of land	84
Timber leases	46,076
Ferries	130
Free miners' certificates	139,756
Mining receipts general	159,432
Licenses	64,729
Marriage licenses	3,990
Real property tax	109,367
Personal property tax	112,160
Wild land tax	61,575
Income tax	9,278
Mineral tax	36,061
Revenue tax	84,555
Registered taxes arrears	28
Tax sale deeds	20
Revenue service refunds	84
Commission sales for taxes	91
Fines and forfeitures	13,446
Law stamps	11,473
Probate fees	6,008
Registry fees	63,093
Asylum for the insane	4,452
Printing office receipts	10,980
Sale government property	882
Reimbursements in aid	4,266
Interest	1,498
Chinese Restriction Act	29,900
Miscellaneous receipts	14,898
Succession duty	2,821
Bureau of mines	569
Provincial home	349
Premium sale dyking debentures	3,728
	1,420,299
Interest on investment sinking funds	19,323
Net revenue	1,439,623
Withdrawals from sinking funds, loans 1877 and 1887	38,894
Total	1,478,517
Deposits intestate estates, etc	43,676
Deposits Suitors Fund Act	79,230
Shuswap & Okanagan Ry. receipts	12,464
Nakusp & Slocan Ry. receipts	17,752

EXPENDITURE.

	1897-98.
Public Debt	
Interest	$ 199,047
*Sinking funds (chargeable to investment acc't.) as follows—	
Deposit Bank B. C., Loan Act, 1874	1,400
Do. interest invested do	535
Trustees' acct., Loan Act, 1877	9,253
Do., interest invested, do	8,952
Do., Loan Act, 1887	8,577
Do., interest invested, do	3,275
Do., Loan Acts, 91, 93 & 95	47,760
Do., interest invested, do	6,570
Premium and exchange	1,476
Discount and Commission	3,606
Civic government salaries	132,145
Administration justice salaries	167,848
Legislation	39,152
Public Institutions Maintenance—	
Printing office	40,156
Asylum for insane	43,828
Museum	5,261
Provincial home	10,130
Bureau of mines	3,811
Hospitals and charities	47,965
Administration justice other than salaries	100,813
Education	247,756
Transport	16,877
Rent	48
Revenue service	19,736
Public Works—	
Works and buildings	197,956
New parliament bldgs., Victoria	179,390
Government House, Victoria	3,165
Roads, streets, bridges, wharves	348,517
Surveys	20,503
Miscellaneous	171,816
	2,087,347
*Less amount of sinking funds as above, chargeable to investment account	86,315
Net expenditure	2,001,031
Deposits intestates estates, etc., repaid	47,905
Deposits suitors' fund repaid	34,241
Shuswap & Okanagan Railway payments	51,228
Victoria & Sidney Ry, payments	6,030
Nakusp & Slocan Ry., payments	26,221

The balance sheet presented by the auditor-general is as appended:

ASSETS.

Dominion government, sec. 2, Terms of Union	$ 583,021
Sinking fund loan, 1874 (in Bank B. C.)	18,479
Do., 1877 (invested in London)	269,825
Do., 1887, do	103,436
Do., 91, 93 & 95, do. (in. stock)	253,874
Dominion gov't., re graving dock	8,002
State of Washington	1,128
Isld. Mountain Quartz Mining Co.	22,973
B. C. L. & I. Agency (deposit as security by London & Canadian Fire Ins. Co	20,000
Victoria & Sidney Railway Co. (amount paid for interest on the company's bonds)	33,862
Exhibit gold specimens government agency, London	386
Municipality of Dewdney (advance to meet payment of interest on municipal loan)	586
Haddington Island stone quarry (purchase of mortgage, etc.)	3,961
Advance to farmers for seed in 1895 (re Fraser river floods)	15,525
Nakusp & Slocan Ry., mortgage act	647,072
Shuswap & Okanagan Railway Co. (paid for interest on bonds, etc., in excess of Dominion subsidy and net earnings)	103,055
Samuel Creech, late road superintendent, Comox	222
Bank B. N. A., dyking account	34,829
Cowichan Creamery Assn. loan	1,200
Chilliwack district dyking works	5,791
Coquitlam dyking district lands	100,726
Maple Ridge, do	165,194
Matsqui, do	69,805
Pitt Meadows, do	71,470
Sumas, do	19,156
Matsqui dyking district, it. acct.	700
Pitt Meadows, do., do	1,050
Sumas, do., do	315
Agassiz dyking commissioners	362
Balances due by Agents, viz.—	
D. Robson, Westminster	$ 553
J. F. Armstrong, F. Steele	902
J. E. Griffith, Donald	1,013
O. G. Dennis, Nelson	988
J. D. Sibbald, Revelstoke	826
J. Bowron, Barkerville	4,262
L. Norris, Vernon	367
G. C. Tunstall, Kamloops	1,036
F. Soues, Clinton	1,104
M. Bray, Nanaimo	943
Jas. Porter, Cassiar	3,299
Wm. Dodd, Yale	731
F. W. Vallean, Omineca	300
H. O. Wellburn, Cowichan	886
W. B. Anderson, Comox	888
W. J. Rant, Lake Bennett	2,370
Jno. Flewin, Fort Simpson	677
John Clapperton, Nicola	4
C. A. R. Lambly, coll., Osoyoos	178
R. Lister, late coll, Thurlow Island	36
	21,167
Prov. sec. advance account	75
Chief Com. lands and works advance account	2,500
Cash balance on hand at treasury	1,001
Balance of liabilities over assets	4,845,413
	$7,425,262

