

upon the people to build this railway, it is a matter for sincere congratulation that the Government has been able, by reason of the lowered price in the English market of its guaranteed debenture stock and the rate of exchange prevailing, to purchase and cancel such a portion of the outstanding stock as to effect a considerable reduction in the liability for the construction of this road.

My Government is pleased to announce that, during recess, Bonds guaranteed by the Province in connection with the construction of the International Railway to the amount of \$896,000 have been paid off by the company and cancelled, thereby further reducing the liability of the Province.

No decision has yet been given respecting the claims of the several Provinces upon the Dominion Government. New Brunswick, as one of the four original partners in Confederation, will insist that there be no division of the lands or natural resources unless all the Provinces which formed the Confederation are given the fairest consideration.

During recess, conferences have been held between my Government and the Federal Highway Board with respect to the agreements necessary for co-operation between Dominion and Provincial Governments for the construction of roads of satisfactory standard, and I am pleased to announce that legislation will be introduced at this session to enable the Province to take advantage of any agreements. The Public Works Department is to be congratulated upon the notable progress already made in the construction of more durable roads in every County of the Province, and the work will be continued in addition to that mileage built with Federal assistance.

The advantages that will result from additional manufacturing industries throughout the Province and the increased demand for cheaper light, heat and power, have caused my Government to give further consideration to the development of its Water Powers. With this end in view and in co-operation with the Dominion Water Powers Branch of the Conservation Commission, the Water Power Commission of New Brunswick has gathered valuable information which will be submitted to you in their report, with a bill to provide for power development and to enable the Government to proceed without delay with the development of such water powers as are found to be commercially feasible.

The report of the Committee appointed at the last Session of the Legislature to enquire into the question of increases of salaries to school teachers will be laid before you, together with their recommendations upon this important matter, and should such recommendation call for additional financial assistance on the part of the Province, my Government will give same favorable consideration.

The first report of the Workmen's Compensation Board, covering a period since the Act came into force, will also be laid before you and certain amendments to the Act, based upon administration experience will be submitted for your consideration.

Matters relating to health throughout the Province have been given continuous watchful care by the Department of Public Health. Most of the Municipalities have co-operated generously with the Department and good progress has been made in providing medical inspection in the schools, collecting vital statistics and organizing to cope with any epidemic which may threaten the Province or any of its communities.

I am pleased to know that the women of the Province took advantage of the legislative provision extending the franchise to them for the first time, and afforded the revisors much assistance in placing their names upon the voters' lists. To provide for omissions, legislation will be introduced allowing names to be added to the official lists upon proof of proper qualifications. The right to vote by women of the Province will for all time be an outstanding event in the history of New Brunswick.

The Intoxicating Liquor Act of 1916, having been in force and operative for a sufficient length of time to enable its efficiency to be fairly tested, and the Declaration of Peace having been signed, my Government intends to hold a plebiscite during the year, for or against the retention of the Act, and to submit such questions as may be deemed advisable to be voted on at such election.

At no time in the history of the world has there been a greater demand for practical instruction. The outstanding lesson of the recent war was the need of more technical knowledge, and very many of those who served overseas are taking advantage of the opportunities afforded them in the Vocational Schools of the Dominion Government. It is a pleasure to note in this connection that the larger communities are taking advantage of the provisions of the New Brunswick Act to encourage and assist vocational instruction, and a beginning has been made toward that technical knowledge which will be of such advantage to the men and women of the future.

The Government of this Province was represented at the recent Congress held at Washington for the discussion of industrial relations and labour laws,