

As a result of the reduced revenues it was not possible to maintain the level of preceding years in highway and bridge construction. However, a substantial amount of highway was reconstructed, many improvements made and a number of permanent bridges built during the year, and the condition of the roads was maintained to a high standard by patrol and ordinary work. The patrol system was extended so that at the present time it covers over three thousand miles of highway.

My government has dealt systematically and energetically with the problem of unemployment. In co-operation with the Federal government and the Municipalities, an extensive and Province-wide programme of construction work was carried out. A registration system was introduced in order to provide, so far as possible, for the proper distribution of relief work. This has involved large expenditures of public monies and has necessarily lessened the amounts available for other purposes. In addition to the relief work referred to, arrangements have been made with the various Municipalities for assistance by direct relief, so far as this may be necessary.

The tourist and recreational facilities of the Province comprise an ever increasing source of revenue for our people. It is pleasing to note that, despite the economic conditions, the number of tourists entering the Province was greater during the past year than for the previous year. The various fishing leases expire this year and plans have been made for the sale of these leases in the month of April next for a further period of ten years.

During the summer the new coal-burning plant of the New Brunswick Electric Power Commission, erected at Grand Lake, adjoining the Minto coal fields was completed. Transmission lines have been completed to Fredericton and Moncton. Power from that plant is now being used at Fredericton and in the adjoining towns of Marysville and Devon, as well as at Minto and Chipman. At Moncton it is also used to supplement the power from the Musquash system. It is the purpose of the Commission to proceed with extensions in the central portion of the Province as expeditiously as may be, having regard to the economic conditions and the character of the localities to be served. It is gratifying to note that the Commission has made a contract with the coal operators at Minto for a quantity of approximately 20,000 tons of coal per year for use at their plant, thus materially increasing the output of the mines at Minto and providing employment for a large number of our own people. I am glad to inform you that the Commission have been able this year to show a surplus in the operation of their Southern System.

During the year the new Normal School, replacing that destroyed by fire in the year 1929, was completed, and was formally opened with appropriate ceremonies. This building is both pleasing in its architectural features and is excellently designed and equipped to carry on one of the most important services of the Province.

The Commission appointed to investigate and report upon the subject of Workmen's Compensation has completed its work and the report will be presented at an early date. A measure will be presented for your consideration, embodying recommendations which require legislative sanction.