The Colonist.

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THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

The debate on the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne has been both interesting and instructive. It has shown that the Government occupies a strong, indeed an unassailable position, and that the Opposition is exceedingly weak. This is not so much from its numerical inferiority, or its lack of ability as from want of some fault to find with the administration of public affairs or some valid objection to the Government's policy.

Mr. Cunningham made a sensible speech—one that showed that he will make a useful member of the Legislature. His speech meant business from the first word to the last. He wasted no words. Every sentence was to the point. It was not as speeches moving the address in reply too often are, a weak echo of the Speech from the Throne. While he necessarily followed the lines laid down in the Speech Mr. Cunningham showed that he had a mind of his own and that he had at heart the welfare of the province. What he said about the progress of agriculture was specially worthy of attention and leads us to conclude that the farmers of the province will find in the member for Westminster a zealous and a judicious advocate. He is evidently enthusiastic on the subject of agriculture and although there is a prejudice against enthusiasts no cause ever yet made the least headway that was not taken up by an enthusiast—a man who thoroughly understood the subject and who was bound, in season and out of season, to further its interests.

We are sorry that we cannot honestly compliment the leader of the Opposition on his criticism of the speech. It was a very poor effort from every point of view, and altogether unworthy a man who occupies the position of leader of a party. Carping criticism and petty personalities may be tolerated in a mere political skirmisher, but from a leader something larger and more liberal is expected. The sneer at Mr. Cunningham almost as soon as he had taken his seat, was peculiarly ungracious and petty coming from the leader of the Opposition. It would have been regarded as uncandid and impertinent embodied in a paragraph of the Times, but forming part of the speech of the Hon. Robert Beaven, it was simply contemptible. Mr. Cunningham, as Mr. Beaven well knew, was selected by the electors of New Westminster because he was a supporter of the Government and a Conservative, and it was on the understanding that he would support Mr. Robson's Government that he was elected. That his opponent belonged to the same party and made the same professions was no fault of Mr. Cunningham or of the Government. It was, however, an evidence of weakness of the Opposition that they were not able in the whole constituency to prevail on one of its members to contest the seat. The insinuation that the Government did not favor Mr. Cunningham's return was another of the little spiteful tricks intended merely to annoy an opponent which distinguish Mr. Beaven's style of debate. Such waspish attempts would not be made by a large-minded man who had something to say which sensible men consider worth hearing. His remarks about the leader of the Government's visits to the different districts of the province showed the same narrowness of view, the same ill-natured desire to annoy when he could not hurt. As for his remarks upon a senseless ceremony that ought to have been obsolete long ago, they were of a piece with the rest of the speech. They showed that the Opposition leader is a small man who is only in his element when he is dealing with small things. Such opposition as that offered by Mr. Beaven never yet hurt even the weakest Government, and it can make no impression whatever on a strong one.

The Leader of the Government replied effectually to much of Mr. Beavens remarks that were worth noticing. The only fault in his speech was that he treated his carping and snarling adversary with far greater respect than he deserved. This was perhaps in justice to himself and to the position he occupies for it was hardly fitting for a self-respecting man and the leader of a Government to treat the malignant pettiness of the leader of the Opposition in the way it deserves.

Mr. Semlin made as usual a fluent and a plausible speech, but not being provided with what the Opposition organ calls ammunition, his labor was without results satisfactory to himself or to any one else. It was a pity that he undertook to criticise a COLONIST article that he evidently had never read. We have a higher opinion of Mr. Semlin's intelligence than to suppose he would take from the article a meaning that it could not possibly convey to a reader who understands the Queen's English, and we would not like to believe that he would wilfully misrepresent the language of even an opponent.

The Attorney-General replied effectively. His task was an easy one. Never before had an opposition so little to say, and never before was what they had to say said so lamely and so weakly. Mr. Grant, of course, spoke. A speech on the address was expected of him, and it would not do for him to disappoint his party. With the material at his disposal, it was very difficult to make a telling or even a plausible speech. Mr. Ladner spoke with his usual good sense, and the Minister of Lands and Works closed the debate. When he sat down everyone expected the Leader of the Opposition, as is his invariable custom, to be ready with an amendment. But even he could not find material for an amendment to the address, and it passed without a division.

A BAD MEMORY.

In last evening's opposition organ the following paragraph occurs: "As long as eight years ago, Mr. Semlin introduced a bill in the House of Assembly looking to the repeal of the Legal Professions' Act." The measure was, of course, defeated. Mr. Semlin reconstructed the bill and introduced it at the following session, and it was again defeated by the Government."

