

history of the empire has there been a monarch more beloved by her people or more fully endowed with sagacity and wisdom combined with devotion to duty and sincere regard for the welfare of the nation. Under her beneficent sway we have long enjoyed the priceless privileges of self-government and the fullest measure of civil and religious liberty. And deeply as we feel in common with the whole empire the loss of one so great and good, we rejoice to believe that under her illustrious successor, King Edward VII., these privileges will not be impaired nor our constitutional rights in the slightest degree curtailed. You will be asked to express in fitting terms your feelings with respect to the Queen whose career has closed so gloriously, as well as the King whose reign has just begun and whose authority as loving subjects we heartily acknowledge.

Provision for War Veterans.

The valor displayed by the Canadian military contingents engaged in the South African war has reflected the highest honor upon Canada, and entitles them to some token of your appreciation. To this end, a bill will be submitted for your consideration authorizing the Crown Lands Department to set aside certain townships in the unorganized districts permitting every volunteer enrolled in the Province who served in South Africa to choose 160 acres, to be held upon the most favorable conditions compatible with the settlement of the public domain and the development of the district. Provision will also be made for the recognition of the survivors of the volunteer militia who were actually engaged in defensive service on the frontier during 1866.

It is gratifying to be able to state that the agricultural classes during the past year have enjoyed unusual prosperity. Improved methods of farming and a more thoughtful application of the principles of sound husbandry, with a general adoption of cold storage by dairymen and fruit growers, have greatly contributed to this happy condition of affairs.

Beet Root Sugar Industry.

It has been found by various tests conducted by the Department of Agriculture that the soil and climate of Ontario are admirably adapted for the growth of sugar beets. You will be asked to consider whether farmers should not be encouraged to give such special attention to beet raising as will justify the establishment of factories for the production of beet root sugar, by granting such aid for this purpose as may be deemed expedient.

The lumber trade is in a prosperous condition, and the revenue from woods and forests continues buoyant, employment being abundant and wages high. The continued investment of capital in the erection of sawmills affords satisfactory evidence of the wisdom of requiring that logs cut on the Crown domain shall be sawn in our own country.

Preservation of the Forests.

The preservation of our forest wealth continues to engage the attention of

my Government, and the recent setting apart of a large forest reserve in the pine region surrounding Lake Temagaming, marks another step in this direction. The increasing flow of population to New Ontario is a matter of congratulation.

I congratulate you on the great expansion of the mineral industry. The manufacture of pig iron in the Province is now firmly established and is materially aided by the discovery of large bodies of conveniently-situated hematite ore in the Michipicoten region. The making of the first open-hearth steel in the Province and the establishment on the upper lakes of the first line of steamers to carry the ore from our own mines to the smelters of our own Province are events significant of substantial progress. Nickel and copper mining is more active than at any previous time, and it is gratifying to know that additional works for treatment of these ores are being erected in different parts of the Province.

Work of Exploration.

Acting on the authority given to the Government by the appropriation made for exploring that part of the Province lying toward Hudson Bay, exploration parties spent the greater part of the summer in investigating the agricultural, forest and mineral resources of the several districts assigned to them. The results of their enquiries will be laid before you.

During the past year extensive alterations have been undertaken in connection with the buildings at Cobourg to meet the urgent demand for additional accommodation for the insane. I am pleased to inform you that these alterations are well advanced, and will, I trust, be completed before the close of the current year, thus providing ample facilities, so far as the demands for the accommodation and treatment of this unfortunate class of our population at present require.

Your attention is again invited to the present relative jurisdiction of the courts of the Province and of their respective Judges, and to the suggestions of experience for further promoting the efficient, prompt and inexpensive administration of justice throughout the Province.

The evidence taken before the Royal commission appointed to examine and report upon the assessment laws of the Province will be laid before you, and legislation dealing with some phases of municipal taxation will be submitted for your approval.

Important Measures Promised.

Measures will be submitted for aiding in the improvement of public highways; for the encouragement of the trade in dressed meat for the European market; for abolishing tolls on public highways and bridges; for further encouraging technical education, and for consolidating the laws with respect to public and high schools, and to liquor licenses.

The public accounts and reports of the several departments will be submitted to you in due course.

The estimates for the current year are prepared with as great economy as is consistent with efficient service, and will at an early date be placed before you.