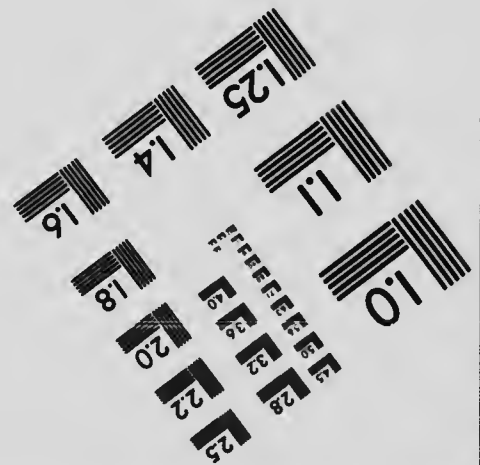
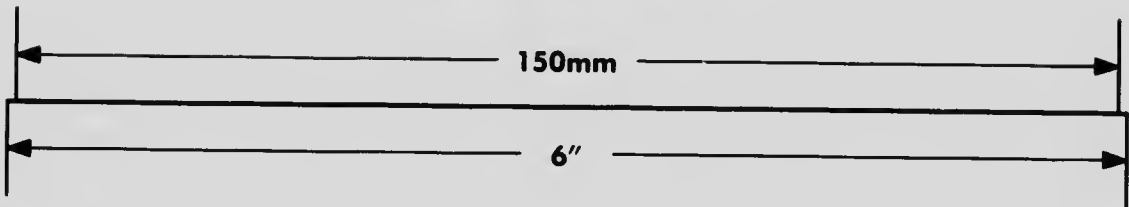
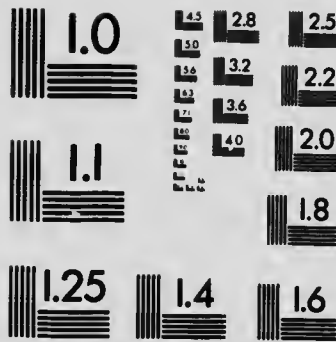
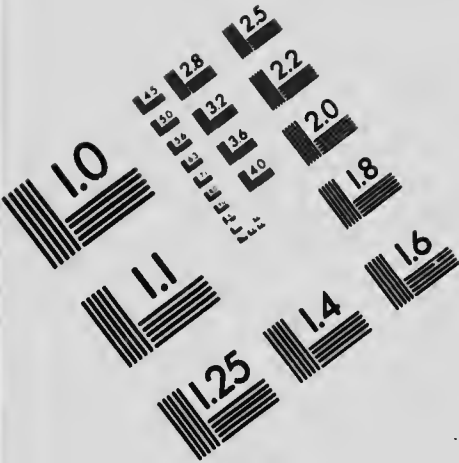


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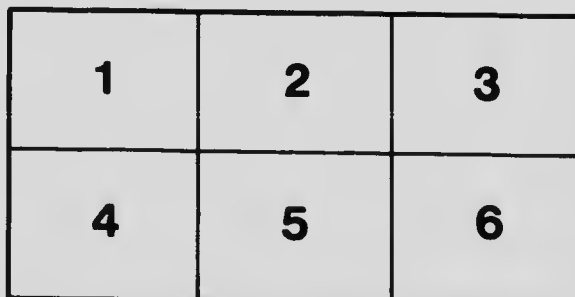
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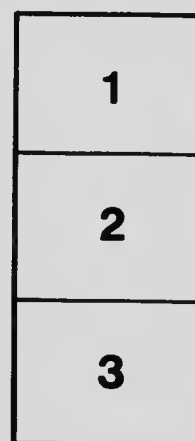
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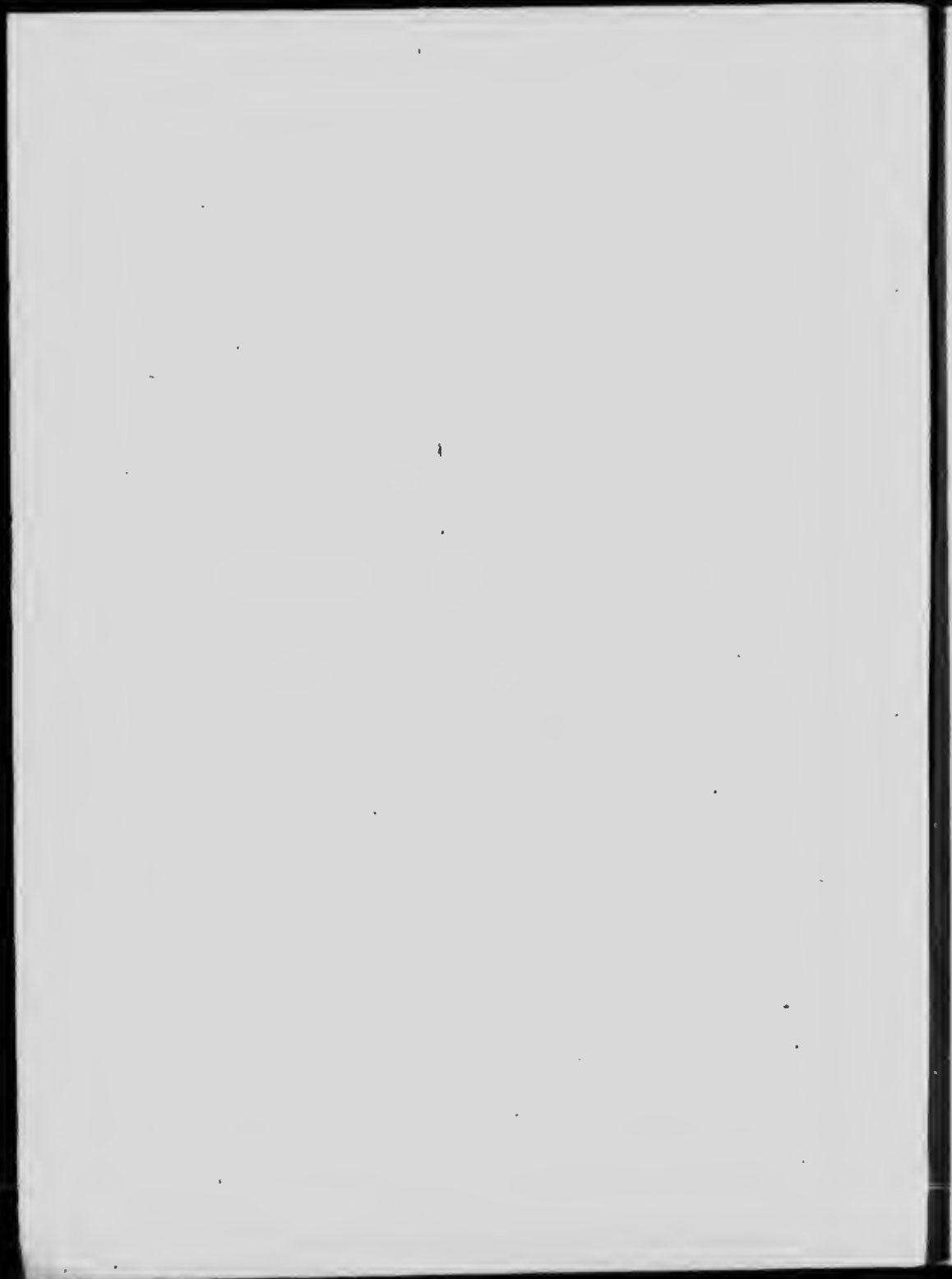


ELECTIONS OF 1919

**THE
GOUIN
GOVERNMENT
AND
ITS WORKS**

**FOURTEEN YEARS OF PROGRESS
AND SOUND ADMINISTRATION**

QUEBEC, 1919



WHY AN ELECTION ?

On June 23rd the voters of the Province of Quebec will be called upon to exercise their right of suffrage. Upon their decision will depend the Government of the Province for the next five years.

Why should there be an election at the present time? The reason is very simple. The whole world has passed through a sea of blood. A new world is in the making. There are innumerable difficulties. Important problems demand an immediate solution. There is one question especially pressing for the Province of Quebec—the marked, disequilibrium between the rural and the urban population. We must stop without delay the current which threatens to empty our cities and to depopulate our rural districts. There is no time to lose. The government solicitous of its duty has adopted a new colonisation policy to meet the situation. Before beginning work it desires to submit this programme to the people. What could be more just?

That is not all. When it was decided to establish throughout the province a proper system of roads the Gouin Government was authorized by the electors to expend a sum of twenty million dollars for that purpose. This amount has now been expended. In order to continue this work it is necessary to incur new expenses. The people who have to pay have the right to be consulted. What again is more just than that?

Mention has been made of the immediate needs for colonisation and roads. The needs of agriculture and public instruction must not be forgotten. The Government considers that in its program of national reconstruction agriculture and public instruction must rightly have a large part. Who will dare to say that it is wrong?

There are governments which hold on to power and who only submit their acts to the people at the last minute. These are generally bad governments. They are those which fear to be judged by their peers.

The Gouin Government has the satisfaction of duty well accomplished. It has nothing to hide. It therefore appeals to the people with the utmost frankness and the fullest confidence.

Sir Lomer Gouin and his Government have confidence in the electors. Unlike some other public men, Sir Lomer Gouin believes in the people; he realizes that he and the members of his Government are the servants of the people, that the electors have the right to be consulted on important questions. He believes in the justice of the people, that they will approve of good and faithful administrators and for that reason he is ready to submit his acts for their approval.

REASONS FOR ELECTION

Let the Prime Minister himself be heard as to his reasons for consulting the electors at the present time.

Sir Lomer Gouin in announcing the dissolution of the Legislature said:—

“The recent and spreading uneasiness throughout the country caused by the *post bellum* conditions, is uneasiness which must not be allowed to grow, but for which a remedy must be found. Unfortunately, this uneasiness seems to be increasing instead of decreasing. We must not wait until it is too late to act. Reconstruction we feel is the remedy, and it must begin at once if the Province is to maintain its proud position among the provinces of Confederation, and in order that the Government may undertake this work, it is deemed advisable that an appeal should be made to the people, and our mandate renewed.

“We have, during the war period, endeavoured to keep the Province in a good position, in order to be able when peace was made, to undertake the development of all the great public services. Although we have done much a great deal remains to be done.

“*More must be done for Colonization and Agriculture. Education must be stimulated: More roads must be improved: Water powers must be developed. Manufactories established:*

Production must be increased, and the cost of living must be lessened for the people.

"We have endeavoured to conduct the affairs of our Province with steadfastness. *Thrift and Economy* has been our motto, and to-day at the close of the war, our Province in is a sound position financially and economically. Now, however, Reconstruction and Progress must be added to our motto.

"The war is over. We must go ahead. We must progress. No opportunity must be allowed to slip.

"We had a war mandate. We want a peace mandate."

"Before beginning on the great undertakings of reconstruction, which will take time and money to carry out. We want a sufficient mandate to *"go ahead and carry on."*

"We do not want to begin the work and be told by reactionaries and pessimists, or by our opponents, that we have no mandate: to wait for a new mandate. Why should we not now, when on the threshold of a new period, be allowed to forge ahead uninterrupted, with the knowledge that we have the confidence of the electorate.

"Nobody will be taken by surprise. Everyone has been talking elections for weeks.

"The Government has spent approximately \$20,000,000.00 on Good Roads. All that it has been authorized to borrow. If the Government had not spent the \$20,000,000.00 the Net Debt of the Province would not be over \$12,142,517.64, which would be the smallest per capita debt of not only any province, but of any country.

"The whole excess of the debt over \$12,142,517.64 has been invested in roads, or in other words, in Capital Account, which has increased the value of farm lands along the roads to a sum far exceeding the amount expended.

"Education is more than ever the question of the day and everything must be done in order that the people of this Province may compete with advantage and maintain its rightful place among the provinces of Confederation.

"Water powers must be developed, which means the dotting of this Province with manufacturing centres such as Three Rivers, Grand'Mère, Shawinigan, Chicoutimi, Sherbrooke, Drummondville and other centres.

"Cheap power means more manufacturing and more business: More manufacturing and more business, means more work: More work, more employment: More employment, more money: More money, more labour: More labour, more consumption of foodstuffs: More foodstuffs, more work for the farmer all of which mean better living conditions and general prosperity for all classes of the community.

"To carry out all this, money must be expended. It may be necessary to borrow, but now is the time for investment.

"We propose to spend \$5,000,000.00 in aiding, assisting and encouraging colonization, and to make in addition substantial increases in the grants in aid of agriculture, so that the great undeveloped riches of our Province may be made more productive, and the back to the land movement and increased production encouraged.

"We also propose establishing more technical schools, and assist in the training and equipping of our workmen.

"The Government which begins should be allowed to complete the work.

"There are millions of money in the Banks, \$1,814,753,-641.00 in Canada, and fabulous sums in the United States waiting for investment. The credit of the Province is of the best. Its bonds bring the highest prices in the New York and other markets. Our municipal bonds are sought after.

"Let us see that the millions of our own money, and many more millions of American and other money thus waiting is invested here.

"It is not time for business as usual. It is time for optimism, not a time for pessimism and reaction, or let well enough alone. It is time for full steam ahead. We must be so authorized by our principals.

"We believe in Democracy, and we ask for authority to begin, undertake and carry out a programme of reconstruction.

"We do not feel that we should do so without a direct mandate from the people, whose servants we have been, and whose servants we are. If the people have confidence

in our administration to carry out this great and important work it will give us the authority. It will give us the mandate and we will carry it out, as we have always endeavoured to carry out the people's will, in the past, on sound business principles, and with but one aim, the prosperity and progress of our Province and Country.