When it is remembered that the Legal Professions' Act was only passed six years ago, viz.: in 1884, it is impossible to understand how Mr. Semlin or any one else could have introduced a bill eight years ago to repeal an act which never had existence until two years afterwards, and how Mr. Semlin re-introduced it at the following session is simply inconceivable. But all this is on a par with the Times' utterances on the subject of the same Legal Professions Bill. We have already shown that its statements have been utter prevarications, and its latest absurdity is but a continuance of its mendacious course. Liars should have good memories, and those concocting the leading articles of the Times should remember dates. But as they have no memories they are all the time giving themselves transparently away as in this instance.

On a par with this ludicrous perversion is their statement that the bill was defeated by the government, when it was shown that when Mr. Higgins' amendment was brought into the House, Messrs. Robson, Vernon and Turner voted in its favor.

MISUNDERSTOOD.

Our Westminster contemporary, The Truth, seems to have wholly misunderstood the paragraph in the Speech from the Throne, in which immigration is mentioned. It says: "It is promised that some measure to promote immigration will be brought down for the consideration of the House." The paragraph in the Speech runs: "In order successfully to utilize the volume of immigration steadily coming to our shores, it is essential that extensive explorations and surveys be carried out; and you will be asked to make liberal provision for that purpose." Our contemporary, on reflection, must see that to promote immigration and to utilize the volume of immigration are two very different things. To offer immigrants inducements to come to the province is not by any means the same as making provision for the people who come here without being invited. The Government does not ask the Legislative Assembly to give them money for the purpose of bringing immigrants to our shores, but they ask for a sum to prosecute a survey to find out where there is land on which the immigrants who come here without any effort on their part may settle. Our contemporary, without intending it, recommends the very policy which is foreshadowed in the speech from the Throne. It says: "But fortunately the province is still in possession of an extensive public domain." It is to find out the extent and situation of the parts of that domain which are available for settlement that is to be the business of the Government exploring and surveying parties. The Government will, no doubt, take measures to place the lands that are discovered and surveyed within the reach of immigrants. In this way will both the lands and the immigration be utilized.

If The Truth had studied the paragraph a little it might have spared itself the trouble of writing a homily on taxation and the management of public lands. If it had understood the paragraph which it criticised it would have found that the policy of the Provincial Government is perfectly consistent and is, moreover, just the policy which it approves. The next time it undertakes to criticise an utterance of the Government it will, we hope, make sure that it has mastered its meaning.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

THE Westminster Truth administered a quiet rebuke to the Vancouver World. The World complains of the coldness of Westminster in the Mainland Association business, and regrets it does not show a more solid front in the "fight." Truth's rejoinder is that probably New Westminster does not know that there is any "fight" going on; and adds, so far, New Westminster does not see any necessity for fighting, but admits that there is work to be done. It says further: "People have all along been puzzled to know what was the need of this big machinery and complicated procedure to accomplish a purpose so plain and simple. It has even caused suspicion in some quarters." Truth accounts for the fuss that is being made by the reflection that "Vancouver, it must be remembered, has a tendency to fly off at the handle." We trust that our Vancouver contemporaries will take the hint and recover their equanimity as soon as they possibly can.

THE JUDGMENT OF THE FULL COURT.

As everyone anticipated, the judgment of the Full Court has unanimously affirmed the constitutionality of the section imposing one-third of the teachers' salaries upon the cities of Victoria, New Westminster, Vancouver and Nanaimo. When the case came into court, no ground of objection could be urged which had not been settled over and over again by legal authority, and the contention that the tax worked a discrimination was puerile in the extreme when applied to a Legislature, as supreme within its constitutional limits as the Lords and Commons of Great Britain. But the section does not discriminate, and, as pointed out by one of the learned judges, its validity would have been established, even if judged by the United States decisions, where discrimination is not allowable. As remarked by another of the learned judges the only point open for debate at all was whether the tax was direct or indirect, for if indirect of course it would not be within the power of the Province to impose it. The only ground on which it could be contended that the tax was indirect is that the tax in the result is borne by the inhabitants of the Municipality, but then again, the Municipality and its members are indistinguishable—for of what does the Municipality consist but the members composing it—so that in saying that the Municipality shall pay the tax the Legislature says that the members shall pay it.

We are glad that the decision is as it is, for the provision is necessary if our free schools are to be upheld. In contesting their liability to pay the contribution, the late corporation acted against the interests of the city, and against the views of a majority of the people, as shewn by the last election held in this city.

THE TEACHERS AND "THE TRUTH."

