

Several of my Ministers attended a Conference at Toronto held at the instance of the Maritime Provinces Association of that City. They found a notable effort felicitously conceived and generously supported by residents of Ontario who have had their origin in the Maritime Provinces and who desired to promote further trade relations between their adopted and their mother Province. This and subsequent conferences have resulted in the establishment in Toronto of a Trade Commissioner who will represent the Maritime Provinces and for the support of whose office you will be asked to make a suitable appropriation.

The visit of representatives of the British Empire Parliamentary Association made a marked impression upon the intellectual life of this community, besides enabling our people to acquire a wider vision of the conditions which confront other portions of the Empire in their desire for mutual accord.

I am glad to inform you that negotiations for the transfer of the Valley Railway have progressed to a point where it is anticipated that a speedy conclusion will not be delayed and which will afford substantial financial relief to the Province.

I have caused to be brought to the attention of the Federal Government the claim of the Province that its financial relation to the Dominion should be considered in connection with the claims of other Provinces to natural resources, not in the sense of claiming for us a proprietary right in such resources but that there should be parity of treatment of all the Provinces.

My Government by legislation introduced last Session expressed its desire to render available The Dominion Farm Loan Act to those interested in agriculture who might benefit by its provisions. The Commissioner, Hon. Dr. McLean, has recently visited this Province and is now engaged in visiting other Provinces which have adopted the Act. When he has completed this preliminary work I hope to see the Act functioning in New Brunswick.

The subject of Old Age Pensions has occupied the attention of my Government and in view of the uncertainty as to the probable cost of the administration of that measure it has been decided to appoint a Commission to investigate and report upon the subject.

As a direct result of the policy of my Government pulp and paper mills are being constructed at Dalhousie and at Athol in the County of Restigouche. Mills will also be built at or in the vicinity of Chatham and on the opposite bank of the Miramichi River as well at a site to be determined. The industrial expansion consequent upon these constructions will exceed that of any period in the history of the Province.

During the year my Government felt that the time had arrived when the issue of school books could be made absolutely free up to and including the eighth grade, and I feel that this act has met with the approval of the country.

In the Department of Public Works, a Superintendent of Maintenance has been appointed and the heavy work of engineering supervision has been separated from the ordinary administration of the Department. Changes have been made