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## CORRESPONDENCE

Respecting "An Act to extend the provisions of the 'Coroners' Jury Act, 1866,' to the Mainland of British Columbia," and "An Act to make better provision for the Qualification and Registration of Voters," passed by the Legislature of this Province in the thirty-seventh year of Her Majesty's Reign.

By Command.

*Attorney-General's Office,*  
13th April, 1875.

GEO. A. WALKEM,  
*Attorney-General.*

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*The Under Secretary of State to the Lieutenant-Governor.*

OTTAWA, 19th March, 1875.

SIR,—I am directed to transmit to you, for the information of your Government, a copy of an Order of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, and of the Report of the Honorable the Minister of Justice therein referred to, on the subject of two Acts passed by the Legislature of British Columbia in the thirty-seventh year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled respectively "An Act to extend the provisions of the Coroners' Jury Act, 1866,' to the Mainland of British Columbia," and "An Act to make better provision for the Qualification and Registration of Voters."

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) E. J. LANGEVIN,  
*Under Secretary of State.*

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*Copy of a Report of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor-General in Council on the 16th March, 1875.*

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The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration the Report, hereunto annexed, from the Honorable Minister of Justice, to whom were referred, with other Acts passed by the Legislature of the Province of British Columbia in the thirty-seventh year (1874) of Her Majesty's Reign, the following Acts, viz:—No. 4, intituled "An Act to extend the provisions of the Coroners' Jury Act, 1866,' to the Mainland of British Columbia," and No. 12, intituled "An Act to make better provision for the Qualification and Registration of Voters," and they respectfully submit their concurrence in the views and the recommendations set forth in the said Report, and advise that a copy thereof be transmitted to the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

Certified,  
(Signed) W. A. HIMSWORTH,  
*Clerk, Privy Council.*

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
OTTAWA, 20th January, 1875.

Upon the Acts passed by the Legislature of British Columbia, in the 37th year (1874) of Her Majesty's Reign, the undersigned has the honor further to report as follows:—

No. 4. "An Act to extend the provisions of the 'Coroners' Jury Act, 1866,' to the Mainland of British Columbia."

This Act extends over the whole of the Province of British Columbia the "Coroners' Jury Act, 1866," passed by the late Colony of Vancouver Island.

Having reference to that Act, it is found to give power to any Coroner to empanel a Jury, of not less than six, for the purpose of an inquisition; their powers and verdict being, to all intents and purposes, as effectual as if found by a Jury consisting of twelve or more.

The undersigned is somewhat doubtful whether this may be a branch of criminal procedure, and, as such, within the sole Legislative competence of the Parliament of Canada. He does not purpose, however, to do more than make this suggestion.

"An Act to make better provision for the Qualification and Registration of Voters."

Section 15 speaks of a conviction of an offence. This seems to imply a crime, and therefore a subject of criminal law.

In this view, it may be desirable to avoid the use of the word "offence."

(Signed) H. BERNARD,  
D. M. J.

I concur.  
(Signed) F. FOURNIER, M. J.