In its attempt to damage the government of the province, through the Education Department, the editor of the Truth of Westminster is far more amusing than the editor of the Times. From the latter we have, regularly served up, every evening, imaginary misdeeds of the Education Office, and we often wonder if anybody, except professional people like ourselves, reads them. But everybody can surely enjoy the elaborate joke which the editor of the Truth has perpetrated. Within this week he has issued to all the teachers in British Columbia a nicely printed circular, on yellow-tinted paper, containing ten questions, all of which exhibit a dislike of the Government of Hon. John Robson, and more especially an undisguised aversion to the Education Department. The whole of the teachers in our public schools are asked to answer these ten questions, and the answers are to be published in the columns of the Truth; or at any rate as many of the answers as please the editor will be published. Then comes the funniest proposal—a proposal that must make the Times envious. The teachers are to send in their answers, if they so choose, without ANY NAME, and without any locality being indicated, in order that they may be quite free "from restraint." Now, would anybody of any sense place the smallest reliance on evidence gathered into the columns of a paper in such a manner as this. The teachers of British Columbia, both gentlemen and ladies, have an exceptionally high character, and are not likely to take advantage of this mean and cowardly suggestion in order to endeavor to strike at those who are, with themselves, working out educational matters in this province. But suppose there are one, or it may be two, black sheep, among the teachers, or among their friends, what is to hinder them to flood the newspapers with monstrous mis-statements, "without name or locality." The staff of the Truth office could write the answers themselves, or, a far easier thing would be to reprint dreary leaders of the Times, put a "nom de plume" to each and pass them off as the "opinions of all the teachers of the country"—"without name or locality."

It is not very difficult to guess who assisted in springing this suggestion on a long-suffering people. The first question, the main question, the "raison d'etre," of this funny scheme is contained in the query number one. It is there asked if the Education Department should have the power to cancel a teacher's certificate for "cause," without specifying the cause. Has not the public been gorged with this? The simple truth is, that one certificate, and only one, has been cancelled during the last dozen years, and in that case the "causes" were given in writing, and printed and published in the Times. By creating grievances for the teachers the Times has tried to fill a cave of Adullam and to it have flocked, as in days of old, "all that were in distress and all that were discontented." The editor of the Truth has entered the cave. But as it is difficult to make bricks without straw, so the Times, the Truth, and the rest of the Adullamites will find it very difficult to disturb the Education Department of the Government, for the good reason that they have no facts at their back, than can be so used to further the bad work in which they are engaged.

LITTLE LOCALS.

The Scotch fishermen hope to erect smoking and drying sheds before long.

There will be a grand Salvation Army jubilee in this city on the 22nd of February.

Two fine carriage robes were stolen from a hack standing on Government street on Monday night.

The Customs authorities have seized a number of Louisiana lottery tickets and lists in this city.

Several cases will be tried under the Speedy Trials Act this afternoon in the Supreme Court.

The Union Pacific have issued a new freight bill whereby each person who receives goods give a receipt for them on payment of charges.

The Princess Louise went to Esquimalt yesterday to discharge 880 packages of stores which she brought down from Vancouver for the naval yard.

A Seattle woman met a man for the first time on Friday, married him on Saturday, found out she hated him on Sunday, and on Monday sought advice for the purpose of securing a divorce.

Seattle has received two more new hose carts from E. B. Preston, Chicago, and intend shortly to build a large fire hall. They evidently intend to protect their city.

The annual meeting of the Perry Creek Gold Mining Co. has been adjourned until the arrival of a mail from the scene of operations.

LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL.

From THE DAILY COLONIST, Jan. 29.

Off for Home.

At exactly 11 o'clock yesterday morning H.M.S. Swiftsure steamed out of Esquimalt harbor, bound for England. On leaving the harbor she was saluted by the other ships and amid the waving of caps left for home.

Runaway.

A lively runaway disturbed the monotony of Yates street yesterday. One bystander who tried to check the team got a mud bath for his trouble. They were finally brought to a standstill by a pedestrian winding the flying reins around a telephone pole.

The Makers Name.

Is stamped on every pair of boots and shoes we sell, and as we only deal with the best makers in the United States and Canada, it is a guarantee that our goods are of the best. Russell, McDonald & Co., opposite the iron church, Douglas street.

They Want Work.

Rev. J. E. Starr, of the Pandora street Methodist church has during the last few days received letters from five different men asking him if he cannot find work for them. One man has been out of work for over two months, and as he has a family and a sick wife to keep, it comes pretty hard on him.

Freight and Trade Notes.

The Olympian brought over one carload of mutton, one of coal oil, one merry-go-round outfit, one carload of crackers and one of mixed merchandise.

The Walla Walla brought 124 tons of freight for this port, consisting of 200 barrels of sugar, 300 of feed and general merchandise.

Not Allowed.

In the Supreme court yesterday morning Wah Sam, a Chinaman, who was sentenced to two years in the penitentiary by Justice Crease for stealing at Nanaimo, applied for a new trial on a writ of error. Their lordships decided not to allow him another trial, and consequently he will have to serve out his sentence.