"What the electors have now to decide by their votes is—Is the Gouin Government entitled to a renewal of the support which it has had for the past twenty years?"

SIR LOMER GOUIN'S CAREER

Let the electors first consider the record of the man who is at the head of the Quebec Government.

Sir Lomer Gouin has been a member of the Legislative Assembly since 1897; He was Minister of Public Works, then Minister of Colonization from the 3rd October, 1900 to the 4th February, 1905, and has been Prime Minister and Attorney-General since the 23rd March, 1905; which is a sufficient guarantee that he is thoroughly familiar with the general administration of the affairs of the Province.

It is true that Sir Lomer Gouin has been a minister and even Prime Minister longer than any one in the Province who has been called to preside over one department of the Government. But the shareholders or associates of a financial institution do not dismiss their manager; an employer does not discharge his employce for the sole reason that the manager or employee has faithfully served them for seven eight or even twelve years. And why should it be otherwise when the administration of the Province is at stake.

Moreover Sir Lomer Gouin has been a model Prime Minister and his passage to power will be epoch making in the history of the country for none of his predecessors have done so much for the progress and welfare of the Province of Quebec.

A capable and upright politician he has given this Province an administration which even his adversaries are pleased to cite as an example to our sister provinces. A shrewd and prudent administrator, he has inaugurated a series of reforms which will soon place this Province in a leading position in the pacific

struggle waged between the various provinces, a fluent and vigorous speaker, he has been an honour to this country wherever he has represented the Province.

Doubtless Sir Lomer Gouin might after more than twenty-four years good and loyal service to his Province seek repose from the burden of politics; he might if he considered only his personal interest return to his law office in order to again build up his large practice, but it is essential, it is most necessary that he should remain at the head of the Province of Quebec to continue his work of reform and of progress. He is surrounded by lieutenants of integrity, who are active, energetic and enterprising. And it would be a great loss for the Province to be deprived of these men when they are about to place it in the first rank of the Confederation.

Not only does Sir Lomer Gouin enjoy in his own party the authority which his personal prestige, his great talent as an orator and administrator and his fine career as a just and honest man give him, but even his opponents are obliged to acknowledge his ability and his merits and to admit the great work which he has accomplished for his Province.

TRIBUTES TO SIR LOMER GOUIN

Let the people of Quebec consider the tributes to Sir Lomer Gouin that have been made from many and various sources. Here are some of the most striking:—

Montreal Star, (Oct. 2nd, 1917): "Sir Lomer, with his efficient government of Quebec, has cast honor on the name of French-Canadian. It is to be hoped that Sir Lomer will continue to display the public spirit and the courage which have hitherto characterized him....."

Financial Post, (Feb. 17th, 1917): "But the Liberals have a man who might, if the opportunity were vouchsafed, become the Canadian Lloyd George. Let them go down to Quebec and take the measure of Sir Lomer Gouin. His record speaks of efficiency and of action".

The Wall Street Journal, (New York, Jan. 15th, 1917): "Well he may, as his record in the upbuilding of the province, its

roads, its public utilities and its industries generally, no less than its political machinery—for Gouin is a real politician bred from the law office—is an enviable one.”

“*Morning Post*”, (London, Eng. Aug. 14th, 1917): “Sir Lomer is a very able politician, who has done his best for many years to develop the French-Canadian Province on modern business lines”.

Morning Post, (Oct. 6th, 1917): “He has a great brain, is a warm disciple of Baldwin and Lafontaine and knows the French-Canadian of these days better than anybody else. He has been Premier of Quebec for twelve years, and the proof of the pudding is in the eating.”

Toronto Saturday Night, (Feb. 2nd, 1918): “We congratulate Quebec on possessing so able, moderate and farseeing a statesman to preside over its affairs.”

Mooss Jaw News, (Sept. 12th, 1917): “Sir Lomer Gouin is one of the ablest men found to-day in the ranks of the Liberal party, and one who, in his own province, unites in himself the confidence of the English, as well as of the French-Canadians.”

Canada, (London, England, Feb. 1917): “The Province of Quebec is fortunate in possessing in Sir Lomer Gouin a Premier who, since he came into office nearly twelve years ago, has consistently and persistently used his increasing influence to bring about a better feeling and greater co-operation between French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians.”

LORD SHAUGHNESSY (*Montreal Gazette*, Nov. 13th, 1917): “We have with us here to-night one of our most distinguished citizens, the Premier of Quebec. We can say for Sir Lomer Gouin that he is an authority on things financial, since during his administration he has kept this province clear of the sandbanks upon which some of his neighbors have encountered such difficulties. We may not always see eye to eye with Sir Lomer on all questions that arise, but we all know that at heart he is

as good a British subject, as loyal a subject of the King, as any of us".

Toronto Mail & Empire, (Jan. 4th, 1918): "There are some things in Sir Lomer Gouin's public record that are open to criticism, but these do not greatly detract from the general estimate of him as a sober-minded, sagacious statesman".

The Weekly Tatler, (June 9th 1917): "The Premier of Quebec since 1905 is no self-advertiser, but prefers to let his achievements speak for him. So well have they spoken that Sir Lomer to-day stands out not only as the best premier that Quebec has ever had, but as one of the most able, astute, forceful and patriotic statesman to be found in all Canada".

Canadian Courier, (Toronto, Dec. 23rd, 1916): "Sir Lomer Gouin has the brains, the energy and the desire to work. He has also the knowledge of human nature. No man deals with him whom he does not read. And his readings are always a marvelous mixture of perspicacity and kindness. If Sir Lomer has succeeded and kept on succeeding in politics rather better than any other Premier at present holding office in Canada, it is because he is at heart a first-class man of affairs".

Quebec Chronicle, (Jan. 25th, 1918): "There are few public speakers left to us who can appeal at will to the whole range of human history as to a familiar friend. The Chronicle has never feared to oppose Sir Lomer, nor does it now hesitate to salute him as a credit to the Province".

Montreal Journal of Commerce, (Nov 26th, 1918): "Quebec was headed (to the Interprovincial Conference) by Sir Lomer Gouin, who has directed the affairs of this Province for some dozen years. Sir Lomer Gouin has immensely strengthened his position, and probably enjoys the confidence of the French-Canadian to a greater extent than any other man in the Dominion.

Toronto Saturday Night, Ont. (March 23rd, 1918): "Sir Lomer Gouin directs the destinies of Quebec Province with a firmness,

an equity and a sanity which makes him an outstanding figure among provincial leaders. Of his administration it can be said, as it was said repeatedly of the Whitney Cabinet, that it is a one-man Government—Not such a bad institution when the “one-man” is as just, honest, forceful and well-balanced as the two premiers in question”.

The Recorder and Times, Brockville, Ont. (Feb. 22nd, 1918): “When people sit down and calmly consider in the light of history the contribution of greatness to Canada’s public life, they invariably discover that Quebec Province has been a rich donor in this respect. Sir Lomer Gouin ranks up with the best of them, and the manner in which he has conducted the affairs of the sister province during the past few years indicates a wealth of ability, a storehouse of horse-sense and a presence of integrity and honesty.”

Montreal Star, (Jan. 23rd, 1919): “Sir Lomer Gouin has given this province in the main good government. He has won for himself high place and good repute. He has shown courage, determination and foresight.”

Montreal Herald, (March 3rd, 1919): Since the passing of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the public are realizing more than ever how fortunate it is for the province of Quebec that it has at the head of its Government a man of such outstanding ability as Sir Lomer Gouin. Sir Lomer is a man of broad view and his leadership during the past ten years has inspired unbounded confidence.

The above extracts will show what is thought of Sir Lomer Gouin by the newspapers of the Province of Quebec and of the Dominion, both English and French, whatever their political ties or their religious opinions. The people too have their opinion of the value of Sir Lomer and the merits of his policy. That opinion was expressed with great clearness, conviction and eloquence on June the 8th, 1908, the 15th May, 1912 and May 22nd, 1916. On June 23rd next they will express it with equal vigor and clearness and will give to the distinguished

Prime Minister of Quebec a new testimony of admiration, sympathy and confidence.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Let the people compare the record of Sir Lomer Gouin with that of Mr. Sauvé. Elected member of the Legislature in 1908, Mr. Sauvé for several years remained undecided. No doubt he hesitated into whose arms he would throw himself, into those of Mr. Bourassa or into those of his former Chief Mr. Tellier. Both having disappeared there only remained for him to throw himself into the arms of Mr. Philémon Cousineau who, one fine day, without knowing how or why, inherited the mantle of Cartier and Chapleau. The general election took place on May 22nd, 1916. Mr. Cousineau did not return to the House but the mantle did, this time on the shoulders of Mr. Sauvé who was consecrated leader.

Since then Mr. Sauvé has made much noise in the Legislature he has been active in his criticisms, he has indulged in a great deal of fault-finding. But what constructive policy has he enunciated, what proposal has he submitted that would benefit the people, what crimes has he been able to attach to the Government? None whatever. His only policy has been one of criticism. There is nothing so easy as to criticize and nothing so difficult as to accomplish. Mr. Sauvé has been lavish of criticism but laggard in accomplishment. The Gouin Government on the other hand has accomplished a great deal as its record shows.

Mr. Sauvé in order to give himself the airs of a martyr is complaining bitterly that the Government decided to hold an election at the time when the Conservatives were preparing for a convention. The argument is a purile one. The interest of the Province must certainly be above the interest of the Conservative party. Moreover, is it the fault of the Government if the opposition prefer to live in a mortuary chamber rather than to undertake a reorganisation of their forces. Since the last election there has been talk of such an organisation.

As for Mr. Sauvé's nationalistic tendencies we have only to invoke Gen'l Smart's testimony who repudiated the Leader of the Opposition in a meeting held in Westmount, according to the report of the Montreal Gazette of the 30th May, 1919.

PROGRAMME OF THE GOUIN GOVERNMENT

Now the Government must be judged by its record and by the programme which it has to submit to the electors and not by what Mr. Sauvé has to say of it.

Sir Lomer Gouin has been Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec since 23rd March, 1905.

On April 5th, 1905, in a speech which he delivered at the Montcalm School, Montreal, he traced the programme which his government intended to follow.

This programme was an amplification of the late Hon. Marchand's and may be summed up as follows:

- Equilibrium in the finances;
- Economy in expenditure;
- Vigilance in the collection of revenue;
- Increase of receipts by the imposition of a tax on stock exchange transactions, by vigilant administration of public domain, and by the readjustment of the Federal subsidy.
- Division of the duties of the Minister of Lands, Mines and Fisheries;
- Development of primary education;
- Foundation of new normal schools;
- Encouraging the raising of teachers' salaries;
- Establishment of technical schools;
- Establishment of schools for higher commercial studies;
- Development of agricultural instruction;
- Improvement of rural roads;
- Encouragement of colonization;
- Creation of new colonization reserves;
- Aid to colonization railways;
- Protection of workmen in factories;
- The passing of an act respecting accidents to workmen;
- Respect for autonomy of municipalities.

Sir Lomer Gouin has proved since 1905 that he is both a man of word and a man of action. As we will show, his Government has not only carried out its pledges, but has done much more than it promised.

FEDERAL SUBSIDIES

Since Confederation it may be said that as a general rule the provincial finances were in a somewhat precarious position. Annual surpluses were rare and deficits common. When he arrived in power in 1905, Sir Lomer Gouin promised to maintain equilibrium in the budget. It may first be mentioned that one of his first steps was to organise an interprovincial conference at Ottawa and to insist upon obtaining from the federal authorities a readjustment of the Provincial subsidies. Several conferences had already been held in this connection but without result. But Sir Lomer Gouin considered that a readjustment was imperative. He pleaded the cause of the Provinces with ability and succeeded in convincing Sir Wilfrid Laurier who was then Prime Minister of the Dominion. Sir James Whitney, Conservative Leader of Ontario admitted that the success of the Conference was a personal success for Sir Lomer Gouin.

In Virtue of the readjustment the Province of Quebec, from July first 1907 to July 1st 1911 received each year \$599,865.60 more than it formerly received. The readjustment thus gave the Province during those four years an increase of revenue of \$2,399,462.40.

From the first of July 1911 to the first July 1921 the Province receives annually \$884,991.20 in addition to what it received by the readjustment or a total of \$8,49,912.00 for the ten years.

\$884,991.20 a year. That represents nearly half of the annual interest of the consolidated debt of the province. And the subsidies will increase at each census according to the population.

Sir Lomer Gouin also promised to practise economy. It will be acknowledged that his Government has not been an extravagant Government, on the contrary it has practised a wise economy by maintaining the expenses within the revenues. It has avoided in good as well as in bad years risky adventures. Of course expenses have increased from year to year, but they have increased only in proportion to the revenues, the richness and the population of the Province.

INCREASE IN REVENUE

Besides, if the revenue has increased it is due to the vigilance of the government which has always without weakness or favor collected all sums due to the Public Treasury.

The opposition has claimed that if receipts have increased it is simply because taxes were higher, but the following figures will show the exact facts.

Revenue from Game and Fisheries

1896-97.....	\$24,574.80
1905-06.....	69,141.07
1917-18.....	219,644.14

Revenue from Mines

1896-97.....	\$ 1,821.00
1905-06.....	43,536.10
1917-18.....	128,863.74

Lands and Forests

1896-97.....	\$853,497.46
1905-06.....	1,395,248.82
1917-18.....	1,610,109.71

Revenue from the Whole Public Domain

1896-97.....	\$879,893.26
1905-06.....	1,507,925.99
1917-18.....	1,958,416.00

In regard to the revenue from lands and forests the Government in 1912 increased the stumpage dues 50% and it has just increased them again almost as much.

