

"The decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, pronouncing the License Act of 1883, passed by the Dominion Parliament, to be in the main, unconstitutional, as infringing upon the powers of the local Legislatures, has given satisfaction to all who value and would maintain the Legislative rights of the Province unimpaired. The action of my Government in making common cause with the sister Provinces in this contest, has been thus, more than justified; and I sincerely trust that the judgment now pronounced, will be accepted as determining this regrettable conflict. Pending the decision of the Dominion Government, on the question of appeal, I do not deem it advisable to propose any other legislation to you at this time than to renew the very useful Act passed at the last Session.

"A Bill will be introduced to change the Constitution of the Legislative Council. I invite your careful consideration to its provisions, as I believe they will be found to furnish the best solution practicable to a controversy of long standing.

"I am happy to say the principal sum of the Eastern Extension claim, the payment of which has been so long and so unaccountably deferred, has at last been adjusted. My Government has pressed for payment of the interest due on this sum, but as yet without effect.

"A measure will be submitted to you to amend the Election Act in several important particulars, and to widen the Elective franchise.

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

"I have directed the Accounts of the Income and Expenditure for the past year, as well as a Statement of the Receipts and Payments of the current year up to the opening of the present Session, to be laid before you.

"Estimates of the probable Income and Expenditure for the current year, will also be submitted to you; and I think you will find that the Estimates of Expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

"During the year, much activity has prevailed in the work of Railway construction in this Province. Some of the Companies whose lines are embraced in the Subsidy Act of 1882, but are not within the mileage limit stated in the Act, have been stimulated by aid from the Dominion Parliament, and have applied for a Subsidy from this Province. In submitting any proposals to you of this character, I shall ask you to join the other Branch of the Legislature in considering whether, the public interests, involved in the building of new lines of Railway by Provincial aid, should not be more efficiently guarded than is practicable under existing legislation.

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

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

"Bills—to authorize the incorporation of Joint Stock Companies by Letters Patent—For the further and better protection of the Legislative rights of the Province under the British North America Act—For the prevention of Forest Fires—To provide for Stenographic reporting in the Supreme and Equity Courts—To amend the practice and procedure in the Court of Equity,—and other measures will be laid before you, to each of which I invite your attentive consideration.

"Relying with confidence upon your zeal in the public service, I leave you to the discharge of your important and arduous duties."