Lecture on Palestine.

The Rev. Canon Paddon, who for several years was a chaplain in Palestine, and has an intimate personal knowledge of the place of greatest interest in the Holy Land, will deliver a lecture in the Cathedral school room upon that country this evening at 8 o'clock. The lecture will be illustrated by views exhibited by magic lantern.

Borne to the Grave.

The funeral of the late Matilda Furstenau took place yesterday afternoon from St. John's church at 2 o'clock, the following gentlemen acting as pall bearers: F. Walker, Okanagon; T. W. Shorts, Okanagon; A. L. Fortune, Spallumcheen; J. J. Austin. The deceased was a native of Holstein, Germany, aged 42 years, and has been a sufferer for some time. She leaves one brother in Victoria.

Another Pioneer Gone.

The old castle-shaped house which stood for so long on the point just above the railway bridge, was blown down during Tuesday night and floated down towards James Bay bridge. After running into several schooners lying at anchor, it finally found a resting place with the hull of the old steamer Otter. The building was put up in the early sixties, and served for a number of years as a dead house.

Tramway Topics.

On Monday evening next the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the National Electric Tramway Co. will be held at the office, Rook Bay bridge. On that occasion the offices will be lighted with electricity supplied on the spot. None but shareholders will be admitted. On Monday, February 10th, the cars will run for the first time over the entire line; and the occasion will well merit a public demonstration.

A Female Burglar.

Alice Stokes, alias Thos. Sudro, a half-breed girl, who was parading in man's attire, has been arrested in Seattle for complicity in several robberies. John Collins, a patrolman, employed the girl as an assistant, dressing her in male clothes, giving her a star, club and revolver. Several robberies occurred on their beat, and some of the stolen goods were found in the girl's room. Her sex was not discovered by the police on her beat. Collins has been arrested.

To Drain Burnaby Lake.

Columbian: Another attempt is going to be made to drain Burnaby lake, and the legislature will be asked to grant this privilege to a company during the present session. Mr. Chas. Wilson, solicitor for applicants, has given official notice that he will apply, for an act to incorporate a company for the purpose of "reclaiming lands under and adjacent to Burnaby lake." An attempt of this kind was made before, but the people of Westminster strongly protested, and the application failed in its purpose. It now remains to be seen whether the people of Westminster are of the same mind in this matter as they were a year ago.

A Pitiful Case.

Last night about 12 o'clock parties in the vicinity of Fort street were startled by the sound of a woman's screams and cries of "murder", "help", etc. On investigation it was found that an unfortunate woman named Miss O'Reilly, who keeps a little cigar stand on Fort street, just below Blanchard, had lost her reason and was laboring under the impression that some one was trying to kill her. She was taken to the police station and locked up for safe keeping. Tuesday morning about 5 o'clock she called in a policeman and complained that someone was in her premises, but the officer could find no trace of anybody, and after quieting her returned to the barracks. Again last evening she was startled, and neighbors took her in, but she became so frantic that they had to call in the assistance of the police. It is supposed that she lost her reason by worrying over her business, she having invested all her means in it, only to find that it could not be made to pay.

Our New Industries.

The reference recently made to the possible manufacture of cod fish oil on the Pacific coast has elicited the following remarks from Mr. Alex. Begg, in connection with that and kindred subjects. He says that for some time back his attention has been directed to the manufacture of fish oil as an important industry in which the Crofter fishermen could engage profitably and without loss of time after their arrival at any of their locations on the west coast of Vancouver Island. He is now engaged in forming a joint-stock company primarily for their benefit, to prosecute fishing in all its branches (including oil-producing fishes), both for their oil and guano. The difficulty heretofore has been to solidify the residuum of the fish after extracting the oil from them, but as Mr. Begg has visited several of the principal fish guano establishments in Scotland and also that in which all the refuse of fish in London is converted into guano, he is in a position to apply his observations to this important industry in British Columbia. He is sending samples of salmon offal, dog fish, cod fish and herring offal to the laboratory of the Dominion government experimental farm, Ottawa, that the respective values and products of these different sorts of fish may be tested and reported on, in the interests of agriculture and commerce. If Mr. Begg can convert into hard cash what is at present waste, he will be metaphorically making "two blades of grass grow instead of one."

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

Fifth Parliament—Fourth Session.

THIRD DAY.

TUESDAY, Jan. 28th.

Mr. Speaker took the chair at 2:10 p. m.

Prayers were offered by Rev. A. Beanlands.

PETITION.

Hon. Mr. Robson presented a petition from the inhabitants of Vancouver, asking for increased representation, on the redistribution of seats.