That is how, where the moneys of the province are concerned, the Government acts although some people are pleased to maintain that the Government is controlled by the timber merchants, singular contradiction

FINANCIAL EQU LIBRIUM

The following figures will show how Sir Lomer Gouin has kept his promise to maintain the finances in equilibrium:

	<i>Ordinary Revenue</i>	<i>Ordinary Expenditure</i>	<i>Surplus</i>
1905-06.....	\$5,340,166.88	\$5,012,417.74	\$ 327,749.14
1906-07.....	5,270,594.74	4,691,250.42	579,344.32
1907-08.....	6,016,615.77	4,939,919.06	1,076,696.71
1908-09.....	6,082,187.39	5,441,880.22	640,307.17
1909-10.....	6,571,944.27	5,480,590.26	1,091,354.01
1910-11.....	7,032,744.99	6,126,834.95	905,910.04
1911-12.....	8, 70,109.19	7,022,796.26	1,047,312.93
1912-13.....	8,382,737.13	7,612,161.66	770,575.47
1913-14.....	9,000,376.73	8,091,726.66	908,650.07
1914-15.....	9,597,925.67	8,330,257.01	1,267,668.66
1915-16.....	9,647,982.77	9,278,688.08	369,294.69
1916-17.....	10,441,113.71	9,847,173.10	593,940.61
1917-18.....	13,806,390.97	11,423,497.73	2,382,893.24
Totals for			
13 years.....	105,260,890.21	93,299,193.15	11,961,697.06
Ann'l average..	\$8,096,991.55	\$7,176,861.01	\$ 920,130.54

If there is included in the expenditure the amounts paid each year for Public works, the construction of public buildings, etc., namely:—

In 1905-06.....	\$ 167,399.81
“ 1906-07.....	73,593.92
“ 1907-08.....	41,000.00
“ 1908-09.....	98,000.00
“ 1909-10.....	147,164.85
“ 1910-11.....	298,065.09
“ 1911-12.....	363,883.95
“ 1912-13.....	341,823.33
“ 1913-14.....	532,641.27
“ 1914-15.....	380,258.63
“ 1915-16.....	158,000.00
“ 1916-17.....	60,500.00
“ 1917-18.....	248,334.96

Total for 13 years.....	\$2,910,665.81
Annual average.....	\$ 223,897.37

The state of the finances is as follows:—

	<i>Ordinary revenue</i>	<i>Ordinary and extraordinary ex- penditure for public buildings and works</i>	<i>Surplus</i>
1905-06.....	\$5,340,166.88	\$5,179,817.55	\$ 160,349.33
1906-07.....	5,270,594.74	4,764,844.34	505,750.40
1907-08.....	6,016,615.77	4,980,919.06	1,035,696.71
1908-09.....	6,082,187.39	5,539,880.22	542,307.17
1909-10.....	6,571,944.27	5,627,755.11	944,189.16
1910-11.....	7,032,744.99	6,424,900.04	607,844.95
1911-12.....	8,070,109.19	7,386,680.21	683,428.98
1912-13.....	8,382,737.13	7,953,984.99	428,752.14
1913-14.....	9,000,376.73	8,624,367.93	376,008.80
1914-15.....	9,597,925.67	8,710,515.64	887,410.03
1915-16.....	9,647,982.77	9,436,688.08	211,294.69
1916-17.....	10,441,113.71	9,907,673.10	533,440.61
1917-18.....	13,806,390.97	11,671,832.69	2,134,558.28
Totals for.....	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
13 years.....	105,260,890.21	96,209,858.96	9,051,031.25
Ann. average...	8,096,991.55	7,400,758.38	696,233.17

WAR EXPENDITURE

It may be well to mention that it is owing to the accumulation of this annual revenue that the Government has been able without borrowing or taxing to pay the expenditure rendered necessary by the war. This furnishes a good answer to those who pretend that the surpluses are fictitious. Most of the Provinces have been obliged either to borrow or to impose a special tax in order to cover the expenses arising from the war. The following is a statement of the sums paid or subscribed by the Gouin Government in this connection.

To the Imperial Government.....	\$ 623,897.56
To the war victims in Belgium.....	30,000.00
Fund of the Secours National of France.....	39,096.46
Hospital of the French Canadian Parishes.....	5,000.00

British Sailors' Relief Fund.....	5,000.00
Canadian Patriotic funds.....	1,000,000.00
For the Victims of the Halifax disaster.....	100,000.00
National Unity Convention.....	5,000.00
Y.M.C.A. Red Triangle.....	25,000.00
Soldiers' Employment commission.....	18,000.00
Army Huts for the Canadian Soldiers.....	25,000.00
Canadian Red Cross and Navy league of Canada.....	100,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,975,994.02

CERTAIN PAYMENTS

There are certain sums paid by the Government which are not included in the figures of expenditure such as those which were advanced for the construction of the prison at Bordeaux, the court houses of Roberval and Montcalm as well as for the construction of the dams on the St. Maurice and St. Francis rivers. The payments are nothing more than loans which will be repaid to the Province as provided by 7 Edward VII, ch. 36; 1 Geo. V, ch. 5 and 2 Geo. V, ch. 6. Again in the case of the dams the annual dues which the Government will obtain from the riparian manufacturers in virtue of the Act 3 Geo. V, ch. 6 will permit it to gradually recover all disbursements.

But supposing that account is taken of the amount paid for the Montreal Jail	\$ 3,619,147.84
For the Court House and jail at Montcalm	85,611.25
For the Court House at Roberval	38,579.35
For the St. Maurice Dam	1,865,282.36
For the St. Francis Dam	400,420.54
	<hr/>
Or a total of.....	\$6,009,041.34

Subtracting these payments from the \$9,051,031.25. excess of revenue for the 13 years of the Gouin Administration, there is still an excess of revenue of \$3,041,989.91.

THE PUBLIC DEBT

From the official figures published annually by the Treasurer of the Province in his Budget Speech it will be seen that the

excess of debt over assets on March 23rd, 1905 was \$26,197,-286.10 or about \$15.00 per head and on June 30th, 1918 was \$32,142,517.64 or about \$13.51 per head.

It should be noted that in administrating public affairs the Gouin Government has allowed the public debt to be increased only in a much less proportion to the increase in the population of the Province so that if in the 13 years the excess of debt over assets has increased \$5,945,231.54 it is none the less true that per head of the population the debt has decreased about \$1.49.

Again if the excess of the debt over assets has increased \$5,945,231.54 in 13 years the fact must not be lost sight of that from 1912 to May 1st 1919 the Government expended for the improvement of roads a total amount of about \$20,000,000 either in virtue of the Good Roads Act of 1912 or under the ordinary road budget. It may therefore be most emphatically stated that if the Government had abstained from aiding in the development of roads not only would the excess of debt over assets not have increased \$5,945,231.54 but the consolidated debt would have decreased about \$14,000,000 and would not be approximately more than \$25 000,000 or \$10.50 per head. But it is idle to consider what would have been the result of an inaction which would not have been in the interest of the Province. It is more profitable to consider what has been done. In expending \$20,000,000 for roads the excess of debt over assets has increased only \$5,945,231, and on the other hand the value of the lands of the Province has been greatly increased. According to the testimony of American engineers, good roads in the State of Indiana for instance have increased the price of farms about \$6.48 an acre.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following statement gives a good idea of the financial situation on the 17th December, 1891, when the de Boucherville Government was formed; on the 26th May, 1897, when the Marchand Government was formed; on 23rd March, 1905, when the Gouin Government was formed, and on the 30th June last.

DIRECT LIABILITIES AND AVAILABLE ASSETS

	17th December 1891	26th May 1897	23rd March 1905	30th June 1918
LIABILITIES				
Funded Debt.....	\$25,209,873.33	\$34,225,747.42	\$34,731,016.16	\$39,827,769.55
Temporary Loans.....	150,000.00	.....	700,000.00	.....
Dominion of Canada—Balance of account to 31st December 1903.....	.....	.....	1,473,609.63	1,473,609.63
Dominion of Canada—Price of Property purchased for Q.M.O. & O. Railway.....	85,680.12	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Trust Deposits.....	258,243.25	281,468.26	423,189.44	712,447.97
Outstanding Warrants.....	149,600.21	21,955.71	20,276.21	751,516.85
Railway Company Deposits to meet guar- anteed interest on bonds.....	1,860,765.64	595,227.53	.....	.....
Loss on Exchange Bank Deposit.....	25,500.00	25,218.75	25,218.75	.....
Quebec Court House Bonds.....	200,000.00	200,000.00	138,400.00	41,200.00
Sherbrooke Court House Bonds.....	.....	.....	.....	60,000.00
Amount due to Banks (overdraft).....	.....	.....	722,103.93	.....
Total Liabilities.....	\$27,939,662.55	\$35,374,617.67	\$38,258,814.12	\$42,891,544.00

DIRECT LIABILITIES AND AVAILABLE ASSETS (continued)

	17th December 1891	26th May 1897	23rd March 1905	30th June 1918
ASSETS				
Price of Sale of Q.M.O. & O. Railway.....	\$7,600,000.00	\$7,600,000.00	\$7,600,000.00	
Railway grant under Dom. Act 47 V., c. 8....	2,394,000.00	2,394,000.00	2,394,000.00	
Slaking Funds.....			174,006.12	1,812,115.07
Trust Funds and Common School Fund in the hands of the Dominion.....			1,519,043.50	
Cash in Banks.....	893,491.27	789,328.54		1,169,009.37
Cost of Jacques Cartier Normal School, Montreal to be repaid from sale of prop- erty.....				999,484.94
Advance in re late Hon. Ths. McGreevy....	138,348.02	6,153.60	5,391.11	5,000.00
Advances to various parties.....	100,000.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	
New Gaol, District of Montreal, advances.	145,352.69	161,832.89	130,687.29	107,437.29
Montcalm District Court House, advances.				3,619,147.84
Quebec Court House Tax.....	200,000.00	200,000.00	138,400.00	85,611.25
Sherbrooke Court House Tax.....				41,200.00
Reberval District Court House, advances.				60,000.00
Storing of the waters on St. Maurice River, advances.....				38,579.35
Storing of the waters on St. Francis River, advances.....				1,865,282.36
Consolidated Revenue Fund, Investment....				400,420.54
				545,738.35
Total assets.....	\$11,471,191.98	\$11,251,315.03	\$12,061,528.02	\$10,749,026.36
Excess of Liabilities over Assets.....	\$16,468,470.57	\$24,123,302.64	\$26,197,286.10	\$32,142,517.64

SOME STRIKING COMPARISONS

Not long ago an important newspaper of Great Britain, the Financial Post said: "The Province of Quebec is the largest and richest of the Dominion. Its Government administers public affairs with prudence and economy. Its financial position is therefore excellent and its future full of promise".

In fact when the financial position of the other Provinces is studied, it will be seen that the Province of Quebec compares most favorably with them. Thus British Columbia had a debt of \$21,000,000.00 or \$52.50 per head according to the Census of 1911, without taking into account indirect obligations amounting to nearly \$75,000,000 or \$182.50 per head Saskatchewan had in 1916 a debt of \$24,000,000 or \$48.00 per head. Manitoba a debt of \$26,900,000 or \$58.50 per head. Ontario a debt of \$58,000,000 or \$23.00 per head. New Brunswick a debt of \$10,800,646 or \$30.85 per head and Nova Scotia a debt of \$13,410,980 or \$27.24 per head. New Foundland which may to-morrow seek to be annexed to Canada has a debt of \$38,163,000 or \$152.00 per head. Now the Consolidated Debt of Quebec is \$39,827,769.53 or \$19.75 per head of the population according to the census of 1911 or \$16.73 per head according to the provincial census of 1917, that is to say that it is the lowest of all the debts of the various provinces.

ANNUAL INTEREST CHARGES

It is the interest which a country pays annually that best shows how the public debt weighs on the country. The following shows the interest charges on the consolidated debt of the Province when the Gouin Government was formed, and on the 30th of June 1918.

23rd of March 1905.....	\$1,335,446.95	or \$0.75 per head
30th of June 1918.....	\$1,573,866.62	or \$0.66 per head

Thus from 1905 to 1918 there was a decrease of 9cts Per Capita. In other words in 1905 it required 25% of the revenue of the Province to pay the interest on the debt while in 1918 11 2/5% was sufficient for that purpose.

PROVINCIAL LOANS

The Liberals in 1897 promised the people to reestablish financial equilibrium and to administer economically without recourse to loans. From May 21st 1897 to July 1st 1912 only one loan was made, that of June the 30th 1897 to the amount of \$700,000. Under the Conservative Governments various loans were contracted which should have been used for certain specific ends defined by the laws authorizing these loans and for no other purpose. The Conservative Governments however used a portion of the produce of these loans to pay the expenses of the annual budget. It was in order to reestablish the balance on account of these loans that Mr. Marchand on June 30th 1897 contracted a temporary loan of \$700,000. This loan was repaid by the Gouin Government in 1906.

This was not the only loan that was repaid by the Gouin Government. The following is a statement of the amounts which have been paid from the 23rd of March 1905, to the 30th of June 1918, for repayment of permanent loans.

Loan of 1874.....	\$2,723,873.33
" 1876.....	3,111,746.67
" 1878.....	2,698,000.00
" 1882.....	2,493,080.00
On Loan of 1880.....	1,603,956.01
	<hr/>
	\$12,630,656.01
or with the temporary loan of 1897.....	700,000.00
	<hr/>
A total amount of.....	\$13,330,656.01

When he presented himself to the electors in 1912, Sir Lomer Gouin believing that the credit of the Province was very high, submitted to the people his new road policy. He declared that if it were necessary the Government would expend ten million dollars or even twenty million dollars in order to endow Quebec with a good system of roads. The people generously renewed their confidence in him and more than sixty Liberal members were elected.

