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In opening the last Session of the Legislative Assembly, it afforded me great pleasure to convey to you the information that the Claim of the Province against the Dominion, arising out of the Eastern Extension Railway matter, and which had been so long in controversy, had by agreement between the two Governments been referred to three competent and disinterested parties, mutually chosen, for final adjustment and settlement. And it is now my pleasing privilege to inform you that the award of the Arbitrators has been made, and that it recognizes the justice of the claim which the Province has for so many years been pressing upon the attention of the Dominion authorities. It is expected that during the present Session of Parliament, provision will be made for the payment of the amount of the Award, and thus this long-standing dispute will be brought to a close. The evidence and award of the Arbitrators will be submitted to you.

I have directed the Accounts of the Income and Expenditure for the past fiscal year, as well as a Statement of the Receipts and Expenditure of the current fiscal 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 be submitted to you, and I think you will find the Estimates of Expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements incident to the growth of our Province and the expansion of its public services.

Bills to provide for the creation of District Courts; for the introduction of what is known as the 'Torrens' System of Land Registration; to amend the Succession Duty Act; and also Bills dealing with other subjects of importance, will be submitted to you; and I am sure that your deliberations will, under Divine guidance, be conducted with a wise regard for the public weal.