

larger cities will also, I think, be effective in securing greater efficiency and economy in the municipal administration of these large corporations. The bill to which I have assented enlarging the jurisdiction of County Courts will facilitate the transference of the judicial business of the Province. Not only will the expenses of litigation be reduced, but the relief afforded to the Superior Courts by the removal from their jurisdiction of many actions of a minor character will enable those courts to discharge the duties imposed upon them under conditions of increased promptness and efficiency.

"It gave me great pleasure to assent to the bills which you have passed respecting liens of mechanics and wage-earners, and of laborers on public works. The circumstances under which the workingmen and mechanics of this Province, as elsewhere, provide for the maintenance and protection of their families are, at the best, somewhat precarious. The means which you have adopted to secure to them their proper earnings will serve to improve their social condition and to promote the happiness and comfort of all who are dependent upon them for subsistence and support.

"I am pleased to know that the act passed by a previous Parliament applying towards the maintenance of public hospitals and charities the proceeds of succession duties on the estates of certain deceased persons has afforded substantial aid to the Legislature in providing for the relief of our distressed and suffering fellow-citizens. I cordially approve of the steps you have taken to prevent any evasion of this act by the bill for that purpose to which I have just assented.

"Your efforts to extend the construction of electric railways, and to facilitate the transportation of the produce of the farm and dairy to the best markets, will, I am confident, meet with public approval.

"The further improvement of the school system of the Province, as I am glad to notice, occupied your attention. The means you have taken for enabling those who were heretofore prevented by local conditions from continuing their education beyond the Public School will, I have no doubt, be appreciated by the residents of the rural districts. The establishment of an Educational Council embracing the teaching profession in all its departments, will contribute to the further unification of a system of education which has already done so much for the intellectual development of the Province.

"I heartily concur in the measures you have passed for the protection of game, for the improvement of the statutory provisions respecting agriculture and arts, for the realization and disposition of the estates of insolvent debtors, for the amendment of the registry act, for the protection of policyholders under our insurance laws, for consolidating the laws respecting vital statistics, and for the incorporation of the Canadian Historical Commission. The advantages to be derived from these laws will, I have no doubt, fully justify the time devoted to their consideration.

"I thank you for the liberal appropriations which you have made for the public service. The supplies which you have granted will be expended with care and in the public interest.

The prorogation of the House was then announced by Hon. Mr. Gibson, and the proceedings terminated.