

inion Government to this question and has also pressed for a settlement of outstanding claims in connection with fisheries matters against the Dominion Government and will continue to do so.

In accordance with the provisions contained in the Act passed at the last Session, providing for auditing the Public Accounts, a new and modern system of book keeping has been introduced into all the Departments and a continuous audit now takes place. The new system is proving satisfactory and is admirably adapted for the purposes of the Province and for safeguarding the public revenue.

At the last Session legislation was enacted providing for the appointment of a Commission to investigate the Agricultural conditions of the Province. I am pleased to intimate that such a Commission was appointed soon after the close of the last Session, that it has diligently pursued its enquiries and has held meetings at more than one hundred places in the Province. It also visited the Agricultural Colleges at Truro and Saint Anne De Bellivue. A report of its labors will be presented to you at an early day.

In pursuance of an Act passed at the last Session a Commission was appointed to enquire into certain matters connected with the Central Railway Company and The New Brunswick Coal and Railway Company. The report of this Commission will be submitted during the Session.

During recess arrangements were made by my Government by which the readers, geographies and certain other books used in the Common Schools were supplied at a reduced price of about forty per cent. It will, I am sure, be gratifying to you to know that commencing with the next school year a similar reduction will be made in the price of nearly all the other books that are necessary in the Common School curriculum.

As announced at the last Session my Government invited the Municipal Councils of the Province to consider the provisions of the Highway Act and to make suggestions for its improvement. This request was met by most of the Councils in a fair spirit, and while the principle of the Act was approved of in most cases, some valuable suggestions were made with regard to its details. These suggestions have been carefully considered and a bill amending the Act and incorporating some of them will be introduced at the present Session.

The Territorial Revenue of the Province during the past year was the largest in its history and it is estimated that the returns for the present year will be in excess of those of any previous year.

My Government took advantage of large sales of thoroughbred horses in Kentucky, under unusually favorable circumstances, to make an importation for the purpose of improving the stock of general purpose horses. Unfortunately an embargo against the admission of any stock from the United States into Canada was declared immediately after the horses were purchased and in consequence large additional expense was incurred before the embargo was removed and the horses could be brought to the Province. The demand for these horses however was so great and they created such a favourable impression that they sold for prices that were sufficient to cover all expenses in connection with the importation.

During the recess a Committee of the Executive Council visited the iron mines on the Nepisiguit River in the County of Gloucester and were greatly impressed by the quantity and quality of the iron deposits. An eminent mining authority has reported that he considers these mines the most valuable in Canada and that they contain the largest body of iron ore known to him to exist in the Dominion. A Bill to encourage the development of these ore deposits will be introduced at this Session.

A Bill will also be introduced to encourage the development of the antimony mines in the Parish of Prince William in the County of York where there is a large and valuable deposit of this metal and where a smelter is now being erected.

During recess my Government appointed a Superintendent of Immigration with headquarters at the City of Saint John and you will be asked to make provision for the organization of an Immigration Service in Great Britain and New Brunswick by means of which it is hoped to attract to the Province persons with capital who will purchase farms that are now for sale, and farm laborers and others. It will also be the duty of the officials in Great Britain to place before capitalists the advantages which the Province possesses as a manufacturing and industrial centre.

You will be invited to consider bills to amend The Liquor License Act, The Game Act, The Judicature Act, and a Bill to aid in the prevention and suppression of Tuberculosis.

Other measures will also 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 also be submitted to you and I think you will find that they have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

I assure you of my full confidence in your patriotism and zeal for the public interest.