

of the Government owned Canadian National Railway System and are convinced that if the same fair treatment and consideration are accorded this request as was given to the representations of Western and other Provinces in connection with the acquisition of large railway systems whose bonds they had generously guaranteed, within a short time New Brunswick will be relieved of an interest obligation, payment of which would seriously hamper the improvement and enlargement of other public services so necessary to the prosperity of the people.

I am pleased to inform you that my Government proposes to introduce a measure providing for the extension of the franchise to women with similar privileges of voting as are now enjoyed by men; also to introduce a Jury Act which will insure representation upon this most important bulwark of justice, much more satisfactory than it is at the present time.

There will be amendments asked for to the Public Health Act in order that its administration may be more effective and better adapted to certain localities. The question of public health has never been brought so sharply to the attention of the people as during the past year when so many men have returned from overseas with their vitality impaired and also because of the epidemic scourge of influenza which apparently visited every City, Town and Village of this and other Provinces. Humanity has been stirred to its depths by the suffering and death which followed in the train of this visitation and the health organization and volunteer nurses from every quarter in grappling with the disease, were of the greatest assistance to the Minister of Health and his officials. The benefit of a modern, well equipped and scientifically controlled organization charged with the supervision of public health would prove, in ordinary times, of indispensable value, and the unfortunate experiences of the past year have doubly shown the inestimable benefit the newly created Department of Health has been to this Province and I feel sure you will give this Department all the support necessary to make its work constantly effective.

The Provincial Programme for the improvement of the Trunk Roads has been given additional interest by the announcement that the Federal Government proposes to co-operate with and assist in permanent road making. The notable improvement already made in the condition of the Provincial Highways can be supplemented by this Federal Assistance, so that in a few years a system of trunk roads between all the important centres of population will be possible.

During the recess, arrangements have been made with several of the owners of the Branch Lines in the Province by the Dominion Government, preparatory to their acquisition. Requests having been made by the Dominion Government for legislation confirming their title to a right-of-way of reasonable width, a bill is being prepared that will confirm their title.

I regret very much that the owners of the Caraquet and Gulf Shore and Kent Northern Railways have not yet been able to come to an arrangement with the Federal Government that will enable them to be also taken over for operation by the Canadian National Railways. These branch lines, which serve the north eastern shores of the Province are important feeders for the trunk roads, and it will be necessary in the interest of the people that some steps be taken which will secure their satisfactory operation.

Amendments to the Intoxicating Liquor Act of 1916 are under consideration, which will provide for methods of dispensing liquor better suited to the needs of the people; establish a standard of quality necessary for medicinal use and, as far as possible, regulate the price.

The reports of Royal Commissioners appointed to enquire into certain charges preferred in this Legislature and also into other matters which needed a more complete investigation, will be laid upon the table of the House in due season.

You will be asked to consider other legislative measures of which due announcement will be made.

The public accounts for the last fiscal year will be laid before you as well as estimates for the amounts required for expenditures during the coming year, all prepared with due regard to economy and to the requirements of the public service.

**Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of The Legislative Assembly:**

I now leave you to the business of the Session, having full confidence that your deliberations will be Divinely guided to promoting the best interest of the Province.