

observed and that only railways shall participate in the proposed benefits which respect it and employ white labor.

### University Bill

"Important bills were also introduced by Hon. Dr. Young. I refer to the university bill and the bill reorganizing the civil service. The preparation and presentation of the details of these won many encomiums from both sides of the house and from the country. The university bill of last session was well thought out in every detail, and guarantees that when the doors of the institution are opened it will be found modern in every respect. It will be sufficiently endowed to make it a competitor with any of the leading schools of the Dominion, and worthy of the great province of which it will be the intellectual centre. It is the intention, as explained by the minister of education, to make it practical as well as academical in its curriculum, so as to render the training received applicable to the expert development of our rich and varied resources, particularly those represented in mining and agriculture. Next session we shall, in all probability, be in a position to supplement and complete the steps already taken for which the authority of the legislature was obtained.

### Civil Service Measure

"In reference to the civil service bill, it gives effect to a policy which the government has had in view ever since it came into office. In making appointments, either new or to fill vacancies, we have steadily kept in mind the principle of promotion, and almost invariably acted upon it, but the service has grown to such proportions that it was desirable that the members should be properly classified, and promotions and salaries regulated according to a system in which merit and priority of service should be the chief and the only considerations.

"Great satisfaction resulted from the announcement in the house by the minister of education that a step would be taken in the direction of supplying free school books. This, it must be remembered, is limited at present to readers, but other text books will be supplied at cost. The government has not adopted this as a final policy but is making an experiment which is likely to become a permanent feature of the educational system. Mr. Wilson, one of the inspectors, will have charge of the distribution of these books which will begin with the ending of the present fiscal year.

### The Natal Act

"As you know, the discussion of the Natal act, and many matters incidental

to the question of exclusion of Oriental labor, were prominently before the house and were productive of the best and the most stirring debates, in fact, the greater part of the session in its early stages was occupied in connection with these matters, the constitutional issues which arose out of the action of the lieutenant-governor, and the competency of the legislature to deal with such matters at all. Whether or not the Natal act, as passed by the legislature, is to remain effective, is a question for the courts to decide. It will not be allowed to rest until the court of last appeal, the judicial committee of the council of England, has given its decision. Any event the government has shown its desire to deal effectively with the evil of Asiatic immigration and has fulfilled its promises to the electors in this respect to the letter. We have done all we could have done, and must leave the responsibility where it will belong. The action of the government and the legislature has had this effect—it has brought the question prominently before the people of the country and has forced the Dominion government to take action it is certain from its general disposition and well known policy regarding Orientals it would not otherwise have taken.

### The Fisheries

"I might mention that the attorney-general made some important announcements with reference to the various appeals which will be made to the privy council in connection with issues of grave state concern which have arisen between the province and the Dominion, including the validity of the Natal act, the right of the province to administer water rights within the Dominion railway belt, the long-standing fisheries question, and the question of Indian reserves, etc. Perhaps the one of greatest public interest is the determination of the rights of the province in regard to fisheries. The relations of the province and the Dominion in regard to this matter have been most unsatisfactory for years, and it seems quite impossible to get the Dominion government to make a settlement. The only attempt to negotiate on their part was shown in the recent visit of Mr. Bastedo, but the suggestions conveyed through him were quite impossible of acceptance, and the only course open to the government was to assert its rights by assuming control and allowing the issues to be fought out in the courts. The attorney-general has proved most energetic, careful and competent, in dealing with the immense amount of work which has devolved upon him by reason of the many important questions coming before his department.