

My Government, having the confident belief that many sections of the Province are well adapted for the growth of apples, has, by arrangements made with the owners of the land, set out several "Illustration Orchards," which are doing extremely well and give promise of demonstrating the practicability of successfully engaging in the raising of this fruit in New Brunswick to a much larger degree than has been the case in the past. If the expectations from this movement are fully realized, the result will prove of great benefit to the farmers and consequently will give an increased stimulus to agricultural pursuits.

In this connection it is well that I should call your attention to the satisfactory results which have attended the policy of the Department of Agriculture in paying the travelling expenses of pupils to the Agricultural Colleges in Nova Scotia and Ontario. My Government regards the instruction of our young men desirous of following agricultural pursuits, along the lines of their proposed calling, as of the greatest possible importance, and by giving to them the opportunities referred to, the advantages they will derive are almost equally as great as if we had an Agricultural College within our own Province, which could only be established at a very much greater expense to the public.

During the past year considerable progress has been made in the establishment of Consolidated Schools. In addition to the Macdonald School at Kingston, which many of you had the pleasure of visiting during the recess, several districts in the County of Albert have shown great enterprise in erecting an expensive building and thoroughly equipping it for the important educational work which consolidated schools are expected to perform. It is gratifying to know that a gentleman who has long been prominent in the public affairs of this Province and who occupied the position which I have now the honour to fill, has by his noble benevolence largely assisted in this undertaking. Another Consolidated School building is being erected at Florenceville in the County of Carleton, which is nearly completed, and it is expected that another large building will soon be started by the Consolidated Districts at Hampton in the County of Kings. I trust that the successful results which will be shewn in these districts will lead many others in the Province to follow in their footsteps.

The fact that such a large number of the youth of the Province fail to take advantage of the educational facilities offered to them has been a source of great anxiety to my Government, and you will be invited to consider a measure for permitting the various City, Town and Municipal Councils in the Province to bring into force in their respective districts a law providing for compulsory education.

Since I last had the pleasure of meeting you, the great and rapidly growing Territories of Northwestern Canada have been given autonomy and have taken their place in the sisterhood of Provinces. I am sure you will join with me in the hope that the extraordinary development which during the last few years has taken place in the districts now forming the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta will continue, and that these fertile and widely extended areas may, before many decades, become the homes of millions of contented and prosperous Canadians. The growth of the West is of importance not alone to Canada as a whole, but to the Eastern Provinces, which can reasonably look forward to an increase in business prosperity as the result of such development.

In accordance with the authority conferred upon my Government at the last Session of the Legislature, Commissioners were appointed to enquire into certain complaints made against The Restigouche Boom Company. The Commissioners have completed their labours and in compliance with the provisions of the Statute in that regard their Report will be submitted to you.

I regret extremely that I am not yet in a position to make a positive announcement as to the holding of the expected Conference between the Governments of the various Provinces and the Federal Cabinet, with a view to bringing about a settlement of the various important questions now outstanding in regard to the Administration of the Fisheries and also a readjustment of the Provincial Subsidies. But I am pleased to be able to inform you that my Government has reasonable ground for the expectation that such Conference will take place at an early date.