

After you have had an opportunity of studying the report and the evidence on which it is based, my Government will ask you to consider the propriety of passing Legislation, rendered necessary by the fact that the Saint John and Quebec Railway, and the moneys provided for its construction, although in reality the property of the Crown, are nominally the property of a Company whose stock is owned by His Majesty.

My Government is of opinion that moneys wrongfully and illegally obtained from the Company should be deemed to be and should become a Crown debt, recoverable by His Majesty from the offending party or parties.

I am confident that you will cheerfully support legislation designed to make more certain the securing of redress for wrongs which have been committed against the Province, in connection with this public work in the past, and provide greater safeguards for the future.

During the recess an investigation and survey has been made of the Health Conditions in the Province, and a report upon the same by Mr. John Hall, a recognized authority, has been received. Legislation based upon Mr. Hall's report will be introduced.

It is with much pleasure that my Government has learned that the Dominion Cabinet has decided upon a broad and comprehensive policy for the creation of a fleet of steel vessels, and by giving building contracts therefor, has decided to encourage the establishment of a great national industry upon a permanent basis.

By reason of its geographical position, and the fact that some of its important harbours are open at all seasons of the year, New Brunswick possesses ideal advantages for the building of steel ships, and my Government will invite you to consider what measures it will be desirable to take in order to secure for this Province a reasonable proportion of the contracts to be given by the Federal authorities.

The need of ships for the transportation of the agricultural products of Canada, to enable our people to do their part in sustaining the armies of the Allies, is most urgent, and I am satisfied that if, after due consideration, you should decide upon a course which will secure in this Province speedy and effective action in this direction in co-operation with the Canadian Government, such a course will receive a ready and enthusiastic support from the people of New Brunswick.

The Workmen's Compensation Act Commission has made much progress during the recess, and a Bill based upon the conclusions at which they have arrived will be introduced for your consideration.

Among other measures to which your attention will be directed are: A new Highway Act; a Forest Act, which will make considerable changes in the administration of Crown Lands; Acts amending the Game and Mining Laws, and other measures concerning the public services of the country.

The increasing needs of the public services of the Province, and the necessary expenditure in connection therewith, the large demands to provide the interest upon the Provincial debt and guaranteed railway bonds, make it necessary to supplement the revenues of the Province, and certain measures to this desirable end will be brought to your consideration.

In a recent conference of Provincial Premiers at Ottawa, which was attended by a committee of my Government, many matters of interest and importance to the future of the Province were discussed, and the result of these deliberations will be brought to your attention during the Session.

Since the prorogation of this House in June last, this Province was called upon to mourn for the loss of its Lieutenant-Governor, Hon. Gilbert W. Ganong, whose unexpected death, after but a few months in office as Chief Executive, was a distinct loss to New Brunswick, and the business community in which for years he was such an outstanding figure.

Our hearty and sincere sympathy with the City of Halifax, in its appalling disaster of December 6th, found ready expression in every part of this Province. I am proud of the prompt and spontaneous response of our people to relieve the needy and suffering. In addition to the personal and municipal assistance rendered, a substantial gift of money will be forwarded to the General Relief Fund.

I have directed the accounts of the Income and Expenditure 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.

The Estimates of the probable Income and Expenditure for the current year will be submitted to you, and I believe you will find that the estimates for the expenditure have been prepared with a due regard to economy and the requirements of the public service.

I wish to assure you, in conclusion, of my belief and confidence in your patriotism and zeal for the public good, and to express the hope that your deliberations will result in promoting the welfare and increasing the prosperity of the Province.