

out of projects contributing to the development and embellishment of our old Provincial capital.

#### THE TAX ON COMMERCIAL CORPORATIONS.

In 1882, the Chapleau Government imposed a special and direct tax on Banks, Insurance Companies, Railways and other bodies. The corporations concerned refused to pay and a great number of suits were taken out and pleaded before the Courts, incurring considerable costs which had already, on our coming into power, reached a sum of nearly \$50,000. These suits, carried in appeal to the Privy Council, in England, had been suspended in 1886, the year of the general elections: it is easy to surmise the reason. It was our duty to bring the matter to an end; we therefore, as early as the month of April, instructed Mr. Geoffrion to go to England and to press the suits with all despatch. Mr. Geoffrion brilliantly succeeded and secured judgment in favor of the Government.

The collection of the tax was speedily made, and at the present moment we have received more than half a million of dollars from that source. Corporations which, after that final judgment, refused to pay, have been sued and must pay, for they can no longer escape condemnation. We apply this law, because it is the law; but we believe that, in its application, it inflicts certain injustices which will soon be made to disappear, as well in the interest of the companies as in that of the Province. And if our plans with reference to the readjustment of the federal subsidy, as accepted by the Interprovincial Conference, succeed, as we have reason to hope, the Treasury of the Province will then be in a favorable enough condition to permit the Government to consider the opportunity of doing away altogether with this tax.

#### CROWN LANDS

Up to this, we were principally concerned about increasing the revenue. Thanks to the changes which we have made in the regulations respecting woods and forests, we have increased by almost \$50,000.00 per annum the receipts arising from ground rents and by \$100,000 those arising from timber dues. We have organized a system of inspection which will enable us to prevent the frauds that