LIABILITIES.

B. C. Loan Act, 1874, 7 per cent	$ 20,000
Do., do., Act, 1877, 6 do	462,690
Do., do., Act, 1887, 4½ do	381,210
Do., do., Act, 1891, 3 do	2,139,141
Do., do., Act, 1893, 3 do	599,945
Do., do., Act, 1895, 3 do	2,037,000
Do., do., Act, 1897, 3½ do	100,000
Do., do., (dyking debenture Act, 1897)	471,000
Railway guarantee bonds (Nakusp & Slocan Railway Aid Act, 1894)	647,072
Deposits intestate estates, etc	77,486
Do., Suitors' Fund Act, 1890	94,426
Nakusp & Slocan Railway Co. (balance of Dominion government subsidy and earnings of road)	38,518
London and Canadian Fire Insurance Company (amount deposited as security under Act of Incorporation "53 Vict., chap. 53")	20,000
Bank of B. C., account current	331,996
Do., Chilliwack dyking account	4,426
Real estate mining claims (sec. 163, "Mineral Act, 1896")	352
	$7,425,262

The detailed statement of revenue shows $415,925.85 to have been received at the treasury from various sources, inclusive of $242,689.46 from the Dominion of Canada as interest, subsidy, per capita grant, and for lands conveyed. There was also $52,827.79 for timber royalty and licenses, and $20,118 from free miners' certificates issued from the treasury; the printing office returned $12,317.26, Chinese restriction collections totalled $29,900, and invested sinking funds yielded $19,323.43 in interest. Victoria city contributed to the provincial revenue $108,476.01 (registry fees having amounted to $46,844.86, and personal property tax to $46,457.52). From all sources Vancouver city's contribution to revenue amounted to $34,357.45, New Westminster adding $17,329.39, and Nanaimo $5,390.93. North and South Victoria and Esquimalt added $18,777.33, $7,247.43, and $16,034.29, respectively, while Cowichan returned $12,304.81 and Alberni $17,083.24, a marginal note explaining that the apparently large increase in wild land tax in Cowichan—as in Comox and North and South Nanaimo—is attributable to the fact that two years' arrears were paid by the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co. in this year. The two Nanaimo districts gave a revenue of $21,562.45 and $12,985.81, while Comox turned into the treasury $60,035.85, and Westminster district $57,772.83. All divisions of Yale, including Yale and Ashcroft, Similkameen and Osoyoos, the Kettle River and Boundary creek districts, Nicola, Kamloops and Okanagan, returned $133,429; Lillooet, $33,359.07; and East Kootenay $58,151.74. Old Cariboo and the Omineca add $64,868.78; Cassiar, $33,757.84—eloquent testimony to the development that is taking place in that region—and the C. P. and E. & N. railways $11,808 and $1,350 respectively. West Lillooet still retains its pre-eminence as the banner revenue-producing district of the province, with a total of $292,595.08; $44,459.39 of this being from land sales, $68,122 from free miners' licenses, and $62,690.83 from general mining receipts.

