

During the year my Government insisted that the work on the Saint John and Quebec Railway should be vigorously prosecuted, with the result that the section of the road between Centreville and Gagetown is now in operation under a temporary agreement with the Intercolonial Railway authorities. As is generally known, the outbreak of the war was followed by the withdrawal from circulation of large sums of money, and in common with other similar enterprises in the country the Saint John and Quebec Railway was affected. Owing, however, to the wise enactment of this Legislature at its last session, my Government was able to provide for a satisfactory carrying on of the work and to reach the result in construction which exists today, a result which must be gratifying to every resident of the Province interested in this important project. My Government has reason to believe that at an early date the whole section of the road between Centreville and Gagetown will be taken over by the Federal authorities, under the agreement to that end heretofore entered into between the Dominion Government, the Provincial Government, and the Saint John and Quebec Railway Company.

During recess, my Government deemed it advisable to obtain loans, aggregating one million four hundred and eighty thousand dollars for the purpose of meeting capital expenditure made and treasury notes outstanding under legislation previously sanctioned, and drawing six per cent. interest. Five year bonds bearing five per cent. interest were issued and were sold at par. Both issues, one for \$500,000 and one for \$980,000, were over-subscribed within a very few days after the announcement that the bonds were available, and it is gratifying to know that a large proportion of them are held by our own people. These transactions have been characterized by financial men as the most successful accomplished in Canada since the outbreak of the war, and indicate in a marked degree the confidence of the people in the administration of Provincial affairs and the high standing of the Province in the mind of the investing public.

Charges preferred at the last session against certain of my former advisers have been investigated by a Royal Commission appointed by me under the authority of the Legislature, and the return of the Commission will be submitted.

After careful consideration my Government has concluded that a classification of the Crown Lands of the Province should be undertaken at an early date, thus securing the accurate information concerning this great asset of the Province which is necessary to a full appreciation of its extent and value, to the proper selection of settlement lands and to a regulation of the timber cut from year to year in such a manner as will conserve in the fullest measure this well nigh indispensable source of Provincial revenue. Such measures as may be deemed necessary to accomplish these objects will be submitted.

Recent decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council have so affected Provincial legislation relating to licenses heretofore issued to extra-provincial corporations and the collection of succession duties, that legislation touching these matters has been deemed necessary, and bills dealing with these subjects will be introduced.

You will be invited to consider bills to consolidate and amend the Liquor License Act; to consolidate and amend the General Mining Act; to impose taxes on certain companies and associations; to authorize municipal councils and other municipal bodies to vote money for the Canadian Patriotic Fund and other similar funds; together with acts relating to motor vehicles, the Halifax School for the Blind, the New Brunswick School for the Deaf, and other subjects of importance.

I have directed the accounts of the income and expenditure for the past fiscal year, as well as a statement of the receipts and expenditures for 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 that the estimates of expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

I rely with confidence upon your zeal for the public good, and have no doubt that under Divine guidance your deliberations will be conducted in such a manner as to conduce to the welfare and prosperity of the Province.