

"Your attention will be directed to the necessity of making additional provisions for the constantly increasing number of patients seeking admission to the Provincial Asylum for the Insane. Notwithstanding the careful economy exercised in the maintenance of this Institution, its cost unavoidably continues to increase.

"Agreeably to the intimation conveyed to you at the last Session of the Legislature, questions arising upon the claim of my Government for priority of payment over other creditors of the Maritime Bank were referred to the Judges of our Supreme Court, by whom a unanimous judgment was rendered in favour of the Province; from this decision an appeal has been taken by the Liquidators of the Bank to the Supreme Court of Canada, and I am now awaiting its judgment.

"Contrary to the confident expectation I expressed to you at the opening of the last Session, of the early settlement by the Dominion Government of the Eastern Extension claim, a difficulty occurred which deferred its payment; but I am not without the strongest hopes that only a short time will elapse before this matter will be finally and satisfactorily closed.

"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 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.

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

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

"Bills relating to the Public Departments, to the Solemnization of Marriage, for the establishment of District Courts, and other measures of importance will be laid before you; and trusting that your deliberations, under Divine guidance, may result in the general good, I leave you to the performance of your responsible duties."

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