Hon. Mr. Beaven asked that the petition be read at once.

Mr. Speaker explained that reading a petition on the day of its presentation was contrary to the rules of the House, as laid down by Mr. Speaker Pooley.

Hon. Mr. Beaven claimed that if a member desired it, a petition could be read on presentation, of course provided that it was endorsed by a member of the House as containing nothing contrary to the privileges of the House.

Hon. Mr. Robson thought the hon. leader of the opposition took exactly the wrong view of the situation. A petition might be read on presentation, if the expressed wish of the House. It was usual, however, to delay the reading for one day to enable Mr. Speaker to examine the petition and to see that it contained no objectionable matter.

THE DEBATE RESUMED.

Mr. Grant in resuming the debate on the reply to the speech from the throne, went at length into the discussion of Hon. Mr. Beaven's contention that there were irregularities in the election of Mr. Speaker. Hequoted May's Parliamentary Practice in support of his argument that Mr. Higgins should have been introduced to the representative of the crown by the hon. provincial secretary; and formally accepted. He thought it would be well if more attention was paid to the remarks of the hon. leader of the opposition on points of order. Continuing his speech, the hon. member for Cassiar complimented the mover and seconder of the reply on the eloquence and ability of their speeches. Attacking the Speech itself, he pronounced it a combination of generalities, with nothing of definite policy in it. When Hon. Mr. Davie was before his constituents for re-election he worked on the "catch" that he only consented to enter the cabinet on the condition that the construction of the Canada Western railway be made a matter of government policy. The honorable gentleman might do his best and still his promises might be nothing but chaff. In regard to the increase of revenue, he did not think that with the influx of immigration and the improvements going on the revenue could but increase. He held the government equally blameable for under estimating the revenue as they would be if they exceeded their estimate of expenditure. Referring to the fifth clause of the speech the member for Cassiar said that he, too, would have felt glad if the reduction works at Cariboo had been successful, as stated, but he had yet to see the proof that such was the case. With reference to the minerals in the railway belt, the government had been a long time dickering over this matter, and had done nothing yet. He would have preferred to see the control of the minerals given to the Dominion in the first place than the long delay so disastrous to the prosperity of the mining industry in British Columbia. The present state of affairs was unfair to capitalists who did not care to invest their money until they could get clear titles to their claims. For the session would place a good round sum in the estimates for the encouragement of district exhibitions. There was a great want of roads and bridges still in some districts, which he hoped to see attended to at an early date. He hoped that each district would get a fair proportion of grants for the assistance of agriculture, and that they would no longer be in the condition mentioned in the address. He hoped the Government would take hold of the measure for the redistribution of seats fairly, and that when it was brought down it would be found to meet with general approval.

Hon. Mr. Vernon, after congratulating hon. Mr. Speaker upon his election by acclamation to preside over the deliberations of the House and expressing his gratification at seeing the hon. gentleman occupy the Speaker's chair, proceeded to criticise the remarks of the gentlemen upon the opposition benches. He pointed out in reply to the previous position referred to by the leader of the Westminster was referred to in his honor's speech, because it was the only provincial exhibition held. There had been a number of district exhibitions held in various parts of the province, as at Ashcroft, Cowichan, Saanich, etc., and most creditable exhibitions they were. He believed that local exhibitions were of more value than provincial ones, and should be encouraged in every way. The hon. gentleman pointed out how numerous such exhibitions were in the Northwest and Manitoba, and the excellent results that ensued. Referring next to the poverty of argument of opposition members and the aimlessness of their attack, he said it was the duty of the opposition to attack and of the government to defend, but when there was no attack, it left the government side nothing to defend. The hon. gentleman contrasted the sound common sense exhibited in the remarks of the mover and seconder of the address, showing that they had at the material welfare of the country, to the rambling, idle talk of the opposition members who had spoken. Opposition members took up time upon little matters of detail of no interest to the country. After listening attentively to what they had said the only point upon which he could fasten was that statements were advanced that the government had no policy. The Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works proceeded to show at some length the utter absence of any policy of the opposition party when in power, pointing out that when they resumed office in 1878 their policy consisted of charging 24 per cent. interest on any monies due on sales of land, and endeavoring to extort 24 per cent. on taxes overdue with 18 per cent. added to it, both acts being afterwards disallowed by the Dominion government. The honorable gentleman then showed that four years afterwards, when their whole legislation consisted of only sixteen or seventeen acts, of which a dozen or more were trivial amendments to acts in existence, the majority of which were afterwards repealed. Reference was made to their bungling Dry Dock policy, which was a matter of history. So their failure to inaugurate any system of taxation to meet the interest due on monies they had squandered for election purposes. To their abolition of the County Court Judge system to their neglect of public property, such as roads and bridges, to their failure to do a single thing of any importance or carry any legislation into effect that the public could feel grateful to them, the result of which was that when the general election of 1882 came they were swept out of existence, and have remained in a very small minority ever since, the only one of the leader of the Opposition's faithful band of supporters being himself. It was well known that Hon. Mr. Beaven was returned because he was an old resident and had the sympathy of his constituents. But while he had that sympathy he need not flatter himself that his friends had any desire to see him holding the reins of power, for they knew his unfitness for that position. The Chief Commissioner then showed how the party now in power had restored the credit of the country by a judicious and fairly equitable system of taxation, had re-established the County Court system, had erected school houses and maintained schools in every portion of the province where there were a few settlers; had constructed a number of expensive public buildings, valuable bridges and new roads, (instancing the hon. leader of the Opposition, to the effect that he voluntarily returned to the people before accepting power on the resignation of the Walkem government. He did not willingly return to his constituents. He was forced to. The hon. member for Cassiar also had said that there was more spent on roads and bridges by the Walkem government than by the present. By statistics, whose accuracy could not be doubted, he disproved this statement. No government had been so generous and useful to Lillooet as the present. (Applause).

