

that a more equitable system of adjusting freight rates on all Canadian railways be adopted, and my Government desires to assure you that no effort will be spared to bring about such a change as will be deemed equitable and fair to the Maritime Provinces. My Government is firmly convinced that the terms under which the Maritime Provinces entered Confederation fully justify all the demands now being pressed upon the Federal authorities for a betterment of existing conditions.

The Maritime Provinces being recognized as the gateway of the Dominion of Canada, my Government has persistently, during recess, demanded that our Canadian ports be utilized to the fullest extent for the importation of all goods for use in Canada and the exportation of all Canadian goods destined to foreign ports. It is only by utilizing our ports to their fullest that the Dominion can hope to hold her own in the industrial development of the American Continent.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that the Federal Government, has, since our last meeting, and in pursuance of their policy of 1922, taken control of some more of the provincial wharves. The number still remaining in the possession of the Provincial Government is very small and the assurance has been given that in the very near future the balance of these wharves will be taken over, thus relieving the Province of the burden of their maintenance.

Negotiations relative to the acquisition of the St. John and Quebec Railway by the Canadian National Railways are still in progress, and have reached a point where my Government feels justified in expressing the hope that this railway will soon be taken over by the Dominion authorities.

The Commission appointed to investigate and report upon the question of Mothers' Pensions have completed their work and their report will be submitted for your consideration. My Government is endeavoring, before submitting any definite proposals to you, to obtain as far as possible the views of all municipal bodies, as it is considered that this matter is of direct interest to them and may entail burdens which they should not be called upon to entertain without having had sufficient time to give to the same their very best and most careful attention.

The splendid financial standing of our province was once more demonstrated by the recent sale of bonds, which this year again have been disposed of more advantageously than those of any other province, thus indicating the continued confidence of the investing public.

You will be asked to consider Bills to amend the New Brunswick Electric Power Act, 1920, to amend the Act for the Construction of Highways, to amend the Bastardy Act and other public Statutes, in addition to other measures to be submitted for your consideration.

*Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly—*

I have directed the accounts of the income and expenditure for the past fiscal year, together with a statement of the receipts and payments of the current year, up to the opening of the present Session, to be laid before you. Estimates of