

Dominion Parliament, must be so strongly impressed with our prospective financial embarrassments, under existing arrangements, that they will not fail to urge the favourable consideration of this matter upon the attention of the Government and Parliament of Canada during the approaching Session.

"The length of time that has elapsed since the revision of the Provincial Statutes, the variety and importance of our legislation during that period, and the effect of the 'British North America Act,' and of the Acts of Canada, upon the Statute Law of this Province, render it advisable that I should invite your early attention to the Revision and Consolidation of our Statutes.

"I have taken steps during the recess to determine the question as to the existence of more profitable Seams of Coal underlying the known deposits in various parts of the country; and I have reason to believe that, during the present year, sufficient progress will have been made to enable us to finally determine a question so nearly related to the industrial advancement of the Province.

"Additional Regulations have been made since the last Session, calculated to encourage and promote the prosecution of the Mining Interests of the country.

"I have caused fertile tracts of land in various parts of the Province to be surveyed and set apart for settlement, under the provisions of the Act of last Session for that purpose; and I am happy to inform you that there is every prospect of most beneficial results from your legislation on this important subject.

"The propriety of offering additional inducements to the young men of the Province, to settle upon our vacant lands, is worthy of your consideration, and accordingly a measure relating thereto will be laid before you.

*"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"The sums placed at my disposal at the last Session, have been prudently expended; and I shall direct detailed Accounts of the Income and Expenditure of the past year to be laid before you at an early day, together with Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the current year.

*"Mr. President, and Honorable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,*

*"Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the House of Assembly,*

"The Common Schools Act of 1871 having been impeached as unconstitutional, I am happy to inform you that it has been sustained by the unanimous adjudication of the Supreme Court; and in the event of an appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, I recommend that provision be made for its defence before that tribunal.

"A Special Case on that Act having been prepared by the Dominion Government for the opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown in England, and a copy thereof having been forwarded to me during the recess for the remarks of my Government thereon, I at once brought the Case under their consideration, and transmitted to the Secretary of State full remarks in vindication of the Act, at the same time communicating a Protest against any such reference, and claiming the absolute right of the Provincial Legislature to deal with such matters.

"The national rivalry and competition in the Emigration field of Europe at the present time, call for renewed and unremitting effort on behalf of this Province; and so far as our means will enable us, we hope to secure such a portion of sober and industrious Emigrants, year by year, as will rapidly augment our Agricultural products, and contribute at the same time to supply the increasing demand for labour in every department of industry.

"A full Report of the proceedings of my Government during the past year, which I shall direct to be laid before you, will shew that due attention has been paid to this matter, and that the prospects for the present year are highly encouraging.

"Your attention will be called to certain amendments of the Law in relation to the Administration of Justice; and I feel assured that in all your deliberations, you will be guided by that wisdom and prudence which will best promote the public welfare."