

During recess, my Government has continued to press for a settlement of outstanding claims in connection with fishery matters, against the Government of Canada, and will continue to do so, and is hopeful that a settlement of all questions in dispute may be arrived at during the present year.

At the opening of the last Session, I informed you that arrangements had been made by my Government, under which certain books used in the common schools, were being supplied at a reduced price of forty per cent., and you will be glad to learn that the list has been extended so that practically all the books in the school curriculum are being sold at a similar reduction, thereby effecting a very considerable saving to the people of the Province.

At the last Session of the Legislature an Act was passed in aid of the development of the Gloucester County iron deposits. Aided and encouraged by the carrying out of the provisions of that Act, the Northern New Brunswick and Sea Board Railway Company entered upon the construction of a line of railway from the iron mines near the Grand Falls of the Nepisiguit River, to the Intercolonial Railway, and in spite of the very wet weather last summer and autumn, has made such substantial progress with the work, that it is expected the road will be completed not later than July next, and that thereafter, the Provincial revenues will be increased to a considerable amount by the Royalties on the output of the mines.

The encouragement given by my government to this enterprise has caused great activity in prospecting for minerals in Gloucester and the other Northern Counties, and so far favorable reports have been received of indications of other valuable deposits, and the receipts from mining licenses have largely increased.

In pursuance of an Act passed at the last Session, a Commission was appointed to inquire into and report upon the best methods to be adopted, to prevent and cure Tuberculosis in this Province. The report of this Commission has not been received by the Government, but it is expected that it will be presented during the Session.

The Highway Act of 1908, as amended by the Legislature at its last Session, has been in force during the past year, and I am happy to be able to inform you, that though the season was an unusually wet one and not favorable for the making or preservation of good roads, its operation leads to the conclusion that it will be effective in providing better roads than have existed in the past, and prove a wise and progressive piece of Legislation.

For many years past, there has existed a strong desire among the residents of the counties of the Valley of the River St. John, for the construction of a railway which will, it is believed, add in a very great measure to their prosperity and be of general benefit to the Province. All Legislation heretofore passed for aiding such a work, has proved ineffective in accomplishing the purpose desired. A Bill will be introduced at the present Session, which, it is hoped, will result in the accomplishment of this long desired and desirable public work at no far distant day.

You will be invited to consider Bills to provide pensions for teachers in the common schools; to amend the Act respecting Juries; the Board of Health Act, and an Act for the establishment of a Board of Public Utility Commissioners.

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 feel assured that you will give careful consideration to the various subjects which will come before you.