

date, be asked to consider such legislation as will be deemed advisable for the development of water power in that section of the Province.

During recess, my Government has continued to urge upon the Federal authorities the claims of New Brunswick in the matter of the transfer of the natural resources of the western provinces, and I am pleased to inform you that the three Maritime Provinces have reached the decision to act jointly in pressing these claims.

The negotiations carried on looking to the taking over by the Federal Government of the wharves constructed and maintained by the Provincial Government have met with a large measure of success. Already more than one-half of these wharves has been taken over and the Province has been relieved of a very heavy burden. We have every reason to hope that the transfer of the remaining wharves will take place in the near future.

The conferences between the Provincial and Federal Governments with respect to the acquisition of the St. John & Quebec Railway have not yet reached the stage where it would be possible to give you any assurance of success. My Government will continue to urge the claim of the Province with all possible diligence.

The question of Immigration and Colonization has been the subject of several conferences between my Government and the Federal authorities. While it was the opinion of all interested that Immigration should be encouraged, my Government very strongly favored the adoption of every means possible to encourage our own people to remain at home and help in the development of our natural resources. The decision has also been reached that every endeavor should be put forth to induce those of our Province, who have emigrated, to return to their native soil. So far as Immigration is concerned, only those immigrants will be accepted who may be able to assimilate themselves with the conditions prevailing in this Province and thus add to our progress and prosperity. With this object in view, special advertising will be carried on in the mother land and elsewhere setting forth the advantages of New Brunswick from an agricultural and industrial viewpoint.

The Empire Exhibition to be held in London during the present year will serve to bring before the world the possibilities of Canada as an agricultural and industrial centre. In conjunction with the several provinces of the Dominion, New Brunswick will have an exhibit of its various products and it is hoped by this means that capital will be attracted to aid in the development of our natural resources. My Government has now under consideration the proposal to have at this Exhibition one or two representatives who will be in a position to give all possible information touching the possibilities of the Province along agricultural and industrial lines.

During recess, my Government has appointed a commission to investigate and report upon the question of Mothers' Pensions, and so soon as they have completed their work the report will be submitted for your consideration.

The Department of Health has given every attention to that which is looked upon generally as being the country's principal asset, the health and lives of the people. I am pleased to announce that the general death-rate of the Province has been reduced from 15.6 in 1920 to 13.1 in 1922 and we may fairly anticipate for the year just past a rate well below 13 per 1000 population. With regard to infant mortality the reduction has been equally pronounced, the rate falling from 134.9 in 1920 to 103.3 in 1922, per 1000 living births. These reductions compare very favorably with those made by the other Canadian provinces during the same period.