

grateful thanks to Divine Providence for the blessings of peace and good will which have prevailed among our people throughout the past year.

During recess, the Province was honored with a visit from His Excellency Lord Byng of Vimy, Governor General of Canada, accompanied by The Lady Byng of Vimy, who received a most cordial and hearty welcome from all classes of our population. The splendid reception accorded His Excellency was not only on account of being the representative of His Majesty, but also by reason of the distinguished services he has rendered the Empire during the Great War, when he so successfully commanded the Canadian troops, and thus endearing himself to our people long before his call to the high post of Governor General of our fair Dominion.

Climatic conditions during the past summer were not favorable to the Agricultural interests. Owing to the long-continued dry weather the farm crops did not reach the average production, but notwithstanding this, fair prices were obtained and marketing conditions have shown considerable improvement over those of previous years, and, generally speaking, those engaged in the important industry of Agriculture are encouraged and more hopeful for the future.

During recess, my Government has endeavored to give a new impetus to Agriculture by encouraging the greater development of the dairy branch of that industry, and I am pleased to inform you that the creameries at Moncton and St. Hilaire have had a very successful season. My Government has also put forth renewed efforts to encourage Agriculture along scientific lines, and with this object in view has established an Agricultural School at Fredericton, where short courses free of tuition are being given to the sons and daughters of our farmers, and already good results have been obtained from the work of the first courses given in that institution.

My Government recognizes that dairying is the key note of our system of mixed farming, and, bearing this in mind, every effort will be made to encourage our farmers to give closer attention to this branch of Agriculture.

The subsidy from the Federal Government in aid of Agricultural Education has, I regret to inform you, been cancelled. As a result of such action on the part of the Federal Government, the Provincial Department of Agriculture will have to provide funds from the Provincial Treasury to carry out, at least, part of the programme inaugurated under the federal aided scheme.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the outlook for our lumber industry is much brighter than during the first months of the past year. The ravages of the bud worm have practically ceased, but I regret to say that the damage caused by this insect has been very great. The unprecedented dry summer and the want of caution on the part of persons frequenting our forests resulted in great damage by fires, and had it not been for the very efficient system of protection, the losses from this source would have been very much greater. With the view of giving still greater measure of prevention of fires, my Government has abolished the practice of burning slash in the spring and fixed a date for such work to be done during the fall months. It is hoped that by this method a great source of hazard will disappear. It is pleasing to note that the lessees of Crown Lands co-operated to the fullest extent in suppressing and preventing forest fires as well as in salvaging the lumber from the fire-affected areas. As a result of this co-operation the lumber cut this year will be a record one in the history of the Province.

My Government has had under consideration, during recess, the adoption of means to further encourage the development of the mineral re-