

There has been marked activity in commercial and industrial circles. Our harvest was a bountiful one. Prices for our products have been, generally speaking, well maintained and labor has had a fair measure of reward.

The work of the Agricultural Department has been made difficult during the year by reason of the fact that five vigorous and efficient members of the staff have heard the call of duty and left their positions in the Department for service at the front. The spirit shown by these men is to be highly commended and any disability under which the Department rests as a result of their action will be cheerfully borne.

Agricultural educational work has been carried on most successfully throughout the Province; the usual short courses, rural science schools, seed fairs, standing crop competitions, agricultural exhibitions and general field work have been vigorously carried forward.

I am glad to state that interest in agriculture is very largely on the increase and there is a growing tendency to learn more of the science of agriculture and many are taking advantage of the opportunities presented for accomplishing this end.

The Public Works Department has been actively engaged during the recess looking after the public services of the Province and the roads and bridges have been improved throughout the year. The splendid new bridge across the St. John River at the Reversing Falls at the City of St. John has been completed and opened for traffic.

Other structures of a smaller character have been built and my Government proposes giving a large measure of attention to the improvement of rural transportation during the coming year.

Under authority of the Act passed at the Session of the Legislature in the year 1913, my Government has about completed arrangements for a forest survey and the thorough classification of the crown lands of the Province. This work has been commenced and will be carried forward as rapidly as is consistent with the thoroughness which is required to have it satisfactorily accomplished.

The lumber cut of the past year was much larger than was expected at the beginning of the season, the revenue from this source being the largest in the history of the Province. At the present time, prices for lumber are satisfactory and the operations in the forests, while probably not as extensive as last year, are being conducted on a comparatively large scale.

The financial position of the Province is sound, and bond issues, which my Government have had occasion to make during recess, have been made on a highly satisfactory basis.

A bill will be introduced during the session enabling the electors of the Province to adopt a measure providing for the prohibition of traffic in intoxicating liquors.

Legislation will also be presented providing for the early completion of the St. John and Quebec Railway and insuring not only direct connection with the east and west sides of the harbour of St. John, but, as well, an independent route from that city to the New England States and a new channel for the export of the forest products of central and northern New Brunswick.

A bill to consolidate and amend the Election law, as well as other measures, will be submitted for your consideration.

I have directed the accounts of the income and expenditures for the past year, as well as a statement of the 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 also be submitted to you, and I think you will find that they have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

I assure you of my full confidence in your patriotism and zeal for the public interest.