It was from this date, after having received from the people

authority to undertake a vigorous road policy that the Government began to borrow. Before this date the ordinary revenues were amply sufficient for the existing needs. From January 1st 1913 to the present time the Government has at various times contracted loans which when consolidated represent a total amount of \$17,727,409.40, less redemption funds amounting to \$405,988.36. These loans were contracted under the most favorable conditions, thanks to the high credit which the Province enjoyed and the excellent reputation of its administrators. Take, for instance, the last loan of date June 1st, 1916. It was for \$4,000,000 at 5% for a period of ten years. This loan brought 99.20 whilst the Ontario loan brought only 99, that of Alberta 95.63 and the War Bonds of Great Britain, 97. In this Connection the leading Conservative newspaper the Montreal Gazette could not help admitting in its issue of November 17, 1916: "The loan of June 1st last, for \$4,000,000, bearing 5 per cent interest, was disposed of at \$99.20 per \$100. No province of Canada can equal such a record. Indeed, neither the Government of Canada nor of Great Britain in their recent borrowing transactions achieved anything so satisfactory. The reason is fairly evident. For twenty years Quebec, as regards population and commerce, has been the most progressive province of Canada. Its agricultural and manufacturing industries have steadily advanced. Its Legislature and municipalities have not joined in the riot of socialism that is loading some of the provinces with heavy debts for unproductive enterprises."

QUEBEC'S UNIQUE POSITION

This testimony in regard to the unique situation of the Province of Quebec is far from being an isolated one, as will be seen from the following extracts taken largely from Conservative newspapers.

The Ottawa Journal Press of Feb. 7th, 1918:—"There is something of virility and progressivism about the present Government of Quebec that compels admiration. For many years after Confederation Quebec was cursed by a series of weak, dishonest, and incompetent administrations—the MERCIER, FLYNN,

MARCHAND and PARENT Governments were mediaeval, reactionary and extravagant—with the result that in English-speaking Canada Government in the French province became synonymous with backwardness and incompetence. The administration of SIR LOMER GOUIN, however, has wrought a evolution in Quebec, and students of political economy in other provinces might profitably turn their attention to what his administration is achieving along numerous progressive lines.”

The Montreal Gazette, Jan. 12th, 1918:—“The total of the debt, however, is moderate, compared with those which other provinces carry. The record altogether, as shown in the financial statements of recent years, is one in which all concerned may feel satisfaction.”

Quebec Chronicle, Jan. 12th, 1918:—“The showing made by the Provincial Treasurer in his annual Budget speech, as to the finances of Quebec, *must be a matter for general satisfaction as proof of healthy economic life.* The cabinet has certainly done well to meet the unprecedented difficulties of the present time and come out of a third year in the great war with a neat surplus on hand.

It is, finally, an act of mere justice towards a people who have often been unfairly aspersed that the English-speaking Minister should emphasize the very material support which his government has lent to Federal War Loans and kindred activities.

Sir Lomer Gouin has always been credited with maintaining an unusually efficient business administration and, though the budget under consideration will doubtless offer room for useful criticism in some of its details, we believe that the public will be inclined to receive this account of his financial stewardship with favor.”

Journal of Commerce, Nov. 21st, 1916:—“If Quebec is sometimes regarded as a slow Province, its public men can justly claim that it is sure and sound. When the wave of depression swept over a large part of Canada in 1913-14 there was no Province that stood up better than Quebec. The industry and thrift of the people formed a basis on which prosperous trade was carried on at a time when in some sections of our country

there was a marked falling away of activity. That prosperity has continued through the war years, and as present to-day. That the future has many economic problems that will need solution we all know. There is no part of the Dominion which is in a better position to face these problems with courage and confidence than the Province of Quebec. The people of the Province can be heartily congratulated on the excellent state of Provincial financial affairs as disclosed in Hon. Mr. Mitchell's very interesting speech."

Montreal Gazette, February 15th, 1919:—"While the talkers have been stirring up mischief, the workers have been sawing wood. Quebec with the most conservatively minded people in Canada, industrious and enterprising, has been going ahead in the matter of trade and population, manufactures and agriculture. It is relatively free from socialistic agitation and the socialist dependence on the Government for help for every new enterprise or public activity. When in other provinces legislatures thought they had to pass moratorium acts, in Quebec no such action was taken, and people made their preparations to pay their debts when due. Men of affairs appreciate what such conditions mean, and the province benefits. This is all well for Quebec, and well for Canada. It suggests that the people of the province need not worry themselves over much about the ongoings of uninformed critics. They have the solid gains."

TAXES

Mr. Sauvé and the Conservatives pretend that in 1897, the Liberal party pledged itself to govern without taxes and that since, year after year, new taxes have been created while those establish previous to 1897 were increased. The fallacy of such preterensions is easily proved.

It is false that in 1897 the Liberal party pledged itself to govern without taxes. The Conservatives themselves have plainly contradicted that statement by voting, the 26th March, 1908, upon a motion presented by Mr. Bernard, which will be found on page 164 of the Votes and Proceedings for 1908.

Moreover the following extract from the programme speech delivered by the late Mr. Marchand at Sherbrooke, on the 14th October, 1896, contains no such statement.

This is what he said:

"The true policy of a Government desirous of placing our Province in the financial and political field in which she belongs may be summed up in a few words—Its first duty is to reduce by the most vigorous economical measures, the entire year's expenditures, ordinary and extraordinary, within the limits of the annual revenue and to do away with the necessity of imposing new sacrifices on the people, so long as by such means, they can be exempted."

Thus, Mr. Marchand had promised, not to govern without taxes, but to increase the revenue without imposing new taxes so long as it would not be strictly necessary. He has kept his word. His successors have equally followed the same policy and have only created new taxes on the day when with the approval of the people and the consent of the electors, they deemed it their duty to promote more efficaciously the interests of public instruction and to adopt a more progressive policy relating to the improvement and construction of roads.

The Liberals, we must render them this testimony, have never imposed but equitable taxes affecting not only the poor as the Conservatives had done, but those who could well afford the luxury of speculating in stocks, travelling in automobiles, hiring private detectives to spy on honest people, etc.

Mr. Sauvé and his friends, say:—

Since you have a surplus every year why impose taxes?

And these good Conservatives invariably end in reproaching the Government for having a surplus, as if it was a mark of administrative capacity not to economize part of its revenues either with a view of repaying the public debt or for other purposes.

The Conservatives, it is well known possess a special talent for foolishly spending the people's money. They have shown this in Quebec, they have shown it at Ottawa since 1911 and they have also given evidence of it in British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario. ▲

SUCCESSION DUTIES

It was in 1892, under the de Boucherville Administration that the first law was passed in this province imposing a tax on successions.

According to that law, all successions in the direct line, ascending or descending or between consorts, had to pay a duty of 1% if their value exceeded \$10,000; if not, they were exempt from the duty. As for successions in the collateral line or between strangers, they were subject to a duty ranging from 3% to 10%, according as the heir was more or less nearly relative to the deceased.

It was soon discovered that most of the successions were transmitted in direct line or between consorts and that they were generally inconsiderable, for the tax only produced \$40,313.59 in 1892-93. And as the ministers of the time had great need of revenue, they had the tax amended in 1894.

By this amendment of 1894, the Taillon Government aimed especially to reach successions devolving in the direct line or between consorts. Therefore, the exemption was reduced from \$10,000 to 3,000 and, instead of imposing as in 1892, a uniform duty of 1% on successions over \$10,000, a tax ranging from 1-2% to 3% according to the figure of their value was imposed on successions, \$3,000 being in all cases the limit of exemption from it. As for the rate of the tax on successions in the collateral line or between strangers, it remained practically the same.

The "taxers" attained their end, for the tax on successions which had brought in \$40,313.59 in 1892-93, brought in \$229,441.00 in 1896-97.

The Act of 1894 was not altered before 1906.

In 1906, the Gouin Government revised the law and re-adjusted the taxation on a more equitable basis.

1. The limit of the exemption in successions in the direct line, between consorts, or between father or mother-in-law and son or daughter-in-law was changed from \$3,000 to \$5,000.
2. The duty on successions in the direct line, or similar, of a value exceeding \$75,000, was slightly increased, but reduced on those under \$75,000.
3. The tax on successions in the collateral line was also slightly increased.

4. An exemption was also enacted in favor of the first thousand dollars of legacies for religious, charitable or educational purposes.

As may be seen, these provisions of the act of 1906 are much more equitable than those of the act of 1894, since they lighten the burden that weighed on small inheritors.

The act of 1906 was further amended during the session of 1912. By the latter amendment, successions in the direct line or between consorts, or between father or mother-in-law and son or daughter-in-law are completely relieved from the tax, when they do not exceed \$15,000.

This Act was revised and modified as to its form during the session of 1913-14, as the result of a decision of the Privy Council in the case of Cotton versus The King, but no essential modification was made thereto and the scale of duties remains the same contrary to what took place in Ontario which also was forced to revise its Act.

What were the results of the amendment of 1912? Statistics established:

1. That whilst the number of successions opened increases yearly, the number of successions subject to duty decreases.

2. That, though the duty was not increased and the exemption augmented from \$5,000 to \$15,000, the revenue increased by 50%. Reason:—augmentation of private wealth and increase in the importance of successions.

3. That the number of successions subject to duty has considerably decreased in the rural districts and the duties collected on such successions have equally diminished to a marked degree.

TAX ON COMMERCIAL CORPORATIONS

This tax was created in 1882.

In the campaign of 1912, the Gouin Government had promised to re-adjust this tax. In the autumn session of 1912 he deposited a bill to that effect. According to the law then in force the tax was:

1. One-eighth of one per cent on the paid-up capital up to one million dollars, and \$50 per additional \$100,000 or fraction thereof;

2. \$50 for each business office, manufacturing plant or shop in the cities of Montreal and Quebec, and \$20 in any other municipality.

One-eighth of one per cent is equivalent to \$125 per \$100,000. Why charge \$125 on the ten first \$100,000 of the paid-up capital and only \$50 on each additional \$100,000? This was certainly not equitable. The Gouin Government proposed to reduce the tax to one-tenth of one per cent on the paid-up capital whatever the amount of such capital.

In this way the tax on companies with a capital stock not exceeding one million of dollars was reduced by 20% and the companies with capital stocks of several millions of dollars were taxed the same as the small capital stock companies.

Thanks to the concourse of the Liberal members, all companies, whether large or small, are on an equal footing before the law and the companies with a capital not exceeding one million of dollars are paying 20% less than in 1912. Moreover the tax imposed on business offices, manufacturing plants or shops was reduced from \$50 to \$30, for the cities of Montreal and Quebec, and from \$20 to \$15 for the other municipalities. This tax had not been modified since 1882.

The above changes had the effect of considerably reducing the tax on companies.

It has been said that the tax on corporations is calculated to discourage industry and to drive it to other provinces. This pretension does not hold and the official statistics and the testimony of our adversaries plainly show its fallacy.

L'Evenement on the 23rd May 1914, expressly declared. The industrial capital of the province is increasing by leaps and bounds from day to day; New companies are more and more numerous.

Another Conservative newspaper, "The Gazette," made the same statement in its issues of the 30th November, 1914, 4th January and 11th January, 1916.

Let us see what statistics have to say:

In 1895-1896, the Provincial Government incorporated 19 companies with an aggregate capital stock of \$1,814,700.00;

Now in 1909-10, 180 new companies were incorporated with an aggregate capital stock of \$28,374,765.00, in 1911-12, 247 with an aggregate capital stock of \$30,239,746.75 and in 1912-13, 393 with an aggregate capital stock of \$39,408,414.00.

After a slight drop caused by the crisis of the war there were incorporated in 1918, 195 companies with a capital of \$40,733,-999.00.

AUTOMOBILE LICENSES

The Government also had an act passed requiring owners and chauffeurs of automobiles to take out a license for driving those vehicles over the roads of the Province. But that obligation was imposed, not for the purpose of increasing the revenue, but to protect the public. Since then, it has been found that the automobile is the vehicle which does most damage to the roads and the price of the license was raised. It should be added that the Automobilists' Association agreed to this increase on the condition that the proceeds should be applied to the improvement of the roads. And this was the reason why the Government had a law passed appropriating to road improvements the revenue from automobile licenses.

SOME OTHER TAXES OR LICENSES

The Government has also imposed a tax on stock market operations. Nobody will find fault with that. It has also imposed on Private detectives the obligation of taking out a license which is a measure in the public interest. It has created a bureau of Censors for moving pictures and imposed a light tax on each film. This is a measure of morality upon which it is to be congratulated. It has also imposed a tax on places of amusements as well as on each ticket according to its value. Such a tax exists in other countries and in France it is particularly onerous. Frequenting the theatre is a luxury and it is just that those who have the means of going should contribute to the State. At the last Session it was decided to abandon the revenue from this tax to the Municipalities. The Government has also imposed a license on automatic machines its object being to regulate the use of these machines a number of which have not been operated honestly and also to discourage their expansion.

In brief the Government has acted wisely and it has not imposed onerous burdens on the people. There are few countries

in the world where taxation is lighter than in the Province of Quebec, or where it is imposed in a more equitable manner.

