

The important subject of Maritime Representation has received consideration during recess. My Government was represented at the Inter-Provincial Conference held in Ottawa in October last, when this subject was presented and discussed at the Conference. It is a matter of sincere regret that the Representatives of the various Provinces did not concur in the case as presented by the Maritime Province representation. The Conference decided that it was a matter to be dealt with by Parliament. Further effort in connection with the Representation was made in January last, when the claim of the Maritime Provinces was put forward and urged upon the Federal Government.

I am pleased to announce the settlement of the Fishery Claims that have been outstanding between the Province and the Federal Government for upwards of thirty years. The settlement of these claims ensures the payment by the Federal Government to the Province of the sum of sixty-six thousand three hundred and eighty-two dollars. My Government has pressed for a settlement of these claims, and there is no doubt the knowledge that an agreement has been reached and that payment will be made will be heard with interest and satisfaction throughout the Province.

The work in the Immigration Department has increased rapidly during the year, and reports show a larger number of people settling in the Province than formerly. The Farm Settlement Board have had a busy year, having purchased over one hundred and sixty properties, and have sold and settled over one hundred and thirty. Greater publicity throughout Great Britain and more complete organization within the Province would ensure splendid results. We have the fertile lands, and we have satisfactory markets. The Province urgently requires more population upon the land.

Railway construction has been active throughout the year, the Minto Railway and the Southampton Railway both being completed, and both are being operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Since the opening of the Minto line a very substantial development has taken place at the coal areas at Minto. The railway is assured a paying traffic, and a populous community is being built up in the mining district. The New Brunswick Coal and Railway has been operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway under agreement to lease since June 1st last. Work on the St. John Valley Railway has proceeded throughout the entire season. The grading is practically completed between Centreville and Gagetown, a distance of 120 miles. Between the above mentioned points over 90 miles of steel is laid. The superstructures of the bridges are being placed at present. Considerable ballasting has been done, and this work will be prosecuted vigorously with the opening of spring. It is hoped that the three sections from Centreville to Gagetown will be ready for operating by mid-summer. Work on the remaining sections will be proceeded with.

The ordinary revenues of the Crown Land Department are slightly less than last year, the cut of lumber being smaller than for several years. The ordinary revenue, exceeding half a million, does not include the receipts from the sale of lands, the proceeds of such sale going to the "Crown Land Sinking Fund." The above amount does not include the receipts on account of the new Timber Licenses issued under the authority of the Crown Timber Act of 1913.

Bills to amend the Succession Duties Act, the Mining Act, Public Utilities Act, etc., as well as other measures, will be submitted for your consideration.

I have directed that the accounts showing the income and expenditure for the past year, together with a statement showing the receipts and payments for the current year up to the opening of the present Session, be laid before you.

Estimates of the probable income and expenditure for the present year will be submitted to you.

I am confident that you will find that proper attention has been paid to the needs of our public services and due regard to economy in administration.

I leave you to your deliberations, confident that you will devote yourselves earnestly in promoting such legislation as will result in the progress and development of our Province.