LIVED AND DIED ALONE.

Death of Mrs. Hague, an Old and Eccentric Resident of Fort Street.

Mrs. Hague, a very old and eccentric woman who for years lived by herself in a little house on Fort street, just above Quadra, was found dead yesterday. The neighbors had reported to the police that the old woman had not been seen for several days, and an officer going up and forcing his way into the house, found her dead. Mrs. Hague apparently had considerable money hidden away in her house, for she paid her bills regularly. She would order groceries to last her for two or three months, and for them in silver, and returning home, remain there until her stock was exhausted, very seldom coming out. In fact in winter time she would remain in all the time, having a grocer call every two or three months to take orders. Nobody else would be admitted, the house being barricaded and surrounded by a barbed wire fence. Last summer, when it was reported that the old woman had not been seen for several days, an officer was sent up to investigate. He found Mrs. Hague very much alive and had to beat a hasty retreat, she driving him out with a club.

Very little is known of her antecedents. She has lived here, in the house on Fort street—which she owned—for years, and has always had sufficient money to obtain what she wanted. From her appearance she was probably between 90 and 100 years of age, but as she confided in nobody, this is merely a surmise. She had two sons, one of whom resides in Vancouver with his family.

She had been dead about a week.

THE "MIKADO."

The Grau Opera Company Score Another Success at the Victoria.

Prettily staged and well presented, the ever popular opera "The Mikado" met with the general appreciation of the large crowd which last evening filled the Victoria. It was the third production by the Grau opera company and spoke well for the company's reputation. Every seat in the theatre was again occupied. Probably the most "catchy" features of the performance last evening were the number of local skits by Mr. Stanley Felch as "Ko-Ko, the lord high executioner," whose part was well sustained. Mr. Harry Davies in the role of "Nanki Poo" made a very favorable impression, being strong in voice and easy in manner. "Yum Yum" (Miss Mary Carrington) possesses a very attractive stage appearance and pleasing soprano, and was given a splendid reception. "The Mikado" together with his attendant created great amusement and were time and again recalled.

This evening the company present "Falka," and to-morrow the "Bohemian Girl;" "Olivette" as a matinee and "The Brigands" on Saturday evening concluding their engagement.

WHEN BEAUTY FADES.

In response to repeated inquiries from ladies with whom Dr. Chase's Ointment has become so popular for skin diseases, asking if face powders are injurious and can be used while using the ointment, we stae that while the majority of face powders are injurious we can recommend the recipes given in Dr. Chase's supplementary recipe book on page 45, which will be sent to any address on receipt of 5c in stamps. Dr. Chase's Ointment is the ladies' friend for all skin diseases. Address Dr. A. W. Chase Co., Toronto.

SHIPMENTS TO ATLIN.

White Pass Railway Now Having Bonding Privileges Canadian Merchants Will Benefit.

The shipment of goods into Atlin or Klondike is very much simplified and less expensive now that that the White Pass & Yukon railway is in operation to the boundary line. In conversation last night Mr. E. C. Hawkins, chief engineer of the railway, remarked that now goods may be bonded either here or at Skagway and the company will take full charge of them and see them safely delivered on the Canadian side of the summit saving the annoyance of having a convoy or of paying a customs broker's fees. The company have a man at Skagway who makes out the necessary papers, bonds the goods and looks after them till they are landed safe in Canada again, the only charge for this being 50 cents for the making out of the bonding papers for goods under a ton in weight or $1 for shipments over a ton; a 50 cents additional war stamp being necessary in each case—so at the most the charge for bonding a shipment of goods through to the summit is only $1.50. That inevitable war stamp seems to be making its appearance on pretty nearly everything in the United States. The railway company are putting up a large freight warehouse at the summit and will also have one at Log Cabin for the goods going into Atlin and before the end of the present month the railway will be in operation right to the summit, heavy snow having interfered with the work or it would have been completed now.

Incidentally speaking of Atlin, Mr. Hawkins not only considers it the best placer field on the continent, but he looks for marvellously good returns from the quartz veins. The railway is prepared to give exceptionally favorable rates for milling machinery transportation and quartz mining gives promise of being one of the great industries there before long. Mr. Hawkins came over from the Sound last night and is at the Driard. He expects to go North in a few days.