Mr. Grant rose to a point of explanation. He had not said that the Walkem government was more liberal than the present in regard to roads and bridges. He said that in one year of that administration more was expended than in any one year of the present government.

Hon. Mr. Beaven denied that he was forced to return to his constituents as explained by the honorable member from Lillooet.

Hon. Mr. Davie corrected the false impression which the honorable leader of the opposition had endeavored to create. That honorable gentleman was forced to return to his constituents in the occurrence of the general election.

Mr. Mason was very pleased to notice the bright outlook predicted in the speech for the development of the mining wealth of the province. He could fully back out what was said in respect to the district which he represented, for he could assure the House that the outlook for the actual development of quartz ledges in Cariboo was never better, owing in a measure to the active movement now being made by a large English company to operate them next summer. He thought it was safe to say that their efforts would be crowned with success. The test works had been erected, notwithstanding the selfish and interested opposition from certain quarters, and notwithstanding the doubt the hon. member for Cassiar had attempted to throw upon clause five of the governor's speech. He could assert it and assert it without fear of contradiction that the test works were a success, and miners can now take their ores and have them tested, no matter how rebellious, and get ninety per cent of the gross yield of the concentrates, besides the free gold collected upon the plates. The Lillooet district was known to be rich in quartz, and placer mines would no doubt be profitably worked ere long. The Kootenay district was being actively developed, and was on the eve of far greater development by having the silver mines and coal deposits connected by railways. It was useless to discuss the speech clause by clause, that having been so ably done by Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Smith, but he would take the opportunity to compliment those hon. gentleman upon the able manner in which they had performed their duty. The speech was, on the whole, he thought, satisfactory and gratifying, and he also thought that the hon. leader of the opposition must also feel an inward gratification over the grand results of the past year, which, it must be admitted by all, were due in some measure to the progressive policy of the present Government. (Applause.)

Mr. Ladner only wished to say a few words on agricultural matters. The exhibition at Westminster, as the speech showed, was a very good one, but that was not the only successful exhibition held in the province last year. At Ashcroft and Cowichan interesting nature might have been mentioned. He was surprised to see such a display as that made on that occasion. He hoped in future that the Government would place a good round sum in the estimates for the encouragement of district exhibitions. There was a great want of roads and bridges still in some districts, which he hoped to see attended to at an early date. He hoped that each district would get a fair proportion of grants for the assistance of agriculture, and that they would no longer be in the condition mentioned in the address. He hoped the Government would take hold of the measure for the redistribution of seats fairly, and that when it was brought down it would be found to meet with general approval.