EDUCATION

It is sometimes claimed by those ignorant of the facts that not enough is done in the Province of Quebec for education. But what does the record really show? When the Gouin Government came into office in 1904 the annual expenditure on education in the Province was only \$480,760. Last year the expenditure for educational purposes was \$1,581,454. and since 1904 the Gouin Government has expended in the interests of education throughout the province no less a sum than \$15,299,000. As regards technical education the Montreal Technical Institute, one of the finest institutions of its kind in the world, owes its existence to the wise policy of the Quebec Government in promoting technical instruction amongst the masses. While that institution at the outset had only a few pupils it has grown from year to year until now it has over 800 pupils, who are being trained to take their places in the industrial life of the country. The "Ecoles des Hautes Etudes", another institution established and subsidized by the Quebec Government, is also doing splendid work in the training of youth. The first purely business course ever created in Canada has been established at this institution and is filling a long felt want. Nor are these two institutions the only ones of the kind that owe their existence to the government. Similar institutions have been established at Quebec, Three Rivers, Shawinigan and Sherbrooke and others are to be created at other centres, so that it will be seen that the Government fully recognizes the importance of meeting the demands for technical instruction which will mean so much to the welfare of the Province in the future.

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

In his speech outlining his programme, Sir Lomer Gouin had placed Public Instruction in the first rank, and he has kept his word. No government has ever done as much for the development and advancement of education. The official figures prove this in an irrefutable manner.

GRANTS FOR PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

1905-06.....	\$ 534,460.18
1906-07.....	538,949.5
1907-08.....	561,960.00
1908-09.....	737,600.00
1909-10.....	783,592.88
1910-11.....	969,390.09
1911-12.....	1,177,233.06
1912-13.....	1,383,415.31
1913-14.....	1,435,515.26
1914-15.....	1,452,772.90
1915-16.....	1,521,176.41
1916-17.....	1,578,361.36
1917-18.....	1,581,454.80

That is to say that since he is at the head of the Province the Government has spent \$14,255,881.75 for public instruction.

The above figures \$1,581,454.80 do not include the whole amount voted for educational purposes. To have the whole amount the following appropriations should be added:

Agricultural Schools.....	\$ 37,641.00
Veterinary Schools.....	7,090.00
Housekeeping Schools.....	34,238.00
Dairy Schools.....	15,000.00
Forestry Schools.....	8,000.00
School of Surveying.....	5,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 106,969.00

GRANTS TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The primary school is the basis of our educational system and the Government has not forgotten it.

For over 30 years, the appropriation voted annually for public schools was \$160,000.

In 1911, the Gouin Government raised that appropriation to \$200,000, an increase of \$40,000.

This sum of \$200,000 is distributed to all the schools in the province under the control of commissioners in proportion to the number of school children inscribed on the registers.

But, the Government wished, above all, to aid the rural municipalities and to that end it added other appropriations.

Thus, in 1908, an appropriation of \$50,000 was established in favor of rural municipalities which pay each of their teachers a minimum salary of \$100. Later this minimum was raised to \$120.00.

In 1909, this appropriation was increased to.	\$ 75,000
In 1910, it was increased to.....	100,000
In 1911, it was increased to.....	125,000

Later new appropriations were created in favor of municipalities: one of \$60,000 to be distributed to rural municipalities which pay each of their teachers a minimum salary of \$150; another of \$30,000 to be distributed to rural municipalities which pay at least \$175 to each of their teachers; and a third of \$10,000 to those which pay \$200,000 to each of their teachers.

Thus, instead of sharing, with the cities and towns, in the distribution of \$160,000, the rural municipalities now share in the distribution of \$200,000; and, moreover, they share in the distribution of \$225,000 between them, on the sole condition of paying a minimum salary to their teachers.

RESULTS

The efforts that the Government has made to promote the work of the primary school and, more especially, to increase the salaries of the teachers, have produced happy results. That such salary is not sufficient remuneration and that the Government is endeavoring every day to increase it by all possible means, is certain. But to maintain that the Government should be held responsible for the "starvation salaries paid to those teaching the young", is a statement made either in bad faith or dense ignorance. The teachers are engaged and paid directly by the school commissions which act in full liberty. The Government has nothing whatever to do with the engagements entered into between the school commissioners and the masters or mistresses. The only intervention possible was precisely that which it took by instituting the policy of bonuses in favor of the municipalities paying suitable salaries to the

teachers. The Government thus only merits congratulations for its laudable initiative.

BONUSES TO TEACHERS

The Liberal Government has done more to improve the lot of the teachers. From 1897 it gave a bonus of \$20 to those who were found most deserving by the school inspectors.

A sum of \$17,491.70 was provided for this purpose in 1917-18.

From 1906, the Gouin Government, in order to encourage teachers to persevere in their career, decided to give a further grant of \$20 or \$25 to teachers who taught for 10, 15 or 20 years.

A credit of \$31,500 is voted annually for this purpose.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE TEACHERS' PENSION FUND

In 1909, the Gouin Government increased by 50% the appropriation in aid of the teachers, pension fund.

In 1911, it had an enactment passed that, in future, the pension of a female teacher should not be under \$75.

In 1912, it had an enactment passed that the pension of a male teacher should be increased by 50% provided it shall not exceed \$300.00.

The amounts paid by the Government to the teachers' pension fund were as follows:

In 1914-15.....	\$	46,985.00
In 1915-16.....		47,021.00
In 1916-17.....		47,164.00
In 1917-18.....		47,205.00

GRANTS TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

In 1897, an act was passed authorizing the Government to spend \$50,000 in aiding elementary schools.

Later, in 1905, the Gouin Government had that amount increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and, in 1907 to \$150,000.

Thus, still one more appropriation has been trebled.

GRANTS TO MODEL SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

Certain model schools and academies receive a special grant direct from the Government.

The amount paid to model schools and academies Protestant and Catholic in 1917-18 was \$69,282.

SPECIAL GRANTS TO BOYS' MODEL SCHOOLS OR ACADEMIES TAUGHT BY MALE TEACHERS

In 1911, the Gouin Government had \$10,000 voted to encourage rural municipalities to entrust their boys' model schools or academies to male teachers. This grant was later increased to \$14,000.00.

The conditions are as follows:

1. That the annual salary of the teacher with a diploma be \$400.00 at least;
2. That if there are more than one male teacher, each one shall receive a minimum salary of \$250.00.

The number of Municipalities benefiting from this fund increases annually.

AID TO POOR SCHOOLS

The Gouin Government has not neglected poor municipalities.

The amount of subsidy voted annually is \$25,000.

BONUSES TO THE MOST DESERVING MUNICIPALITIES

In 1905, the Gouin Government decided to grant bonuses to school municipalities making the strongest efforts to promote the progress of education and to follow the school regulations.

An amount of \$11,000 is voted annually for the payment of premiums.

SCHOOL INSPECTION

To render the inspection of schools more efficient, the Government has compelled the inspectors to visit the schools of their districts at least twice a year, has increased their salaries and appointed two inspectors general, one for Catholic and the other for Protestant schools.

The amounts paid by the Government for the school inspection are:

1904.....	\$ 36,000.00
1911.....	67,000.00
1912-13.....	75,000.00
1914-15.....	84,000.00
1918.....	92,000.00

In 1912, two general inspectors, one for Catholics and the other for Protestants were appointed by the Government.

Their functions consist of superintending the work of school inspectors, to appreciate the services of each inspector, to inspect Normal schools, to see to the uniformity of school inspection, etc.

FOUNDATION OF NORMAL SCHOOLS

It is needless to lay stress on the importance of giving our teachers a good professional training. In all countries, the normal school is the nursery of good teachers. - Therefore the Gouin Government deemed it a wise measure to found normal schools in all parts of the province.

The following table shows the importance of the work done by the Government of late years:

Number of Schools	Grants paid
In 1896: Jacques-Cartier, for boys.....	} \$ 43,000.00
Laval for boys.....	
Laval, for girls.....	
McGill, for boys and girls.....	
In 1905: Jacques-Cartier, for boys.....	} 50,681.68
Laval, for boys.....	
Laval, for girls.....	
McGill, for boys and girls.....	
Jacques-Cartier, for girls.....	

In 1918: Jacques-Cartier, for boys.....	}	185,000.00
Laval, for boys.....		
Laval, for girls.....		
Jacques-Cartier, for girls.....		
Macdonald, (in lieu of McGill), for boys and girls.....		
Rimouski, for girls.....		
Chicoutimi, for girls.....		
Nicolet, for girls.....		
Three Rivers, for girls.....		
Valleyfield, for girls.....		
Hull, for girls.....		
Saint-Hyacinthe, for girls.....		
Joliette, for girls.....		
St. Pascal, for girls.....		
Sherbrooke, for girls.....		

Out of a total of 15 normal schools in the Province 10 were established by the Gouin Government. The result is that whereas only 252 pupils attended the normal schools in 1870, there were 366 in 1896; 425 in 1905; 1,088 in 1912 and 1,361 in 1916-17. The number of female lay teachers with normal school diplomas teaching in Catholic schools was 200 in 1896 291 in 1905 ; 687 in 1912 and 1,237 in 1918. The results is that rural schools have become much more efficient due to the wise policy of Sir Lomer Gouin in Educational matters.

BOYS' COMMERCIAL ACADEMIES

In 1908, the Gouin Government added a fresh appropriation to the Estimates to encourage the building and maintenance of new commercial academies for boys.

The appropriation has been increased from year to year and is now \$50,000.

Since 1908, the Government has given grants for building commercial academies in all the counties of the Province.

NIGHT SCHOOLS

The Gouin Government has not neglected to encourage the night schools which Mercier formerly established in this province.

The following statistics show that these schools are becoming more and more popular.

	Number of classes	Number of scholars	Grants paid
1895-96.....	34	1762	\$ 6,791.00
1917-18.....	155	5121	21,123.00

DRESS-CUTTING AND SEWING SCHOOLS

In 1897, the Marchand Government inaugurated schools in this province where dress-cutting and sewing are taught. The following statistics show the progress made in this teaching.

	Number of schools	Number of scholars	Grants
1897-98.....	1	48	\$ 300.00
1904-05.....	25	1485	6,400.00
1917-18.....	155	5121	\$ 15,977.00

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND MANUFACTURES

These schools have been in existence for a very long while. It must be said that they are losing their importance since the establishment of technical schools. They are, however, pretty well attended by workmen.

	Number of schools	Number of pupils	Grants
In 1895-96.....	7	851	\$ 10,000.00
1904-05.....	8	2059	15,000.00
1917-18.....	43	2489	16,000.00

SUPERIOR EDUCATION

UNIVERSITIES

Until 1912 the province gave an annual grant of \$4,000 to Laval University in Quebec, a grant of \$8,000 to Laval University in Montreal and its faculties of Law and Medicine; a grant of \$3,000 to McGill University, and one of \$1,200 to Bishop's College, Lennoxville. The grants voted were certainly not

proportionate to the services rendered by those institutions; therefore the Government thought, that it should grant them more substantial aid.

The universities of Laval, in Quebec, Laval, in Montreal, and McGill now receive \$25,000 each and Bishop's College \$2,500.

The appropriations to Universities now amounts to \$77,500 namely \$61,300 more than in the past.

SCHOOL OF SURVEYING, QUEBEC

In 1897, the Gouin Government founded a school of surveying in Quebec. This school, which gives a complete course of surveying is to some extent a faculty of Laval University in Quebec. The Government pays it a yearly grant of \$5,000.

MONTREAL POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL

This school has been about 30 years in existence. Its beginning was very modest. In 1897, ten years after its foundation, it still had less than 20 students. Since then, as it improved its teaching the number of students increased. Nearly 150 students now follow its courses.

The present Government has not been sparing of its aid and support as may be seen by the following statement of grants to it:

1904-05.....	\$	13,000.00
1917-18.....		40,000.00

The Government cannot be reproached with having been too generous to that institution because it is a nursery of most competent engineers who cannot fail to render great services to our province.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

In 1906, the Gouin Government decided that it was time to establish real technical education in this province and to supply the lack of initiative on the part of municipalities. Moreover, the establishment of technical schools was eagerly called for by the people and by the Council of Public Instruction.

In 1907, two acts were passed incorporating the Corporation of the Quebec Technical School and that of the Montreal Technical School, and authorizing them to establish and direct schools for technical teaching.

The corporations set to work. They bought grounds and, after preparing plans and calling for tenders, they had the necessary buildings erected for establishing schools adequate to the requirements of Montreal and Quebec.

These schools have now been open since September, 1911; they give lectures during the day to young men who have finished the primary course of study and lectures at night for workmen or apprentices already employed in factories.

The number of students enrolled exceeds all expectations.

Nobody has anything to say now against the foundation of these technical schools.

Since 1912 a sum of \$10,000 is annually voted for the maintenance of technical schools outside of Montreal and Quebec. A technical school has been established at Shawinigan, one at Beauceville and another at Sherbrooke.

The number of pupils attending the various Technical schools in 1917-18 was 1,400.

It may be added that, since 1907, the Government pays a yearly grant of \$5,000 to the Montreal Technical Institute to aid it to give industrial lessons at night.

At the session of 1918 an Act was passed incorporating the Three Rivers Technical School, the Government agreeing to guarantee its debentures up to \$150,000 and to give it an annual subsidy of \$10,000.00.

At the last session of the Legislature, Acts were passed incorporating Technical Schools at Sherbrooke, St. Hyacinthe and Hull under similar conditions.