It will be seen from what Mr. Hawkins says that British Columbia merchants are in a most favorable position to supply the wants not only of the Atlin, but of the Klondike trade, as it is as easy as one gentleman remarked a few days ago, to ship goods into Atlin now as into the Kootenay country. Consequently Victoria may look for increased trade this spring with the North.

PEACE BY PROMISES.

Sir Wilfrid's Unfulfilled Pledges to the Pope—Mr. Belcourt to Renew Them.

L'Evenement of Montreal says: "The Manitoba school question would appear to be far from settled if we are to believe the news that the holy father has written to Sir Wilfrid Laurier asking that the solemn promises made by the premier to the pope during the prime minister's visit to the vatican be fulfilled.

It will also be remembered that Hon. Charles Fitzpatrick, the Canadian solicitor-general, made promises of the same nature to Pope Leo XIII. The Canadian government at that time ardently solicited the intervention of Rome so that the Canadian bishops might be induced to accept the compromise entered into between Premier Greenway, of Manitoba, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and at the same time they asked for delay in order that a definite and complete settlement might be reached and all agitation stopped.

"Sir Wilfrid has now been in power almost three years, and nothing has yet been done towards giving justice to the Catholics of Manitoba, for the reason that the Greenway law of 1890 is still in force, consequently the pope has called upon Sir Wilfrid to execute his pledges.

"We also understand that a leading ecclesiastic has been delegated to interview Sir Wilfrid on this subject and impart to the premier the views of his holiness.

"It is evident, therefore, that Mr. Bellcourt's visit to Rome, sent as the special been made with the object of securing another delay. It is said that the member for Ottawa goes to the Eternal City for the purpose of making other promises to the authodities of the vatician.

"It is stated that Mr. Belcourt has been instructed by the powers that be at Ottawa to declare to the pope that Sir Wilfred Laurier's time is taken up at Ottawa, and that he has not had sufficient time to look into the Manitoba school matter, but that if the pope will grant delay, the question will be taken up in the near future."

TAKING PICTURES OF SOUND.

To take a picture of your voice it is only necessary to tie a sheet of thin, strong paper over the flaring end of an old tin horn. Hold the horn with the sheet of paper upward. Take a little pinch of fine sand and place it in the centre of the paper. Then hold the horn vertically above your face and sing a note into the lower end of the instrument. Do not blow, but sing the note. Now lower the horn carefully and look at the sand. You will find that the vibrations of your voice have scattered the pinch of sand into a beautiful soundpicture. Every note in the musical scale will produce a different picture. So you may produce a great variety of them. Some of these pictures look like pansies, roses, and other flowers, some look like snakes, and others like flying birds; in fact, there is no limit to the variation. The pictures of the notes of musical instruments are made by holding the horn as near as possible to them.

As stated above, sand may be used, but lycopodium powder will produce even better effects. Lycopodium pictures may be "fixed" by first dissolving the powder in alcohol and then placing the powder of the fluid on the paper. But you must be quick about it. The alcohol evaporates in a few seconds, so you must make the sound in the horn as soon as you have deposited the drop. The small amount of liquid will not prevent the powder in it from spreading. When it has spread, however, it will stick the picture in its place on the paper, which may then be taken off the horn and preserved.

You may thus obtain pictures of the voices of all your friends. Common gum tragicanth with a little alcohol in it also makes good pictures. If you wish to see the pictures while they are being made, you may employ an old flaring bell-shaped ear trumpet, or you may use your old horn with a short piece of rubber tubing on the mouthpiece.

VANCOUVER AND VICINITY.

Complaint of Too Much Rain.—Tug Active's Safe Return.—Making Cannery Supplies.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 19.—Incessant, pitiless rain continues in Vancouver and everyone is complaining of the uncompromising drizzle, dampening the spirits, as well as the clothes, and seriously affecting business.

It is altogether likely that Vancouver will be allowed to reclaim the upper end of False Creek for public purposes. Letters received from government members by the chairman of the committee appointed to communicate with the government in reference to the matter are very encouraging.

The tug Active, rumored to have been lost up north, has arrived in port safe and sound.

