

In conformity with a recent judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, to the effect that the dissentient minority of the people of Manitoba have a constitutional right of appeal to the Governor General in Council against certain Acts passed by the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba in relation to the subject of education, I have heard in Council the appeal, and my decision thereon has been communicated to the Legislature of the said Province. The papers on the subject will be laid before you.

The depression in trade which has prevailed throughout the world for the past few years has made itself felt in Canada, but fortunately to a less degree than in most other countries. Although this has not resulted in any considerable decrease in the volume of our foreign trade, yet, owing to low prices and recent reductions in, and removal of, taxation, it has been followed by a serious decrease in revenue derived from Customs and Excise. In order to produce equilibrium between revenue and expenditure for the coming year, it will be necessary to observe the greatest possible economy in the appropriations for the various branches of the public service.

During the period that has elapsed since the last Session of Parliament, I have had an opportunity of visiting many portions of the Dominion, including the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, the North-west Territories and British Columbia. Throughout these tours I have been impressed and gratified by manifestations of an abounding loyalty and public spirit; and notwithstanding the phase of trade depression already referred to, I observed everywhere unmistakable signs of that confident hopefulness in the future, based on a thorough belief in the greatness of the resources of Canada, which is one of the characteristics of her people, and which furnishes a good augury and pledge of further development and progress.

The Government of Newfoundland having intimated its desire to renew negotiations looking to the admission of that colony into the Dominion of Canada, a sub-committee of my advisers have recently met in conference a delegation from the Island Government and discussed with them the terms of union. It will be a subject of general congratulation if the negotiations now pending result in the incorporation of Her Majesty's oldest colonial possession into the Canadian Confederation.

Measures relating to bankruptcy and insolvency, and to joint stock companies will be laid before you. You will also be asked to consider certain amendments to the Insurance Act, to the Act respecting Dominion Notes, to the Dominion Lands Act, to the Indian Act, to the North-west Territories Representation Act, as also a Bill respecting the land subsidy of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I have directed that the accounts of the past year shall be laid before you. The Estimates for the ensuing year will also be presented. They have been framed with every regard to economy compatible with the efficiency of the public service.

*Honourable Gentlemen of the Senate :*

*Gentlemen of the House of Commons :*

I now leave you to the discharge of the important duties devolving upon you with an earnest prayer that being guided by the spirit of wisdom and patriotism your deliberations may, under the divine blessing, conduce to the unity and well-being of Canada.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire, and the House of Commons withdrew.

The Honourable Sir Mackenzie Bowell, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, presented to the Senate a Bill intituled: "An Act relating to Railways." The said Bill was read for the first time.