

"The Commission appointed under the Act of Assembly, Fifty-fifth Victoria, Chapter 18, to examine into and report upon the general subject of the laws regulating the assessment of rates and taxes throughout the Province, and of civic and municipal taxation generally, have attended to that duty and have prepared a Bill relating to the subject, which they recommend for enactment by the Legislature. I will cause this Bill to be presented to you and invite your most careful consideration to its provisions.

"It is a satisfaction to me to have observed the growing interest which attends the sessions and proceedings of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association, and the increasing impetus which the policy of my Government has imparted to the dairy industries of the country. Such marked success will encourage you to continue, and, if possible, increase the liberal grants in aid you have been in recent years extending to this important department of agricultural industry.

"So many and considerable are the changes which have of late years been made in the statute law of the Province, and so few of the acts contained in the Consolidated Act of 1877 continue in operation, that my Government will ask you to consider the advisability of authorizing a new revision of the Provincial Statutes. A measure to that end will be laid before you.

"The opinion has come to be strongly entertained by the general public that the practice and procedure in Probate Courts, and the law relating to these courts generally, requires to be materially altered and improved. Sharing in that opinion, my advisors have been giving attention to this subject, and have prepared a bill in amendment of the law relating thereto, which will be submitted for your consideration and approval.

"I am glad to be able to inform you that the Boys' Industrial Home, established under the authority of an enactment of the last Session and concurrent legislation of the Parliament of Canada, and aided by your liberal appropriation, has been opened under the most favorable auspices, and gives promise of accomplishing the most valuable results. In the interest of that class of the youths of the country who, it is confidently expected, will profit by the associations and training which this Institution is able to afford, I would recommend a continuance of the grant which you generously voted last year to this service. It has been found by the Board of Governors of the Institution that a smaller charge than that now imposed upon the localities from which the inmates have been sent, will suffice to cover the actual expense of maintenance of the youths admitted to the Home, and an amending Bill will be introduced at the present Session, reducing the per capita charge upon the Municipalities for such maintenance. I will also cause to be laid before you the report of the Board of Governors of the Home since its opening in July last.

"During the recess, my Government has elicited opinions and information as to the working of laws respecting liens of Mechanics and Laborers in certain cases in some of the Provinces of the Dominion and States in the American Union where such laws have been in operation. These reports upon the whole not having been unfavorable, a Bill on this subject has been prepared and will be submitted for your consideration.

"Owing to the inconvenience occasioned to many of you in attending the Sessions of the Assembly at this season of the year, and the impossibility, as the fiscal year is now adjusted, of completing the public Reports so as to convene you at an earlier date, you will be invited to consider and determine whether a re-arrangement of the time at which the Accounts of the year shall be closed, might not with advantage be entertained. Any resolutions you may be asked to approve, as also any Bill founded thereupon, relating to this question will, I am sure, receive your careful attention.

"My Government has not been discouraged by past failures from pressing with continued persistence for a settlement of the Eastern Extension claim against the Government of the Dominion. That claim, the justice of which has been repeatedly affirmed by the Government and Legislature of this Province, has been again urged upon the attention of Ministers at Ottawa, and I am not without strong hopes that the careful examination and study to which a sub-committee of the Dominion Cabinet recently submitted the case, has induced a more favorable opinion of its merits than has been hitherto entertained.

"I have directed the Accounts of the Income and Expenditure to be laid before you, and you will be glad to note that the small floating liability which has been accumulating for two or three years past has been this year sensibly reduced.

"Estimates of the probable Income and Expenditure will be submitted to you, and I think you will find that the Estimates of Expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

"Bills will be submitted to you :

"To alter the practice of the Supreme Court of this Province and relating to the constitution of that Court ;

"Relating to the Registry of Deeds ;

"And other measures of importance, to which I invite your attentive consideration.

"Confidently anticipating that the important duties devolving upon you will be zealously and prudently discharged, I leave you to your deliberations."