

His Excellency the Governor General and Lady Willingdon visited the Province on their return from the West Indies and were tendered a reception at Saint John by the Government of the Province.

The sale of the Saint John and Quebec Railway to the Canadian National Railways was completed during the past year by negotiation without the necessity of resorting to any tribunal to adjust the matter. While the difference between the amount received and the total cost of the road to the Province will still remain a subject of claim on the part of the latter, yet we should acknowledge that the subject has been dealt with in a fair spirit and in accordance with the recommendation of The Royal Commission on Maritime Claims.

My Government has been informed that The Board of Audit has been instructed by the Treasury Board of Canada to continue the investigations recommended by The Royal Commission on Maritime Claims. In that portion of their report which points out that in any readjustment the territorial limits of the Maritime Provinces entitle them to still further consideration the Royal Commissioners suggest that the Dominion government should give immediate consideration to the whole subject with a view to a complete revision of the financial arrangements as between them and the Maritime Provinces. My Government appreciates the fact that this investigation will be a useful preliminary to a discussion between the Federal and Provincial governments as to the method by which an adjustment may be made in a field considerably wider than that with which the Audit Board can deal.

A Commission has been appointed to consider and report upon the matter of Old Age Pensions. After the Commission had commenced its work representatives of organized labor pointed out that in their opinion the question of Mothers' Allowances was of equal if not greater importance. The Commission has therefore been requested to report upon this subject as well in order that the fullest consideration may be given to both projects.

During the Session Honourable Members will be invited to witness at Dalhousie the opening of the largest paper mill in the Maritime Provinces, which has been constructed by the International Paper Company under its agreement with the Province. Fraser Companies' sulphite mill at Athol, constructed under a similar agreement, will commence operations about the same time.

The year has been noted for a considerable improvement in agriculture. Central fruit packing plants where apples can be graded and shipped co-operatively are to be established. The value of field crops has shown marked increase. In order that production may be further stimulated by bringing additional land under cultivation the Department of Agriculture will be enabled to give assistance for this purpose by way of bonus or otherwise.

The tourist traffic has fulfilled expectations, and indications point to still greater yearly expansion.

It is proposed to appoint a Commission to survey the whole field of education with a view to giving greater aid to poor districts and a general extension of educational facilities.

You will be asked to approve of a measure appropriating a sufficient sum of money to provide, during a series of years, for the hard surfacing of the main trunk thoroughfares of the Province.