To sum up, the Government gives annually for technical industrial teaching:

To the Montreal Technical School.....	\$	40,000.00
To the Quebec ".....		30,000.00
To Technical Schools outside Montreal and Quebec....		10,000.00
To the Montreal Technical Institute.....		5,000.00
To the schools of Arts and Manufactures.....		16,000.00
Inspector of Technical Education.....		1,000.00
	\$	<u>102,000.00</u>

All these yearly grants are given only since Sir Lomer Gouin came to power, with the exception of that to the schools of Arts and Manufactures.

SCHOOL FOR HIGHER COMMERCIAL STUDIES

When the school for Higher Commercial Studies and Technical schools were established in 1907, Sir Lomer Gouin could not of course foresee the war nor the period of reconstruction that was to follow the war.

He could not have acted with greater foresight than he did if he had foreseen them. What is required by the Province to-day is trained men to take advantage of our national riches; men of affairs thoroughly posted on international trade. It is such men that this school will provide.

That the school for Higher Commercial Studies is one of the best equipped schools existing, that its courses of studies are the most effective, no other proof is required than the remarkable success it won at the Lyon Universal Exhibition, in 1914.

The jury was composed of the principal men of note of the French university world.

After having examined the plan of the school for Higher Commercial Studies, its courses of studies, its methods, the jury awarded it, a gold medal diploma. This success won by our Commercial University is so much more remarkable as it is customary to grant only secondary awards to institutions exhibiting for the first time, and the school had not been long enough in operation to show the results of its teaching as other higher commercial schools exhibiting.

AGRICULTURE

Let us now briefly consider what has been done by the Gouin Government to aid that most important element of our population—the farming community and to increase production in the Province—a most vital consideration, at the present time.

Agriculture is the very backbone of the Province of Quebec. It is acknowledged by bankers and business men that the Province of Quebec has withstood the economic strain of the great war better than any other Province of the Dominion. While there has been great uncertainty and almost panic in

some places there has been a steady stream of prosperity in Quebec and economists nearly all attribute this to the favorable position of this Province in the matter of agriculture.

The satisfactory manner in which the Province has been able to withstand the economic and financial strain of the war is largely attributable to the saving habits of the rural population and to the ever increasing progress of agriculture, which has been developing yearly, thanks to the enterprising spirit of the farmers and to the wise policy of the Provincial Government in aiding the agricultural community. During the past thirteen years the Gouin Government has spent more than \$6,000,000 in helping the farmer to produce more and, in addition to this large expenditure, enormous sums have been spent on roads throughout the Province, for the purpose of improving transportation, with the result that no less than 2,500 miles of macadam and gravel highways have been built in the Province—equal to all the gravel and macadam roads constructed in all the rest of the Dominion. The beneficial character of this work is shown by the fact that the value of realty along the highways has increased from 35 to 50 per cent, the farmer has been vastly benefitted by improved transportation facilities and the natural beauty spots of the Province have been opened up to the tourist and motorist. What this will mean to the future welfare of the Province is not yet fully realized but it must be plain to all that good roads must be a prime factor in the Province's prosperity.

What has been done by the Quebec Government to aid the farmer of the Province is of the most vital importance for agriculture is the basis of a nation's prosperity and manufactures and trade cannot progress where farming is on the decline.

The following figures showing the amounts disbursed by the Provincial Government for agriculture during a period of years is both instructive and illuminating:—

1905-06.....	\$ 218,600
1906-07.....	218,800
1907-08.....	228,210
1908-09.....	286,026
1909-10.....	317,300
1910-11.....	436,653
1911-12.....	426,047

1912-13.....	436,133	}	575,616
Federal subsidy.....	139,482		
1913-14.....	450,480	}	609,962
Federal subsidy.....	159,482		
1914-15.....	398,500	}	585,909
Federal subsidy.....	187,407		
1915-16.....	470,861	}	686,171
Federal subsidy.....	215,310		
1916-17.....	502,700	}	745,912
Federal subsidy.....	243,212		
1917-18.....	764,249	}	1,035,362
Federal subsidy.....	271,113		

This sum of \$1,035,362 does not include the grants made in 1918 for the campaign of increased agricultural production for which there was expended a sum of \$120,000.

The Gouin Government has therefore since it has had direction of affairs expended for agricultural development a sum of \$6,489,560 or within the past three years a sum of \$2,587,445. But that is not all.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE IN FAVOR OF FARMERS

The annual agricultural budget does not show all the monies paid out to Farmers. They also derive great benefit from the sums granted yearly to colonization roads, rural roads, the building of bridges, the redemption of tolls, etc.

The following table shows the total expenditure in favor of farmers during the single year 1918:—

Agriculture.....	\$	1,035,362
Greater Production Campaign.....		120,000
Colonization Roads.....		308,048
Improvement of rural roads.....		613,009
Iron Bridges.....		303,285
Abolition of Tolls.....		70,145
Total.....		<hr/> \$2,449,849

"GREATER PRODUCTION"

The Gouin Government has given special attention to the conditions arising from the great war. Food products as the result of the war became scarce. In the interest of the Province of Quebec the Gouin Government last year began a campaign for greater production and this has had marked results. Some of the steps which the Government took to this end were:

1. Facilitating the purchases of seed grain needed by the farmers on advantageous terms;
2. The purchase on excellent conditions of feed and keeping the farmers posted on the fluctuations of the market with the obtaining for the farmers of all possible guarantees;
3. Obtaining from the Railway Commission of improved transportations facilities;
4. To make up for the reduction of sows in the spring of 1918 the Government bought a considerable number which it resold on good terms to the farmers;
5. When restrictive measures were placed on sugar the Government bought a certain quantity which it placed on favorable terms at the disposition of the bee-keepers, in proportion to the number of their hives;
6. In the interest of the farmers the staff of the Department of Agriculture was considerably increased;
7. An official was placed without charge at the disposition of farmers who wished to construct or improve their farm buildings and the demands in this connection have been very numerous;
8. Those who were in need of hands were quickly placed in contact with those able to furnish them. The work in this connection has had excellent results.
9. A reduction in fares for those who wished to work on the farms was obtained from the railway Commission;
10. Improved means were found for the provision of insecticides;
11. Facilities were provided for the purchase at a reduction of agricultural implements;
12. Inspectors were provided for the different services;
13. Participation in expositions of all kinds;

14. Reforms and improvements were made in Agricultural Societies;
15. Agricultural instruction was provided by means of booklets, circulars, the press, and by the "Journal of Agriculture."

RESULTS OF GOVERNMENT'S POLICY

The results of this campaign is that the Province of Quebec has increased its production of wheat 100 per cent, its production of peas about 100 per cent and its production of beans 125 per cent. Another result is that despite the scarcity of feed the number of pigs in the Province has increased 40 per cent, the number of dairy cattle increased from 911,000 in 1917 to 1,163,000 in 1918 and the number of sheep from 849,000 to 959,000. As a result the number of head of live stock is now 2,409,000 whereas it was only 1,869,000 in 1917. Some 610,000 more acres were sown in 1918 than in the preceding year and as a result \$26,890,686 more were realized. Nearly \$140,000, were expended by the Department for its campaign of greater production. That is to say that each one hundred dollars brought to the Province \$19,200. Was that not a good investment?

Do the electors not think that the Government should receive credit for its work in this connection by a renewal of confidence which will enable it to continue its efforts.

Testimony to the beneficial results of the Government's policy in this connection are numerous. The Canadian Farm of Toronto and the Canadian Poultry Review of Toronto have praised the methods employed in Quebec. Mr. Black, one of the principal officials of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa declared at a convention in 1916 that Hon. Mr. Burrell, Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion had made a tour of the Province of Quebec and had been deeply impressed by the progress that had been made.

The results of Quebec's policy in developing agriculture is seen on every hand in the figures of production, in the quality and quantity of the crops and stock, in the improvement of the homes of the farmers and in their savings

accounts. Quebec's reputation in this respect is not confined to the Province but has extended over the whole Dominion. On several occasions the Province of Quebec was awarded almost all the prizes for butter at the Toronto and Ottawa exhibitions and at Toronto the surprise at Quebec's fine showing was so great that an officer of the Ontario Government was charged to make a special study of the dairy inspection and manufacturing methods of the Province of Quebec.

The tendency to day, is in favor of increased agricultural development and farming which has been the backbone of the Province of Quebec during the war will undoubtedly be the backbone of the Province in the reconstruction period upon which we have now entered. Production in fact is the great need of the times and the Province of Quebec, as favorably situated as it is, in regard to agriculture, must play a great "role" in this respect and as a result increased wealth and prosperity will follow for the Province. The wisdom of what the directing heads of the Province have done to increase the efficiency of the farming community will then be amply justified.

The Figures given do not include the sums allotted to Public Instruction in which the farmers share to a large extent.

The farmers receive much and in return contribute but very little to the Public Treasury. They are not reached by the taxes on commercial corporations and stock exchange operations, and the same may be said of hotel and automobile licenses, detective permits, etc. In truth, the only tax which affects them is the tax on successions and still Sir Lomer Gouin has shown, in a speech made at Montreal in 1915 (the figures given have never been contradicted and they cannot be for they are official) that the 1,045 rural municipalities of the Province had, in 1914, contributed \$38,183.78 as succession duties, which amount represents an average of \$36.54 by municipality and three cents per head of rural population.

Three cents per head is rather a small amount, is it not!

Summary of the work accomplished by Liberals for Agriculture.

1. Increase in agricultural appropriations.
2. Organization of the Montreal Cooperative sales of the

Cheesemakers' Cooperative Association and of one hundred other cooperative societies, some of which are very prosperous.

3. Considerable increase in the subsidies to provincial exhibitions.
4. Practical demonstrations in all branches of agricultural industry made at such exhibitions.
5. Increase in the grants to Agricultural societies.
6. Increase in the grants to Farmers' clubs.
7. Creation of new agricultural societies and of more Farmer's Clubs.
8. Organization of Young Women Farmers' Clubs.
9. Rebuilding of the St. Anne Agricultural School in 1911-12. aggrandizement of this school and of that of Oka, considerable financial aid granted to these two institutions as well as to Macdonald College.
10. Creation of central Housekeeping Schools and organization of courses in housekeeping attended by thousand of pupils.
11. Agricultural teaching given in all colleges, academies, normal schools, convents.
12. Grants to the Vauvert and St. Damien Agricultural Institutes.
14. Encouragement in the building of silos, ripening rooms, cold hen-houses, stock breeding and fattening stations, which have contributed in greatly increasing the production of dairy products, eggs and poultry.
15. Importation of Belgian breeding horses.
16. Annual sale of pure bred cattle, swine and sheep.
17. School trains going through different parts of the Province for instruction and demonstration purposes.
18. Short courses given in the three agricultural colleges and the organization, of similar courses in several counties of the Province, permitting the giving of theoretical and practical lessons in agriculture to thousands of young men.
19. Organization of demonstration fields and orchards, and courses in the pruning and spraying of fruit-trees given by experts in several localities in the Province.
20. Encouragement of fruit growing, fruit-canning, lessons in planting and grafting given all over the Province.

21. Publication of thousands of pamphlets on agriculture distributed, on demand, to all farmers.
22. Reorganization of the veterinary school and increase of its subsidy.
23. Improvements made to the Dairy School.
24. Laws on the destruction of weeds, on the organization of cooperatives, law for the protection of sheep.
25. Appointment of six agronomists stationed in different parts of the Province to assist the farmers in land cultivation.
26. Encouragement of the smoked meat industry and the creation of three demonstration schools for that purpose. Aid for underground drainage.
27. Encouragement of the maple sugar industry and creation of three sugary schools.
28. Encouragement of the clover seed industry, formation of societies, purchase of threshing machines which have contributed to the creation of this industry.
29. Encouragement of plowing and land clearing competitions.
30. Reorganization of the inspection of dairy factories.
31. Competitions organized between dairy factories.
32. Aid for the making of pasteurized butter, the cultivation of tobacco and the preparing of same for market.
33. Encouragement of agricultural missionaries, appointment of members of the Catholic clergy charged to give agricultural lectures in all churches and schools for higher education.
34. Recruiting work in favor of agricultural colleges in all primary schools and establishments for higher education.
35. Propaganda for a teaching based on agriculture in all primary schools and establishments for higher education.
36. Agriculture taught to school inspectors and professors, again taught by them in all establishments under their control.
37. Competitions on standing crops and seed exhibitions.
38. Organization of a new branch on Entomology and Agricultural Chemistry.
39. Organization of the Society of Seed-growers which has sorted and prepared for market seed grain of all kinds, aid in the purchase of various machines for the sorting of grain seed, and also for the spraying of fruit-trees.

40. Creation, at Berthierville, of a nursery destined to supply gratuitously hundreds of thousands of young plants for the fruit-growing industry.

41. Organization of poultry shows, exhibitions of horticultural products, aid to apiculture, inspection of bee-hives, distribution of Italian queen-bees, etc.

To which may be added the millions which the Gouin Government devotes to the building of iron and concrete bridges, the betterment of roads, all improvements of direct benefit to the agricultural class.

This is his work, and he may well be proud of it. No Government has done so much for farmers.

BETTER ROADS

The Gouin Government has been fully alive to the importance of good roads and its policy in this respect will, it believes, receive the support of the people. There is nothing more important to a country than good roads.

The Montreal Star editorially said (May 28th, 1919): "With the war over, Legislatures and municipalities in all parts of the United States are voting enormous sums for better roads. Experience has taught the valuable lesson that finely paved roads are a splendid investment not only by the state but by municipalities as well.

Not content with spending thirty-five millions on new roads within the past few years the state of California is submitting to the people a new bond issue for forty millions—and no fears are expressed that it will not carry.

A few weeks ago the voters of the counties of Michigan authorized the acquiring of fifty millions to improve highways. Scores of similar instances might be noted.

