

deeply impressed me with the inadequate provision hitherto made by Government for the proper education of the Deaf and Dumb. I have thought it right that your attention should be directed to this subject, and am assured that any suggestions made you, will receive as they will merit your most favourable consideration.

"I shall ask you to consider the advisability of sanctioning the appointment of a Commission to investigate and report upon the subject of the Constitution of the Courts of the Province, and Law Practice and Procedure, with a view to their consolidation and simplification.

"During the recess, after consultation with the Provincial Board of Agriculture, and upon securing its concurrence, my Government concluded that the interests of the farming community which were intended to be promoted by the annual grant in aid of Agriculture, would be better served by the diversion of a small portion of that grant and its application towards the importation of a number of Horses for breeding purposes. Anticipating your approval of this policy, a large number of valuable animals have been purchased at moderate prices, and arrangements for their equitable distribution over all sections of the Province concluded. When the papers and Accounts shewing the transaction in detail shall be laid before you, I shall ask you to approve and ratify the action my Government has taken.

"Bills will be submitted to you, authorizing the issue of short term Certificates of Indebtedness to meet the expenses of the importation and amending the Agricultural Act, permitting the application of a portion of the annual grant to meet these Certificates as they shall become due.

"The bent of public opinion in favour of a change in the Constitution of the Provincial Legislature, whereby the work of legislation shall be devolved upon one representative Chamber only, has been so repeatedly and unmistakably pronounced, that I feel it my duty to urge the taking of immediate steps to give effect to the public will in this regard. The introduction of a measure looking to the attainment of this end will I trust afford the opportunity for conference between the two branches, and lead at an early day to a mutually satisfactory solution of this question.

"The system of leasing fishing privileges, the property of the Crown in the inland waters of the Province, has been tried as an experiment, and proved so successful as to encourage my Government in continuing the policy for a further period, in relation to many, if not all these waters. New leases have been advertised for sale for an extended term, and these I am assured will be advantageously disposed of.

"As respects the Restigouche River and its tributaries, application has been made to purchase the fishing rights which still remain ungranted.

"The proposal in detail will be laid before you, and I shall invite you to consider whether it might not be in the public interest to dispose of this property upon an adequate price therefor being realized.

"I regret to have again to inform you, that notwithstanding repeated applications for payment, the claims of the Province upon the Dominion Government remain unadjusted.

"I am constrained to call your attention to the condition of some of the Departmental buildings, and to the necessity which exists for the making of early arrangements whereby the valuable public records and documents contained in the Crown Land, Education, and Auditor General's Offices, may be preserved from the risk of destruction by fire. These records are of such value that steps for ensuring their greater protection cannot with prudence be postponed.

"A Bill in amendment of the Liquor License Laws has been prepared, and will be brought before you, and a Bill in amendment of the Law relating to the Public Health; and also

"A Bill to invalidate fraudulent and preferential assignments, and insure an equitable distribution of the assets of insolvent debtors.

"Relying with confidence that these and other measures which may be submitted to you will be considered in a spirit of earnest devotion to the public welfare, I leave you to your deliberations."