

At the opening of the last session of the Legislature, your attention was directed to a question of very great importance to the people of this Province, namely, the proposed reduction of its representation in the Federal Parliament, as a result of the recent decennial census, and you were then informed that a case had been agreed upon for argument before the Supreme Court of Canada. During the session argument was had before the Court and a decision given adverse to the contention of my Government. From this decision an appeal is being taken to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

During the recess my Government has continued to urge upon the Federal authorities the necessity of arriving at a settlement of the various questions connected with the ownership and administration of the Fisheries as between the Provincial and Dominion Governments. While several conferences have been held, no conclusion has yet been arrived at, further than an agreement to submit to the Supreme Court of Canada a number of questions, the determination of which is thought to be necessary for a proper understanding of the rights of the Provincial and Dominion Governments respectively in the Fisheries in the tidal waters of the Provinces.

At the last session of the Legislature you were informed that my Advisers had, jointly with the governments of Quebec and Prince Edward Island, asked the Dominion Government to agree to the statement of a Case to be submitted to the Supreme Court of Canada, in order to determine the rights of the Provinces to the amount of the Halifax Award. There has been unavoidable delay in agreeing upon the terms of the Reference, but from recent conferences between representatives of my Government and the Federal Authorities, I am happy to be able to assure you that there is every probability that a Case will be agreed upon for submission to the Court.

My government is assured that the important question of the readjustment of the Provincial Subsidies, the proposed terms of which were approved by you at the last Session, is receiving the careful and favorable consideration of the Dominion Government, and while no official answer has yet been given to the Memorial presented on behalf of the Provinces, I have reason to believe that a conclusion satisfactory to the Provinces will be arrived at by the Federal Government.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the McDonald Consolidated School, erected at Kingston in the county of Kings, for which our Province is indebted to the generosity of Sir William McDonald, of Montreal, is about completed and will soon be in operation. The hearty co-operation of the several School districts in which the school is situated bears testimony to the public appreciation of the important practical Educational work which will result from the establishment of this school.

I have directed that the accounts of the income and expenditure of the past fiscal year, as well as a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the current fiscal year, up to the opening of the present session, shall be laid before you.

Estimates of the probable income and expenditure for the coming year will be submitted to you, and I am satisfied that you will find that the estimates of expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the public requirements.

Your attention will be called to a Measure for the improvement of the law relating to Highways, also to a Factory Act, to an Act relating to the Provincial Lunatic Asylum, providing for a change of name, and making other provisions regarding the Institution, and other measures of importance.

In leaving now to the discharge of your legislative duties, I sincerely trust that your deliberations will result in promoting the prosperity and welfare of the people.