It is estimated that within the past ten years over two thousand five hundred miles of highways in the province of Quebec have been macadamized or gravelled. The wise policy has been followed by the Legislature for some time past of financially aiding municipalities to acquire model roads. Some six hundred municipalities have taken up the offer of assistance.

As there are eleven hundred rural bodies in this province it is evident that considerable work has yet to be done before the full value of this State assistance is fully realized and taken

advantage of. Quebec is renowned for its scenic beauty, but much of it is inaccessible because of poor roads. Countries that reap hundred of millions in tourist trade have had the courage to spend great amounts in constructing fine roads so spots of beauty could be reached in comfort.

There is no better advertisement for a country than splendid facilities for tourist traffic."

The Gouin Government has realized the importance of good roads. It has expended larges amounts in establishing such roads for the Province and it proposes to expend more if the people shall approve in order that the Province shall reap the benefit.

AMOUNTS DISBURSED

The following is a statement of the amounts disbursed annually for the past twenty-four years by the Government for improvement of roads, both out of the ordinary appropriation for roads and out of the loans authorized by The Good Roads' Act, 1912.

1895-96.....	\$	30.20
1896-97.....		5,953.34
1897-98.....		7,795.56
1898-99.....		10,203.29
1899-00.....		14,510.00
1900-01.....		18,000.00
1901-02.....		6,000.00
1902-03.....		17,572.79
1903-04.....		11,000.00
1904-05.....		18,250.58
1905-06.....		9,661.88
1906-07.....		15,404.56
1907-08.....		20,117.85
1908-09.....		60,146.92
1909-10.....		60,000.00
1910-11.....		95,000.00
1911-12.....		494,277.66
1912-13.....		1,069,810.35
1913-14.....		4,018,916.68
1914-15.....		6,140,273.13
1915-16.....		4,000,700.83
1916-17.....		2,086,542.54
1917-18.....		1,733,970.30
1918-19 1st May 1919.....		1,928,102.96

The total amount expended by the Gouin Government for roads for the Province of Quebec, since its advent to power in 1905 up to the 1st of May 1919 is \$21,732,725.86.

SOME TESTIMONIES

It is certain that as regards country roads the Province of Quebec is at the head of Confederation and that it may serve as an example to the other Provinces. This may be said without boasting, English newspapers being the first to recognize it as will be seen from the following.

Macleans Magazine of December 1916 said:—"The net result is that Quebec is far in the van of other Canadian Provinces having as a matter of fact more permanently improve highways than all the other provinces put together."

H. A. Baker, Secretary of the New York Automobile Association under date of March 8th 1918, says:—"I beg to acknowledge, with heartiest appreciation, receipt of the Official Gazette of the Province of Quebec, containing the Act respecting the main communication Roads. The highway Department of the State of New York is very much interested in such progressive legislation and it may be the means of New York State adopting kindred measures."

At the 1917 Good Roads Convention the President of the Dominion Good Roads Association said:—"Quebec is undoubtedly first in the Dominion as regards the construction and improvement of roads."

Hon. Frank Carvell, Dominion Minister of Public Works declared in the House of Commons Feb. 26th, 1919:—"Reference was made yesterday to the highways in the state of New York and other states of the Union. I do not know that we can hope to reach the degree of excellence of their roads within the next five years, but we can do something towards it. I had the pleasure last year of travelling over a part of the highway in the province of Quebec constructed by the Provincial Government in recent

years, and I can only say that if we extend that class of highway through every province in Canada we shall have accomplished wonders.”

The Quebec Chronicle (Conservative) Oct. 9th 1917, said: “When Sir Lomer Gouin first introduced his Good Roads policy we were frankly sceptical as to what the result might be. There were not lacking those who predicted that it was largely a political move and that wastefulness would be a feature of the policy’s operation. No doubt there was wastefulness—as, for instance, on certain portions of the Montreal-Quebec highway. But on the other hand, it must be confessed that the results have far more than exceeded the expectations of the public and that very real progress has been made in this much-needed reform. The making and improvement of roads in this Province has made giant strides and, although we are not in accord with the Provincial Premier on many articles of his programme, we cannot but admit that there is much credit coming to him for his handling of a difficult and important question. While there have been faults—many of them due to a new and unprecedented work of organization—and while much still remains to be done, it would be idle to dispute the facts that a new era has dawned in this respect and that the advantage to the Province will be far-reaching if not incalculable. Let Sir Lomer continue the good work He will have everyone with him in it.”

Many similar testimonies might be quoted, but those will suffice.

HISTORY OF THE ROADS ACT

In 1907, Hon. Mr. Allard, then Minister of Agriculture, had an act passed to assure a grant to the rural municipalities who would take charge of the maintenance of their roads in summer. Two municipalities, in each county, could annually take the benefit of this grant, which amounted to \$800.

In 1908, the act of 1907 was amended so as to extend the benefits of the grant not only to two, but to all the municipalities in each county taking over the maintenance of these roads. Moreover, the Government was authorized by that law of 1908 to place at the disposal of all municipalities doing

macadamizing or gravelling work a grant which might increase to \$500.00, and which would serve to pay half of the municipality's outlay for such permanent work.

The Roads Act was hardly changed before 1911. In 1911, it was completely revised on the initiative of Hon. Mr. Caron.

But the real Good Roads' Act, is that of 1912, which has opened to rural roads a credit of \$10,000,000. This credit was later increased by \$10,000,000.

The first text of the act was modified at the second session of 1912, so as to simplify its application.

Thus, the municipalities that wish to take advantage of the act have no longer need to issue debentures. It is the Government that borrows directly and in its own name, then distributes the funds to the municipalities.

The municipalities no longer undertake to pay the half of the interest of the loans; all that is asked of them is to pay 3% interest on the amounts they receive from the Government, for forty-one years.

It is the Government, we have said, which directly negotiates the loans, pays the principal and all the interest on them with the exception of 3% per annum, for 41 years, which is reimbursed the Government by the municipalities availing themselves of the advantages of the act.

In consequence of these modifications the formalities to be complied with by the municipalities have been greatly simplified.

Thus, the following according to the new text (3 Geo. V, Chap. 21, Art. 2) are the formalities necessary to benefit by this act.

a. Pass a by-law which shall come into force on the date therein mentionéd, ordering the macadamizing, stoning or gravelling of the roads therein described;

b. Thereafter apply to the Government by resolution, after a previous understanding with the Roads Department as to the amount thereof, for the sums necessary for the making or improvement of the roads described in the by-law passed in virtue of paragraph *a* of this section.

Such resolution shall authorize the mayor and the secretary-treasurer or clerk to sign in favour of the Provincial Treasurer, so soon as the Government is ready to supply the necessary money, forty-one coupons containing a promise on the part of

the municipality to pay annually, at the time fixed by the Provincial Treasurer and mentioned on each coupon, three per cent interest on the sum mentioned in the resolution.

The resolution shall also provide by means of a special tax or otherwise for the payment of the three per cent interest on the sum which may be supplied by the Government.

Under the Law of 1912, there has been expended up to the 1st May 1919, for the improvement of Roads in the Province of Quebec, a total sum of \$17,256,751 of which \$6,187,690 was spent for Provincial Roads and \$11,069,061 in amounts paid to municipalities.

CREATION OF THE ROADS DEPARTMENT

Thanks to the efforts of the Government, the movement for better roads took such an expansion, in 1912, that the creation of a Roads Department became necessary. This was no easy matter. A competent staff, especially when it is question of so new a work as the bettering of roads, is not found in a day. Let us add that the Government over came all difficulties.

The Roads Department was at first, affiliated with that of Agriculture. In 1913, it became absolutely independent.

This is certainly one of the best organized departments. It possesses a well equipped laboratory. The competency of its staff is well known.

MAINTENANCE OF ROADS

Not only must the roads be improved but they must be maintained in good state. By a law adopted in 1917 the Minister of Roads is authorized to have municipalities maintain the roads, improved with money furnished by the Government, for which maintenance the Government pay 50% of the cost. This work is done under the supervision of engineers of the Department.

The Department of Roads since 1917 has also established a permanent system for the regular and permanent maintenance of the provincial highways.

All macadam, gravel and maintenance of earth roads work

made in the Province of Quebec is regularly inspected. For inspection purposes of macadam work, in particular, the Province has been divided into three large districts, to each of which an engineer is attached. In 1919 these districts have been divided into 22 divisions, comprising three or four counties, with an engineer in charge of each division. The Engineers themselves are under the special direction of a superintendent.

This system of regular inspection has given the very best results. The inspectors are charged with the supervision of the execution of all road works in their respective districts, seeing that the specifications of engineers are followed and to report to the Roads Department on the nature and state of works done.

CULVERTS

So as to do away with the wooden culverts and to replace them by concrete, steel or corrugated iron ones, the Government grants subsidies to the municipalities desirous of undertaking such a change. The following is a table, showing the number of culverts that have been replaced every year since 1908:

Year	Number of culverts
1908.....	35
1909.....	649
1910.....	1,306
1911.....	2,006
1912.....	676
1913.....	2,136
1914.....	2,469
1915.....	2,335
1916.....	2,527

IRON BRIDGES

The policy of encouraging the construction of iron bridges, inaugurated by the Mercier Government, had been abandoned in 1892. It was taken up again by the Gouin Government.

The following is a statement of the appropriations voted from year to year, since 1908:

1908-09.....	\$	50,000.00
1909-10.....		75,000.00
1010-11.....		100,000.00
1911-12.....		125,000.00
1912-13.....		150,000.00
1913-14.....		175,000.00
1914-15.....		210,000.00
1915-16.....		210,000.00
1916-17.....		245,000.00
1917-18.....		303,285.00
		<hr/>
		\$1,643,285.00

These subsidies have produced magnificent results as the following table will show:

Number of bridges built to 30th June, 1918.....	490
Number of bridges under construction.....	46
Cost of bridges built to 30th June, 1918.....	\$3,340,136
Cost of bridges under construction.....	622,461
Number of new applications,	175
Plans of bridges prepared during the year.....	92
Plans of bridges under way to 30th June, 1918...	68

Here again we have money well spent in the farmers' interest.

This building of iron bridges is the normal consequence of the good roads policy.

Moreover, it is a step in the direction of the abolition of toll bridges. At present, municipalities, instead of applying to private individuals for the building of their bridges, obtain a subsidy of some thousands of dollars from the Government, build their bridges themselves, and consequently have free bridges.

THE ABOLITION OF TOLLS

In many parts of the province there are turnpikes on roads and bridges.

In 1908, the Gouin Government promised to do away with these relics of an antiquated system as soon as possible.

Several commissions had been appointed to study this problem, in 1846, 1847, 1861, 1875 and 1889, but without any result.

In 1909, the Gouin Government appointed one which made a report in 1911, and in the same year the Government set to work and by the act 2 Geo. V, chap. 2, authorized itself to spend the sum of \$500,000.00 during the five years following to do away with tolls, wherever there are any.

The number of turnpikes abolished since the inauguration of this policy is twenty-two.

The number of turnpike roads is forty-two forming an extent of 171½ miles.

The amount paid by the Government for the abolition of turnpike roads and for bridges is \$568,839.

ADMINISTRATION OF LANDS AND FORESTS, COLONIZATION

Colonization is so connected with the administration of public lands that we thought we should deal with both subjects under the same heading.

AREA OF LANDS

Previous to 1898 the area of the lands of the Province was about.....	129,000.000 acres
Following the removing further back of the northern limits and the annexation of the territories of Abitibi, Ashwamipi and Mistassini in 1898, the area of provincial lands was increased by.....	91,000.000 "
The annexation of Ungava added about.	225,000.000 "
A total of.....	<hr/> 445,000,000 "

ANNEXATION OF UNGAVA

Ungava is situated to the north of our province, between Hudson Bay and the Atlantic. Its area is 227,179,520 acres, a little more than the Province of Quebec. It is rich in forests and water-falls.

As all are aware, this territory which belonged to the Federal Government was annexed to the Province of Quebec.

This annexation was the result of negotiation by the Gouin Government with the Federal Government.

REVENUE FROM WOODS AND FORESTS

Our forests constitute one of our best sources of revenue. And the Government, as it had promised, has striven to obtain greater and greater revenue from them, while insuring their preservation and perpetuation.

The following statement shows the revenue from forests for years 1907 and 1918:

	1907	1918
Ground Rent.....	\$215,053	\$305,581
Timber Dues.....	721,784	910,436
Transfer Fees.....	13,917	6,356
Interest and Fines.....	11,243	39,429
Inter limit Dues.....	16,080	151,664
Total.....	\$978,077	\$1,413,467

or an increase of about 50 per cent.

INCREASE OF STUMPAGE DUES

In 1912, the Government increased the stumpage dues and ground rents payable by timber merchants. These dues had not been changed for many years. The Tariff of ground rent was raised from \$3 to \$5 and the stumpage dues by about 50 per cent.

In 1918 the Government made new arrangements with the timber merchants. Since the 1st of May 1919 the ground rent is \$6.50 instead of \$5.00 and from the 1st of May 1924 it will be \$8.00 instead of \$6.50. The tariff of stumpage dues has also had an equivalent increase. It is estimated that this arrangement will bring in between \$500,000 and \$600,000 each year to the public Treasury. For the present year the department should receive \$2,500,000. Does such an ar-

rangement show that the Ministry is under the domination of the timber merchants.

