

"The importance of providing for a more equitable representation in Parliament of those Counties whose wealth, population and relative importance have increased in recent years, has been engaging the serious attention of my Government. While it may not on consideration be deemed necessary or expedient under present conditions to establish a system of representation in the Legislature, which shall be based upon an arbitrary standard of numerical equality, the measure which my Government will submit to you, will be found, it is hoped, to some extent at least, to redress the inequalities which in these respects now exists. I solicit for such measure, when laid before you, your most favorable consideration.

"My Government has more fully matured the Bill prepared and introduced before you last year in relation to the constitution of and procedure in Probate Courts. Having to deal with interests as important as those which are the subject of litigation in the very highest tribunals, it has appeared to my Government that material changes might with advantage be made in the existing law. I solicit for this measure, when presented to you, your most favorable attention.

"I am pleased to observe that an active interest is being awakened among the enterprising business men of Saint John in favor of holding a Provincial Exhibition in that city during the current year. Should the plans of the Association provide for a suitable display of agricultural products, my Government believes it would be desirable to encourage and assist the promoters of the undertaking in a substantial manner. A Bill with that object in view, authorizing the giving of a moderate financial guarantee, in addition to the usual grant, will be presented to you.

"The accounts of the receipts and expenditures for the past fiscal term, ending on the 31st of October last, I shall cause to be laid before you, together with estimates of the receipts and of the proposed expenditure for the current year. The estimates of expenditure, I trust, will be found to be framed with a due regard to the needs of the public service.

"Bills--To amend the law as respects the property of married women;—

On the subject of life insurance for the benefit of widows and children;—

To amend the Act relating to the registration of deeds;—

To further amend the practice in the Supreme Court;—

For reporting the decisions of the Court in Equity;—

And a general Act under which towns throughout the Province may become incorporated without applying to the Legislature for special acts;—

will be laid before you, and to those, as well as all other measures which may pass under consideration, I invite your best attention.

"Relying with entire confidence upon your zeal in the public service, I leave you to your deliberations."

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