

upon the stock in the Province and lead to an increased interest being taken in the breeding of horses and sheep suited to our needs. The accounts showing the receipts and expenditures in connection with the importations will be laid before you.

You will be interested in knowing that the first payment of the additional subsidy from the Dominion arranged for at the late Inter-provincial Conference and payable under the Act passed at the last Session of the Imperial Parliament has been received.

My Government has recently called the attention of the Commissioners of the National Transcontinental Railway and the Government of Canada to the imperative necessity that exists for taking effective measures, without delay, for protecting from fire, the forests along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway in this Province. In the opinion of my Government this Province should not be called upon to bear any portion of the expense incurred thereby, but the same should be wholly met by the Government of Canada.

My Government has in the past pressed for a settlement with the Dominion Government of all outstanding differences concerning the fisheries and for the payment of a portion of the Halifax Fishery Award, and will continue to do so. It has been informed by the Canadian Government that an agent has been appointed to visit the different provinces and discuss all matters connected with the rights and jurisdiction of the Government of the Dominion and of the provinces in respect of the fisheries under the British North America Act. My Government has expressed its willingness to meet the agent at any time that may be agreed upon to discuss the fishery matters with a view of having the same arranged.

The subject of an effective and continuous audit of the public accounts has been engaging the attention of my Government, and a measure will be introduced for the purpose of securing a more thorough audit than has hitherto existed, and of vesting the Auditor General with greater powers than have heretofore been enjoyed by him and of increasing his independence as a public officer.

Realizing how important the possession and maintenance of good roads are to the farmers, the lumbermen, and in fact to all classes in the Province, a measure will be introduced by my Government dealing with the question of Highways, with the view of improving the same; which will be designed with the idea of placing large control over the roads in the Municipal Councils throughout the Province.

In view of the very large expenditure of public money which has been made in connection with the Central Railway and the New Brunswick Coal & Railway Company during the past eight years, my Government deems it advisable to have an investigation made into the receipts and expenditures and all matters connected with the construction and operation of the road. A measure providing for the appointment of a Commission for this purpose will be introduced at the present session.

During the short period that has elapsed since it came into office, my Government has opened negotiations with publishers in Canada and elsewhere for the purpose of obtaining for the people of the Province, books used in the public schools at a price less than they now cost, and they expect at an early date to be able to announce that these negotiations have resulted satisfactorily.

Bills having for their object the development of the agricultural interests of the Province; to amend the "Workmen's Compensation for Injuries Act," and other measures of importance will be submitted for your consideration.

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 believe you will find that the Estimates of Expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

In conclusion, I desire to assure you of my confidence in your zeal and patriotism for the public good, and to express the hope that your deliberations will inure to the welfare and prosperity of the Province.