

The House, with that courtesy and kindness which has characterized the members of this branch of the Legislature since its first opening, received my financial statement last year, in a manner highly flattering to me. May I ask again the same favorable consideration of the House, on the present occasion?

I shall endeavour to make my remarks as brief as possible, as clear and definite as I can—and, should I fail in making the House understand the true position of affairs—past and future—I trust the House will, as in the past, give me credit for a desire to afford every information required, and will rest assured that there is no attempt on the part of the Government, or my own, to withhold information of any kind whatever.

On a previous occasion I had to state that it was impossible for me to give but a partial statement of the financial standing of the Province, owing to the arbitration between Ontario and Quebec not being finished. I regret being obliged to state on the present occasion, that the same inability exists which then existed.

There has been considerable progress made towards laying before the Arbitrators the claims of the Province, and several meetings were held in Ottawa and Montreal, in attempting to obtain due consideration of the claims of this Province before the Board. Circumstances, however, occurred which led the Quebec Arbitrator to resign his commission—to decline acting longer in connection with his colleagues, because he felt himself in a position where he could not obtain that justice for our Province to which she was entitled, and would no longer remain in a false position and give his countenance to the perpetration of a gross injustice to Quebec; or lend the sanction of his name to a court, whose preliminary judgments in a manner compelled the continuation of a course decidedly contrary to those principles of law and equity which should govern such an investigation.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Day, a gentleman whose reputation as Lawyer and Judge stands as high as that of any man in the country—whose opinions and decisions on questions of law are respected, and are quoted by all our