

to amend the mines act, 1906; the act to encourage the refining of metals in Ontario; the Ontario companies act; the act to supplement the revenues of the Crown; the Ontario game and fisheries act; the act to amend the public schools act; the act respecting the qualifications of certain teachers; the act for the improvement of the public highways; the act respecting colonization roads; the act respecting railways and other corporations; the act to amend and consolidate the manhood suffrage registration act; the act to amend the department of education act; the act respecting the salaries of members of the Executive Council; the power commission act; the succession duty act; the statute law amendment act, 1907; the municipal amendment act, 1907; and the assessment amendment act, 1907; as well as a number of other very desirable and valuable enactments.

Steady Progress Manifested.

I notice, with pleasure, the steady development and progress manifested in every portion of the Province, and particularly that part of it known as New Ontario. The very great value of the mineral deposits in the Cobalt district is becoming more apparent every day, and I observe, with satisfaction, the efforts of my Ministers, by careful legislation, to aid in the development of these deposits in the interest alike of the mining prospector, the investor and the people of the Province. This has been done, as far as possible, by the mining legislation above indicated, as well as by the enactment of the Ontario companies act.

The agricultural interests of the Province are still growing in importance and value, hence the question of farm labor is assuming a serious aspect. My Ministers have determined to increase, during the present year, the efforts made during past years by the Department of Agriculture to obtain for the farmers of the Province a more adequate supply of the help that is needed.

Education of Children.

The question of the education of the children of the people of the Province is of paramount importance. I desire, therefore, to congratulate you upon the ample and liberal appropriation you have made towards this object.

I am glad to inform you that considerable progress has been made in the very thorough revision of the Provincial statutes which is being effected by the commissioners appointed for that purpose, and that my Ministers expect to be able to present to you the results of the revision at your next session.

As heretofore, the activity in business circles, together with the increasing wants of our people, are evidenced by the volume of private legislation, which is steadily growing. Some of this legislation is of a very important character, and bears distinct evidence of having received that careful supervision which is always desirable and is, indeed, in every instance very necessary.

The evidences of the material progress of the people are to be seen on every hand. The requirements and demands of the public service, which are

come before you. A measure has been adopted, namely, an act respecting certain railway and other corporations, which, it is hoped, will serve to protect the Province from any encroachments upon its jurisdiction.

I observe by the terms of the address which you have presented to me that another grave question has arisen, namely, the claim of the Dominion to assume, for military purposes, and without compensation, certain lands and timber which are the property of the Province. In pursuance of the terms of the address, my Ministers will take all necessary steps to protect the interests of the Province in that behalf.

I thank you for the liberality displayed by you in making the necessary appropriations for the public service for the current year, and assure you that the supplies you have voted will be expended as economically as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service.

Relieved of Their Duties.

In relieving you from your duties I desire again to express my thanks for the great public service you have rendered, and join with you in expressing the hope that the blessing of Almighty God will continue to rest upon our country and upon our people.