Hon. Mr. Vernon, after congratulating hon. Mr. Speaker upon his election by acclamation to preside over the deliberations of the House and expressing his gratification at seeing the hon. gentleman occupy the Speaker's chair, proceeded to criticise the remarks of the gentlemen upon the opposition benches. He pointed out in reply to the previous position referred to by the leader of the opposition referred to his honor's speech, because it was the only provincial exhibition held. There had been a number of district exhibitions held in various parts of the province, as at Ashcroft, Cowichan, Saanich, etc., and most creditable exhibitions they were. He believed that local exhibitions were of more value than provincial ones, and should be encouraged in every way. The hon. gentleman pointed out how numerous such exhibitions were in the Northwest and Manitoba, and the excellent results that ensued. Referring next to the poverty of argument of opposition members and the aimlessness of their attack, he said it was the duty of the opposition to attack and of the government to defend, but when there was no attack, it left the government side nothing to defend. The hon. gentleman contrasted the sound common sense exhibited in the remarks of the mover and seconder of the address, showing that they had at the material welfare of the country, to the rambling, idle talk of the opposition members who had spoken. Opposition members took up time upon little matters of detail of no interest to the country. After listening attentively to what they had said the only point upon which he could fasten was that statements were advanced that the government had no policy. The Chief Commissioner of Lands & Works proceeded to show at some length the utter absence of any policy of the opposition party when in power, pointing out that when they resumed office in 1878 their policy consisted of charging 24 per cent. interest on any monies due on sales of land, and endeavoring to extort 24 per cent. on taxes overdue with 18 per cent. added to it, both acts being afterwards disallowed by the Dominion government. The honorable gentleman then showed that four years afterwards, when their whole legislation consisted of only sixteen or seventeen acts, of which a dozen or more were trivial amendments to acts in existence, the majority of which were afterwards repealed. Reference was made to their bungling Dry Dock policy, which was a matter of history. So their failure to inaugurate any system of taxation to meet the interest due on monies they had squandered for election purposes. To their abolition of the County Court Judge system to their neglect of public property, such as roads and bridges, to their failure to do a single thing of any importance or carry any legislation into effect that the public could feel grateful to them, the result of which was that when the general election of 1882 came they were swept out of existence, and have remained in a very small minority ever since, the only one of the leader of the Opposition's faithful band of supporters being himself. It was well known that Hon. Mr. Beaven was returned because he was an old resident and had the sympathy of his constituents. But while he had that sympathy he need not flatter himself that his friends had any desire to see him holding the reins of power, for they knew his unfitness for that position. The Chief Commissioner then showed how the party now in power had restored the credit of the country by a judicious and fairly equitable system of taxation, had re-established the County Court system, had erected school houses and maintained schools in every portion of the province where there were a few settlers; had constructed a number of expensive public buildings, valuable bridges and new roads, (instancing the Law Courts, Victoria; Lunatic Asylum, New Westminster; penitentiaries in New Westminster and Victoria; court houses in Vancouver, Kamloops and elsewhere; bridges over the Fraser river and Thomson, at Ashcroft, Kamloops, Lillooet, and numberless others, besides numerous new roads in almost every district in the province). The hon. gentleman referred to the assistance given railway projects, and how extensive railroad construction would very shortly be commenced. To the encouragement given to assist in the development of our minerals by the establishment of a Government mill, and which would, as stated by the member from Cariboo, shortly bear good fruit. To the intention of the Government to spend such sums in exploring and surveying provincial lands that would enable them to establish settlers. To the the development of our timber wealth which will soon furnish us with a large revenue without hampering the industry, to the efforts to establish artesian wells which would be prosecuted with energy in the early spring, and to numberless useful acts that had been passed in the interest of the country including the settlement bill, which brought about the construction of the Island Railway. The hon. gentleman enlarged upon these subjects, showing how the present possessed the confidence of the country as shown by the large number of members upon their side of the House, and how capital was being introduced into the country, and how provincial securities had risen in value because capitalists in England were beginning to understand that a responsible government was a success in British Columbia, and that the people in this province were fully alive to the desirability of maintaining in power the present government. It was because the people had faith in its ability, energy and integrity that it possessed their confidence, as illustrated by the result of the last nine bye elections, and he ventured to predict the government would be confirmed in their seats at the approaching general election. The policy of the present government was one of progress, tempered with caution, as opposed to the absence of any policy of gentlemen opposite, whose previous record showed plainly how unfit they were to hold the reins of power, which caused their annihilation at the general election of 1882. (Applause.)

The reply to the speech was then passed through its various stages for presentation to his Honor, the Lieut.-Governor.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

The public accounts to the 30th of June, 1889, were brought down by the Hon. Finance Minister.

INTRODUCED.

Mr. Haslam, the member-elect for Nanaimo, was introduced to Mr. Speaker and the House by Hon. Mr. Robson and Mr. Thompson.

CANCELLATION OF CERTIFICATES.

Hon. Mr. Beaven moved, seconded by Mr. Ladner:

"That a respectful address be presented to His Honor the Lieut.-Governor, requesting him to cause to be sent down to the House copies of the following documents, viz: Reports from the superintendent of education, of the provincial secretary, respecting the cancellation of teachers' certificates in November, 1879. All orders in council respecting the cancellation of teachers' certificates in November, 1879. The order in council authorizing the Hon. Theodore Davie, attorney-general, to produce any of the above documents, or garbled portions of them, at a public meeting held in the theatre on or about the 17th August, 1889."

