

## SECOND DAY.

The Speaker took the chair at 2 p. m.

Prayers by the Right Rev. Bishop Perrin

ADDRESS IN REPLY

considerable. He wished to correct the impression made by the leader of the opposition that there did not remain sufficient money in the treasury to permit of the conversion of the loans as authorized by the acts under which the money was borrowed, and that the credit and honor of the province were thereby endangered, and to show that such was not the case. He read some official figures secured from the treasury department. The original loans of 1877 and 1887 were respectively £160,000 and £205,400, a total of £365,400. The "Loan and consolidation act," 1891, provided for £700,000, of which £200,000 was borrowed in cash, leaving £500,000 for the purpose of converting the bonds of 1877 and 1887. The conversion of bonds up to the amount of \$600,000 had been completed, and the loan of 1877 had been sold, leaving £108,700 still in force, and of the loan of 1887 £107,000, leaving in force £297,900. The total conversions had been £160,800, and the bonds still in force amounted to £240,800. The sum paid for converting the £160,800 was £227,115, leaving still available £33,685 to convert £240,600. The conversion of the balance of the state existing bonds could take, for those of 1877, about the premium of say £42 680, being forty per cent., £149,380, and for those of 1887, adding a premium £24,475, or twenty-five per cent., £122,375, making a total of £273,755 required for the redemption of the balance of the bonds. Whilst the amount available out of the £700,000 was £237,115, leaving still to the good £238,140. If the government may negotiate in cash after the bonds have been redeemed. Under the circumstances he would ask who had been a defamer in unjustly attacking the credit of the province. Mr. Beaven had based his criticism on the fact that whilst the government would not have expended £50,000 to public works, but the act did require them to raise more than £100,000 for public works, and they had not raised more than that sum for such purposes. Though the act gave them permission to do so, as high as £250,000, they thought the province had a great deal to show for its efforts. In the matter of railways, for instance, there had been large grants during the past four years in aid of the Nakusp, Slokan, the Shuswap & Okanagan, Victoria & Sidney, the Columbian & Kootenay, and the Nelson & Port Sheppard lines, all good agricultural works, none of which would have been started but for the assistance of the government. An effort had been made to open up the development as far as possible every portion of the province, and the results to be seen in improvements on the very spots spoken for themselves. There were other workmen which was proposed to construct at a much higher rate, with the sanction of the house. In every district in the province there was something substantial to show for the expenditure, the way of school houses, court-houses, bridges, and many others. It was true that the revenue had not largely increased in the last few years, but it had been fifteen years, for there had been fifteen years of difficulties formed—in addition those of Kampan, Vernon, Spallumcheen and others of importance—whose taxes formerly were included in the provincial revenue, which, under the circumstances, had been remarkably well sustained. He largely regretted that the revenue would condemn the unfortunate agitation against the general interest for the emasculation of a few individuals, and that they would come to the conclusion that they could not do better than re-entrust the management of the province to the hands of those who had administered it honestly and well. (Applause.)

MR. SEMLIN paid the usual compliment to the mover and seconder of the address, though he felt that the gentlemen not being members were not in need of commendation. He fancied, however, that his colleague, Mr. Martin, found himself in warm waters when he indulged in the remarks upon the progress of the present buildings, and he only hoped that the gentleman went before his constituents he would be successful in navigating through them.

MR. DAVIE.—You don't hope anything of the kind? (Laughter.)

MR. SEMLIN replied that he did not intend to say that he hoped so. Mr. Martin would select; he meant only that he believed that he was right. He expressed surprise at the charges and allegations put forth by the government in the state paper issued in connection with the "Reply to British Columbia's demand." He said that he did not see that there was anything defamatory in the manner recorded there, unless it was the remarks of a plain clergyman, who seemed to have been intemperate in his address. He did think that Mr. Cotton should be held responsible for publishing in his paper criticisms of the address made by the Provincial Secretary to the teachers' institute anewer, and charged him with virulence having told his subordinates that they must support his government at whatever cost in that city. He would like to get further information. He was subject of the delinquent taxes referred to by the Commissioner, as he thought some persons had been unduly favored in this respect. The members of the house were in the address to say that they were fully pleased that the government intended to take a course of action with respect to the Nakusp & Slokan railway, and was because he was waiting for some further information on this point that he had not done before. In the absence of this, he cannot not say that he was pleased with the proposition. With regard to the amendment bill, he urged that the government should bring it forward as early and immediately after bringing down estimates, so that the members might get within two months. He predicted if these two measures were not brought promptly the house would be kept busy till early next session.

The address was read the first time. On the motion for the second reading Hon. Mr. Martin asked that it be read clause by clause, and the Speaker having called for yeas and noes on the question whether or not to be read, instead of being taken en bloc, he announced that the noes had it.

MR. MRS. BEAVER stated that the speaker was not one for the division of yeas, but that it could only be taken as a unanimous consent.

MR. MR. DAVIE said the request just by the hon. leader of the opposition rather inconsistent with his exalted and delicate position, and the opening of the house to divide if there was any particular reason for it.

MR. MR. BEAVER replied that though the practice was to take the address as a whole, if any member objected this could be done. There was one particular clause in the address which was such an abuse it should not be permitted to pass unopposed.

SPEAKER announced that the address be read clause by clause; and this clerk proceeded to do,

MR. MR. BEAVER, at clause 4, "that we desired to learn that . . . there was no reservation of the alternative right of introducing the bonds of the word 'indebted' in amendment that the word 'indebted' be substituted for 'pledged.'"

MR. MR. DAVIE said this was mere