

being prepared for this school building, and tenders will be called for soon. It is hoped that both schools may be ready for work within a year. A bill providing for the establishment and maintenance of these schools will be presented for your consideration.

During recess my Government has been in conference with representatives of the Governments of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, with a view of making a united effort to prevent a further reduction in the Representation of the Maritime Provinces in the Federal Parliament. Before redistribution takes place, a conference of Provincial Premiers will probably be held when it is hoped that a satisfactory solution of the question may be reached.

By reason of a former Government of the Dominion having granted large sections of the public lands of Canada to the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta for the assistance of education, and of the present Federal Government in granting last year, A. D. 1912, certain other very large sections of the public lands of Canada to the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, whereby large additions were made to the territorial areas of the last named Provinces, my Government was of the opinion that due regard had not been paid to the rights of New Brunswick under the terms of Confederation and that this Province, as well as the other Maritime Provinces, were entitled to compensation for the alienation of the said public lands. In view of this it caused a presentation of its claims to be made to the Government of Canada and compensation has been claimed from the Government of Canada for the Maritime Provinces in the premises, and I have reason to feel and believe that ample justice will be done, not only to this Province but to the Maritime Provinces generally in this respect by the Federal Administration at Ottawa.

Throughout the year my Government has continued to press for a settlement with the Federal Government of our Fishery Claims. It is a matter of regret that the claims have not been adjusted. My Government feels strongly that the amount claimed is fair and reasonable; that the justice of the claim should be recognized and settlement arranged. My Government has proposed that if the Federal Government is unable to recommend the payment of the amount claimed, then that the question be submitted to a Board of Arbitrators. We have strong reason to hope for an answer from the Federal Government at an early date.

The territorial revenue during the year reached the gratifying sum of \$522,399.66, an amount slightly less than the previous year. It is very satisfactory that both in 1911 and for the year closed, our revenue in the Crown Land Department has well exceeded the half million, the amount being a large increase over former years. Ocean tonnage was hard to secure and freight rates were high, which prevented prompt shipment of manufactured lumber and militated to some extent against the lumbermen. Prices, however, have been fairly satisfactory, and the lumber industry is in a healthy condition.

The work of construction on the St. John Valley Railway, and the Fredericton and Grand Lake Railway was begun in May last, and has been pushed vigorously since. Construction is general on the three sections of the Saint John Valley line between Centreville and Gagetown, and it is expected that these sections will be ready for traffic before November 1st next. Grading has been completed on the Fredericton and Grand Lake line and about twenty miles of steel laid. This line will be completed and in operation in the early summer.

The increased activity at the coal fields in Sunbury and Queens is very gratifying. Within a short time the output from our coal areas will have increased more than 100 per cent.

The advantages of New Brunswick as an attractive field for settlement are becoming better known in Great Britain, and the work of our offices in London and St. John has increased greatly during the year. More people are coming to New Brunswick and the prospects for the present year in this connection are very bright. The Farm Settlement Board, constituted under the Act of last Session, has been at work for several months, and is succeeding in placing settlers upon farms not previously occupied. The advantages of the plan under which the Farm Settlement Board operates, being applicable to the people of our own Province, as well as to those coming here to settle, has caused the scheme to be most favorably received.

Bills to consolidate the laws relating to Rates and Taxes, to amend the Public Utilities Act, and to amend the Game Law, as well as other measures, will be submitted for your consideration.

I have directed the accounts of Income and Expenditure for the past year, together with a statement showing 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 be submitted to you, and I think you will find that due attention has been paid to the needs of our public services, together with due regard to economy.

I have full confidence that you will devote yourselves with earnestness and zeal in dealing with the various matters coming before you.