

Her Majesty, and has made itself felt in every part of the Empire. We may safely predict that her Reign will be regarded as the brightest in the annals of our country, and I am confident that the loyal subjects of Her Most Gracious Majesty in New Brunswick will join during the year in celebrating the triumphs of this long and glorious epoch in the history of the Empire.

While our Province has during the past year been blessed with an abundant harvest and a large measure of general prosperity, a serious calamity has befallen our fellow-subjects in India, where a famine of almost unprecedented severity has desolated a wide extent of territory, and brought suffering and death to many thousands. The bond which unites all dependencies of the Crown is, happily, such that disaster can befall no part of the Empire, however remote, without exciting a responsive sympathy throughout the whole. Indeed, a calamity so widespread and severe as is that which has cast its devastating blight over so large a portion of India cannot fail to evoke an active sympathy from all Christian people, without distinction of race or nationality. As was expected, therefore, much has been done to alleviate the acute distress and suffering which mark the progress of this great disaster; but, unhappily, much yet remains to be done. I am satisfied that it is only necessary for me to point out to the people of this Province how urgent is the call upon them from our suffering fellow-subjects in India to ensure a ready and benevolent response.

The subject of Cold Storage has occupied much of the attention of my Government during recess, and they have tried to arrange for the construction of such Depots as will meet the requirements of the various sections of the Province. Thus far their efforts have not met with the desired success, but it is hoped in the near future as the great advantages of the system become better known and appreciated, parties will be found who with fair encouragement will undertake the work and carry it to completion.

At the last Session of the Legislature an appropriation was made to provide for the Importation of Cattle, Sheep and Swine. My Government, after giving the matter careful consideration, did not for various reasons, deem it expedient to make an importation of Cattle during the then current year. A number of pure bred Swine was imported and distributed in various sections of the Province, and I am pleased to inform you that this has met with general approval.

Public attention has been recently directed to the desirability of attracting the steady flow of tourist travel from our sister Provinces and the neighboring Republic toward our Province. Aside from the unsurpassed natural scenery of our Province, and our inviting climate, the opportunities afforded to sportsmen must always be an incentive to such travel, and my Government will further invite your favorable consideration to the greater perfection of our Game Laws, with a view to the preservation of so important a source of wealth to our people.

I have directed the Accounts of the Income and Expenditure of the past year to be laid before you, as well as a statement of the Receipts and Payments of the present current year up to the opening of this Session.

Estimates of the probable Income and Expenditure of the current year will be laid before you, and I think you will find that they have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the necessities of the Public Services.

Bills in amendment of the Laws relating to Agriculture, of the Laws relating to Evidence, to the Game Laws, and other Bills of importance will be laid before you.

I commit these to your careful consideration, together with other measures which may come before you, and leave you to your deliberations, trusting to your zeal in the public interest and confident that your desire to further the general welfare will, under the guidance of Divine Providence, lead you to conclusions which will be in the best interests of the people generally.