

You will, I am satisfied, agree with me that there is no subject of more vital importance than the education of the youth of our country. The Province is fortunate in having a large number of well qualified and zealous teachers, whose abilities and faithful labors call for greater recognition by the State than the revenues of the Province have hitherto warranted. In the opinion of my Government, however, the time has arrived when an increase may properly be made in Teachers' Salaries, and you will be asked to consider a measure having this object in view.

Great progress has been made in recent years along the line of agricultural development, particularly in the manufacture of cheese and butter. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a high standard of excellence for dairy products, my Government will ask you to consider a measure to provide for the inspection and stamping of creamery butter.

Your attention will be called to the advisability of adopting measures to encourage the raising of sheep, for which the Province seems well adapted, and the importance of which, if it were extensively and successfully carried on, could not be over-estimated.

My Government, being impressed with the necessity which exists for horses of heavy draught, the Department of Agriculture will, with your approval, take steps in the near future to import a large number of brood mares of this class for distribution and sale in the various Counties of the Province.

I can rely with confidence upon your giving most careful consideration to these matters, recognizing as you do that Agriculture is one of the greatest and most important of all our industries.

During the past year, substantial and, (considering the unusually difficult character of the work) fairly satisfactory progress has been made in the construction of the International Railway, which is to extend from Campbellton, the head of navigation of the Bay Chaleur, to the St. John River. The Legislature has, as you are aware, authorized the guarantee of the Company's first mortgage Bonds for fifty miles, and as it is expected that the road will be completed for this distance early in the coming season, and the Company is desirous of commencing in the Spring the work of construction from the St. John River end, as well as to build West from the present terminus, it has applied for a further guarantee of Bonds to enable it to complete the whole line at an early date. You will be asked to consider a measure to enable me to grant the additional assistance needed to complete this very important Provincial Work. At the same time, however, you will be invited to consider whether, as a condition of the rendering of such further assistance, the Company should not be required to convert the bonus or subsidy which the Legislature has granted, into a loan, and have the same secured by mortgage upon the Company's Railway and Rolling Stock.

In accordance with the legislation enacted at the last Session, my Government has summoned a Forestry Convention to be held on the twentieth and twenty-first days of the present month. I trust it will be a very representative gathering, and will be attended not only by experts in forestry from other Provinces of the Dominion and from the United States, but by large numbers of our own people, to take part in the consideration of the important matters which will be brought before the Convention.

You will be pleased to learn that since I last met you, the preliminary work necessary in connection with the undertaking for the development of the water power and establishment of large industries at the Grand Falls is making satisfactory progress, and I have reason to believe that the work of development will be commenced within a few months.