Machine shops, chiefly for the manufacture of labor saving contrivances for the canning business have been established in New Westminster.

A HIGH-TONED CRIME.

Hungry Bookbinder Resorts to Lese Majesty After in Vain Seeking Charity.

Berlin, Jan. 19.—A bookbinder named Dacker, who was in destitute circumstances, after beseeching in vain for charity vilified the Kaiser and promptly secured two years for lese majeste. As a prisoner convicted on this charge, he is receiving special care.

RELIC OF THE WAR.

Letter Taken from Confederate Prisoner Thirty-Six Years Ago at Last Delivered.

Columbus, Jan. 19.—The mail from this city to-day carried to Mrs. Louise Combes, at Erlanger, Ky., a letter which was written to her from this city by her husband, Capt, Thos. M. Combes, August 14th, 1863, while he was a prisoner of war in the Ohio penitentiary with John Morgan, the Confederate raider.

Capt. Combes tried to send the letter out by underground route but was detected by Warden N. Myron and seized. It was discovered a short time ago in the papers of the deceased warden. Capt. Combes is dead, but his widow is still living at Erlanger, Kent Co., Kentucky, and she will read to-morrow the letter written to her by her husband while a prisoner of war here 36 years ago.

TELEPHONE IMPROVEMENTS.

Metallic Circuit to Be Installed by the Local Company—New Switchboard.

The Victoria & Esquimalt Telephone Company are about to make some decided improvements in their system in this city and district. They are now daily expecting the arrival of a new switchboard of the very latest pattern, one which will entirely do away with any of the delays now experienced in answering calls. As soon as this has been placed in position the company will commence work on the installation of what is known in the electrical world as a metallic circuit. In this system two entirely distinct wires are required for each telephone, no two connections being made to the same wire. This does away with the unpleasant noises and buzzing now heard through the telephones particularly when the wind is blowing and also with any "cross talking." The company are spending a large amount of money in the improvement of the system, having but recently replaced many of the old iron wires in the centre of the city with copper wires.

GOOD SEASON'S WORK.

Two Men Who Brought Out $40,000 and Still Have Some Good Properties.

Among the late arrivals from Dawson were Messrs. McConnell and Parker, who recently sold the Monte Carlo theatre to J. W. Rogers. They brought out a collection of nuggets taken from their properties on Gold Hill at the junction of Bonanza and Eldorado creeks, amounting, probably, in intrinsic value to $3,000, but many of which, from their peculiar beauty could not be purchased at ten times their mining amount and beyond all peradventure are the handsomest collection ever seen in one lot. While the nuggets are of the most peculiar and remarkable formation, and have caused scientists and experts no end of trouble in geological conclusions to explain their location and the difference between the gold's appearance with that found immediately below on the creeks of Bonanza and Eldorado and over which Gold Hill immediately looks. The collection includes some rare specimens with globule appearing growths and some beauties with quartz.

Messrs. McConnell and Paker arrived in Dawson early in the spring, as many others, not particularly laden with this world's riches, but by their enterprise and energy were soon engaged in business, and occupied a prominent part in the commercial affairs of the city. One of their most prominent enterprises was, when in conjunction with Mr. Rogers they erected and established the Monte Carlo theatre, the large and finest public building in Dawson.

Durihng their stay in the Yukon country they accumulated some of the very best mining properties, located as previously stated on Gold Hill, Bonanza, Eldorado, Hunker, Bear and Dominion creeks, which are being developed while a number of others show good prospects although not yet opened up. From their mining properties alone, aside from large investments made and to which they will return in the spring, they brought out probably $40,000—a pretty fair showing for a season's work. They are also interested hevaily in Eagle City, which will unquestionably produce them large returns, as they are owners of some 600 lots in the best part of that growing place in American Alaska, and around which are located some of the most promising creeks

FAMES PATHWAY.

W. S. Gilbert looks more like a soldier than a writer of comic operas. He is a remarkable, well built ,handsome man, with snowy white hair and moustache. The late Senator Morrill always made a speech early in the session, sent a copy bound in Russia leather to every senator and a paper bound copy to every voter in Vermont.

Constantin Christomanos, the author, who was reader to the murdered Empress of Austria, has published a book of reminiscences of his life at the court, much of which is biographical of the empress.

There is still living in England a woman who danced at the