The hon. leader of the opposition said that this school question was one that was attracting a great amount of attention at the present time, and it would attract more attention yet. It was stated that the Provincial Secretary was using the education department as a political machine, and this motion was brought in in connection with the candidature of Hon. Mr. Davie when he had opposed to him a gentleman well acquainted with school work. The hon. Attorney-General, when attacked on this question, had intimated that if the Provincial Secretary was making a political machine out of the education department he was doing nothing more than had been done by the previous government before. He said that he would produce documents proving this assertion, that thirty-seven teachers had been deprived of their certificates by Mr. Beaven. (Here the leader of the opposition referred to files of the COLONIST and read extracts from the Hon. Mr. Davie's speech in The Victoria theatre.) Hon. Mr. Beaven denied that the certificates of the 36 teachers referred to in the address of the general had been cancelled for political reasons. They were cancelled for reasons that would be shown by the reports of the then superintendent of education. The reports of the board of education of the certificates issued by them were called in, and these were the certificates referred to. He wished the hon. attorney-general to produce the reports of the superintendent of education, on which he, at the meeting held in The Victoria, read garbled extracts from documents which as a member of the executive he could have access to; but which he could not, as a public, unless an order-in-council was passed without violating the oath he took on entering the Executive. When the documents asked for were produced, it would be shown that his government had not used the education department as a political machine as charged by Hon. Mr. Davie, but that his statements were false and calculated to deceive the electors. He was sorry the present attorney-general did not possess the excellent qualities of his late lamented brother, and was incapable of meeting an opponent fairly.

Hon. Mr. Davie expected to survive the harsh words and bad form of the last speaker. In stating at the public meeting alluded to, that the Government of the leader of the opposition had made education subservient to politics, he had merely repeated what public documents and living witnesses bear testimony to. He had not alluded to the fact, as inferred by the leader of the opposition, by way of justification for similar conduct on the part of this Government. He had indulged in no such tuquo que style of argument, but had, on the contrary, contrasted the independent course of this Government in educational matters, with the disgraceful conduct of their predecessors of ten years before. It could not be denied, and was not disputed, that they had arbitrarily deprived some 37 teachers of their certificates. It was no excuse to say that they had dealt with all alike. What did they want to do it at all for, except to bring the whole body of teachers on their knees before them, begging for their certificates back again? There was no objection to the return asked, which would fully show the truth of what had been stated. The latter part of the resolution, which assumed that before the information imparted at the public meeting could be given, there must have been an order in council authorizing him (Mr. Davie) to make the statement he did, was the most absolute nonsense. The leader of the opposition knew well enough, that there was no such order in council and when he stated that he (Mr. Davie), if he had proceeded without an order in council, had violated his oath of office, he (Mr. Beaven) simply abused the privileges of the House, in making a statement that he dared not make, and take the responsibility for, even at any of the public meetings of the last campaign. He (Mr. Davie) had produced no public documents at the public meeting. He simply laid before the public, information, which Willis Bond or any other person could get if he made enquiry at the education office. It was at that office that the information was procurable, and some of the victims themselves were the ones who put him (Mr. Davie) on the track of the enquiry. No executive secret about the matter, nor anything from the executive chamber, as the leader of the opposition well knew, and who also knew that if any member of the government had in violation of his oath of office, as charged by Mr. Beaven, betrayed any executive matters he could be visited with exemplary punishment, and why, he would like to ask the leader of the opposition, if he had the slightest belief in the vile charges he was bringing, did he not show his sincerity by prosecuting in such a way that he (Mr. Davie) if the charges were founded would, at least, be dismissed from office in ignominy and disgrace? This showed how much sincerity there was in Mr. Beaven's utterances. He made the same kind of charges two years ago, (continued Mr. Davie), when I was acting attorney-general for a short time, and deliberately assured the House that I had forfeited my seat, and was liable to heavy penalties, but he failure to substantiate his charges, when challenged to do so, as he again, gave the lie to his utterances. Does anyone suppose that it is mercy, or consideration for me that prevents his giving effect to what he says?—or will anyone believe that he would not use any legitimate means to crush this government, or any member of it? (Hear, hear). No, indeed: and and it is just this kind of conduct, which has for the last seven or eight years kept him and his party in such a miserable minority. The public are not fools—they can see through him, and a continuance of such contemptible methods that will keep his party just where they are after the next election, unless they change in the mean time, and there does not seem to be much probability of that. (Applause).

Mr. Martin said that Hon. Mr. Beaven had failed to prove that the order-in-council was ever made, and he had denied that his government had ever made the education department a political machine. He could remember when a school was established by them at Cache Creek, for political reasons, instead of Kamloops, which had cost the country thousands and was useless today. He could see no use in the last clause in the resolution and so he moved, seconded by