FOREST RESERVES

In 1905, there were no forest reserves in the Province of Quebec, for the Laurentides National Park was, properly speaking, more of a game and fishing reserve. Since that time the Gouin Government has successively created the following reserves:

	Square miles
Gaspé Park.....	2,523 1-3
Rimouski Reserve.....	1,249 2-3
Chaudiere Reserve.....	156
Temiscouata Reserve.....	227
Bonaventure Reserve.....	1,733
Labrador Reserve.....	110,000
Barachois Reserve.....	113
St. Maurice Reserve.....	21,121
Ottawa Reserve.....	27,652
Rivière-Ouelle Reserve.....	340
Total.....	165,115

Which, with the National Park, makes a total area of 107,767,-253 acres. In respect to forest reserves, we leave all the other provinces of the Dominion in the shade, and we lead the American continent.

The Government, in 1911, also had a law passed to authorize the establishment of forest reserves in townships.

These reserves are created with a view to helping farmers who have no more timber on their properties.

20 forest reserves in townships have been created with a total superficies of 267,709 acres or 418.3 square miles.

COLONIZATION

Colonization is a part of the first importance and the Gouin Government has done its utmost to promote Colonization.

It is said that the settlers cannot get lots, but the statistics show the falsity of this.

Following is the area of acres in conceded lots.

From 1867 to 1905 (37 years) 5,529,202, or an annual average of 149,438.

From 1905 to 1918 (13 years) 2,733,844, or an annual average of 210,296.

The number of letters patent granted were:

From 1867 to 1905 (37 years) 22,380 or an annual average of 621.

From 1905 to 1918 (13 years) 16,990 or an annual average of 1307.

COLONIZATION ROADS

The Government has not only interested itself in improving the roads in the old parishes, but it has also seen to the opening of roads everywhere where settlers are grouped or can be grouped.

"The road should precede the settler," such seems to now be the principle of the Minister of Colonization.

The following is a statement of the sums spent for colonization roads since 1905.

1905-1906.....	\$ 134,000.00
1906-1907.....	134,000.00
1907-1908.....	144,000.00
1908-1909.....	215,000.00
1909-1910.....	170,000.00
1910-1911.....	216,857.69
1911-1912.....	228,336.80
1912-1913.....	217,206.01
1913-1914.....	249,545.47
1914-1915.....	225,000.00
1915-1916.....	200,000.00
1916-1917.....	250,000.00
1917-1918.....	308,048.45

The tree is known by its fruits and the soundness of the Government's Colonization policy is shown by the amazing progress made during the past few years in the Abitibi, the Lake St. John, the Gaspé and the Temiscaming districts.

FOR OUR RETURNED SOLDIERS

Accustomed to an open life, to the fatigue and hard work of the trenches and to the extremes of the weather a large number of returned soldiers will no doubt desire the free

life of the land and forest and to establish homes of their own. The Gouin Government therefore has had a law passed authorizing the free grant under the ordinary conditions of colonization lots to returned soldiers.

The Department of Lands has offered the Veterans Association to place at its disposition one of the finest townships of Abitibi—The Mongay township. This would be an excellent way of grouping those who were comrades in glory and danger and preventing them from feeling isolated.

GREAT WATER POWERS

Now consider what has been done towards conserving the natural riches of the Province. To emphasize one particular feature in this regard. The extent and importance of Quebec's natural riches are by no means adequately realized. In the Province of Quebec there are no less than six million horse power of water power. Up to the present time only 850,000 horse power have been developed so that no less than five million and a quarter horse power is available. Few countries on this continent, indeed, are more fortunate than the Province of Quebec in the natural wealth of its rivers.

Is this magnificent waterpower running to waste? By no means, because the Government of the Province following the path of wisdom is harnessing these great water powers and preserving the rights for the people. Instead of private corporations being allowed to do the work and reap the profit the Government of the Province is doing the work to earn dividends for the people—the rightful owners of this splendid heritage. The Gouin Government has expended millions of dollars in conserving these magnificent water powers and making them available for industrial development. In fact the extent and importance of what the Government has done in this connection is not generally realized but the future will justify it as one of the most important and beneficial accomplishments of the Gouin Government. For instance the great La Loutre storage dam built by the Government, a few hundred miles north of Three Rivers, at a cost of some two million dollars, has doubled the capacity of the water power on the St. Maurice

River and correspondingly added to the capacity of the great industrial plants at Shawinigan, Grand'Mere and other important manufacturing centres. A similar policy carried out in connection with the St. Francis River has resulted in the capacity of the water powers on that river being greatly augmented to the profit of the manufacturer, to the benefit of the whole district through which the St. Francis runs and to the advantage of the people of the whole province. Another great water power is being established on Lake Kenogami, another on the Jacques Cartier River and still another on the St. Annes River. These works which will involve a total expenditure of some two million dollars will be in the interests of the people of the whole province and of special advantage to manufacturers for the reason that the greater the development of water powers the cheaper power will be and cheap power, it is almost unnecessary to add, will be of incalculable benefit in connection with the future progress and prosperity of the Province, for, as has been well said, water power, soon or late, spells industry and industry, of course, means wealth.

The construction of these dams is of considerable importance when their economic advantages are considered. Moreover the Government has been able to make them pay. Thus the Shawinigan Water & Power Co. is bound to pay a sum of \$80,000.00 annually during 40 years; the Laurentides Co. \$40,000.00 and the Brown Corporation \$10,000.00. It is estimated that the interest and sinking fund on account of the initial expense of the enterprise will represent at the utmost \$100,000 a year while the Government will get \$130,000 a year from the three companies above mentioned. The enterprise is therefore one of the most advantageous that the Government could have undertaken.

FOR THE WORKING CLASSES

The Gouin Government has paid special attention to the needs of the working classes for it fully realizes the great part that working men play in the community. The working men certainly have more to expect from the Liberals than from the Conservatives whom have always been the party of

privilege. The "Liberal World" the organ of the working men of Montreal on June 19th 1916, published an interesting article in answer to a plea by Mr. Sauvé, who had endeavoured to find favor for the Tory party amongst the working classes of Montreal. This article said in part:

"Let Mr. Sauvé have no illusion; it is not to the working men of 1916 that he can preach toryism. The party of privilege and of the privileged cannot decently claim our support for its program."

"With a fiscal system which has created millionnaires at the expense of the mass of consumers, with favors dispensed so lavishly at each session of Parliament to railway magnates, the party of which Mr. Sauvé is the standard-bearer is logically the adversary of the working class."

"Who gave us the secret ballot? A Liberal—Sir Aimé Dorion. The working men before that were conducted to the polls like slaves, they voted under the eye of a master, their boss. It was pure and simple intimidation."

"Who founded the Labor Department? A Liberal—Sir William Mulock. "Who established the Board of Conciliation? A Liberal—MacKenzie King."

"Who established the law of fair salaries? A Liberal Government—That of Sir Wilfrid Laurier."

And Mr. Sauvé should not forget that it was under the Laurier regime that the country enjoyed its greatest prosperity and the working men the greatest happiness.

What has the Gouin Government done for the working men? The following will show how ready the Gouin Government has been to do all that it could in the interest of the working Classes.

The Liberals, as we have said, have given considerable subsidies to night schools, schools of arts and manufactures, as well as for the foundation of technical schools. Now, it is the workmen who will derive the greatest benefit from such liberality.

But they have done still more for the working classes.

They have established the Board of Factory Inspectors we now have and which is said by competent authorities on the subject, to be the best organized one in America.

They have established Councils of Conciliation and Arbi-

tration for the settlement of disputes between capital and labor.

They have made the use of special apparatus for the prevention of accidents, compulsory.

They have organized a board of examiners to ascertain the qualifications of engineers and of inspectors of steam boilers.

They have amended the law so as to place all public buildings under the supervision of the factory inspectors.

They have amended the law respecting factories and public buildings so as to protect health and secure the comfort of those who work in them.

They have regulated the conditions under which women and children can be called upon to work in factories.

In 1907, they had it enacted that no child under 14 years of age shall be employed in factories.

In 1907, they had it enacted that girls and boys under 16 shall not be employed in factories unless they can read or write, or unless they attend a night school.

They have had it enacted that the benefits to which members of mutual benefit societies are entitled, as well as the life rents created under the Federal Act of 1908, are not liable to seizure.

In 1906, the Gouin Government had an act passed authorizing the formation of co-operative syndicates.

In 1906, the Gouin Government had a severe measure enacted against usury.

In 1907, the Government also appointed a Commission to solve the question of accidents to workmen. That Commission has made a report and an act has been passed for the better protection of workmen, who are victims of accidents.

In 1908, the Gouin Government made the inspection of scaffoldings used by builders compulsory.

In 1908, the Gouin Government got the House to adopt a resolution to secure fair wages for workmen employed on public contracts or works subsidized by the State.

In 1909, the Gouin Government appointed a Commission for the protection of consumers and the public against the abuses by Public Utility Companies, such as transportation, water-work, light, heat, etc., companies.

In 1909, it established, in Montreal, a museum of apparatus for preventing accidents to workmen.

In 1910, it had itself authorized to establish employment bureaus in cities and towns. Two bureaus were opened, one in Montreal and the other in Quebec, in April 1911; and a third was opened at Sherbrooke in 1912. From the opening of the Montreal bureau up to June 30th, 1915, close to 40,000 applications for employment, from men and women, had been received. From the 30th June, 1914 to the 30th June, 1915, 5,300 applications were received. During the same period, the Quebec bureau received 2,400 applications and secured 500 situations for applicants.

In 1912, the Gouin Government obtained authorization for school boards to supply children with free school books.

In 1912, it had a law passed compelling the owners of textile factories not to employ women and children for more than 55 hours a week.

In 1912, it abolished the real estate qualification for the position of alderman of Montreal.

In 1912, it removed from the charter of the city of Montreal the section which disfranchised ratepayers who had not paid the water tax.

In 1912, it abolished costs in suits under \$25.

In 1912, it obtained authority to appoint representatives of the working classes on the boards of directors of the Quebec and Montreal technical schools.

In 1912, it caused to be inserted in the Election Act the principle of "One man, one vote" and so placed the workman on an equal footing with the millionaire or large property owner.

Besides, during the summers of 1913-1914, and 1915, it gave employment on the roads to a great number of workmen who were out of work, on account of the financial and industrial crisis.

In 1914, it had a law passed relating to sanitary dwellings whereby the municipalities are authorized to guarantee, on first-mortgage security, the loans made by companies for the construction of dwelling houses for workmen. The municipal guarantee cannot exceed 85% of the value of the lands and buildings made thereon.

On the other hand, the books of the assisted company are open to inspection and the dividends upon the capital invested cannot exceed 6%. Therefore the rental of such houses is necessarily low. Unhappily this law has not yet given the good results which the working class had a right to expect of it. But it is to be hoped, the crisis over, that companies will be organized which taking advantage of that law will construct sanitary and hygienic dwelling houses for the working class.

In 1914, it has passed a law relating to stationary engineers.

In 1918, the adoption of a law providing for one day of rest each week for employees in certain industries.

In 1919, the adoption of a law providing for a minimum wage for women.

In 1919, a law authorising the appointment of a Deputy Minister of Labor.

In 1919, a law amending the law of industrial establishment relating to the employment of children, in virtue of which an employer cannot employ a child younger than 16 years at least when he cannot read and write.

In 1919, the adoption of a very important amendment to the Workingmans' accident law.

In 1919, the adoption of a law relating to the construction of workingmens houses.

IMPORTANT REFORMS

The Gouin Government during its tenure of office has introduced a large number of reforms which have been of the utmost importance for the Province. The Public Utilities Commission which was created by it has given general satisfaction.

Still another example of the enterprise of the Quebec administration is the Statistical Bureau which compiles and publishes from time to time statistics covering every phase of progress in the Province.

The Gouin Government has also done a great deal for the Public Health. While in 1905 only \$12,000.00 was voted to the Provincial Health Board last year \$63,500 were placed at its disposition. The Province is divided into six districts each districts having a resident inspector. During the recent

influenza epidemic these inspectors rendered great services. The Government also named a commission to consider the best means of fighting tuberculosis. A sum of \$38,500 is appropriated for that purpose and the sanatoriums of the Province are generously subsidized.

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

The prosperity of the Province of Quebec, depends in large measure upon the good administration of municipal affairs and in order to promote efficiency the Government decided to adopt new and modern methods by the creation of a department of municipal affairs. It was realized that in the creation of such a department there was one danger that had to be avoided. Municipal autonomy had to be scrupulously respected. The Gouin Government always inspired and guarded by Liberal principles felt that it must not encroach on the rights of the people to govern themselves. Therefore the new department cannot in any manner or form interfere with the administration of the municipal councils.

The officers of the new department simply enter the municipal sphere in a friendly manner not to take any power whatever from the 1,206 municipalities of the Province, but to aid them with their advice, to incite them to follow the provisions of the law, to repress abuses and to correct errors which might be committed. That is the sole object of the department, the role of which goes no further. The Canadian Municipal Journal recently said and it is a most precious testimony:—"The Legislation governing this Department is probably the most advanced in Canada and though the Department is still in the babyhood stage its strong administration has already had a wholesome effect on local government.

PREVENTION OF FIRES

In 1912 the Government was authorized to vote annually a sum of \$10,000 to be given as premiums to municipalities, villages or small towns which desire to secure effective fire

apparatus to fight fires. The premiums became so popular that the amount was increased to \$25,000.00. Since the law was put into operation at least 130 municipalities, parishes and small towns have secured premiums from the Government and have thus been placed in a position to combat fires. It is the intention of the Government to continue this wise policy until all the municipalities of the Province are in a position to protect themselves against fires.

Such in brief compass is the record of the Gouin Government. It is a record of efficient administration and accomplishment which can confidently be submitted to the people of Quebec for their approval and endorsement on June 23rd.

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