

free discussion, give the full benefit of its wisdom to the shaping of legislation and the framing of public policy.

Increase School Grants.

"The educational needs of the Province arising from the conditions which prevailed prior to and during the war have received the thoughtful consideration of the Government. Pending a thorough inquiry into the whole subject, you will be asked to provide for an increase in the grants to the rural schools, both in the counties and in the districts. Your approval will also be asked for making such provision for the publication of school textbooks as shall avoid increasing the cost of books to the pupils. Measures will be submitted to you providing for a revision of the public school law and for a revision of the Public Libraries Act so as to afford encouragement to these institutions. Plans have been matured by the Department of Agriculture for affording a greater stimulus to agricultural production in this Province, for improving the quality of live stock, and for fostering certain undertakings on behalf of the farmer which cannot be accomplished by individual effort. The Department proposes to take steps to bring the advantages of agricultural education more directly home to the people. In order to safeguard the interests of milk and cream shippers a bill will be introduced to regulate the purchases of milk and cream.

"There is reason to believe that the application of a progressive and well-balanced road policy will materially improve rural conditions throughout the Province and will facilitate the marketing of crops with advantage alike to the producer and the consumer. A number of amendments to the present laws will be submitted to you with a view to rendering such a policy effective.

Soldiers' Aid Commission.

"Inasmuch as the original objects of the Soldiers' Aid Commission have in a large measure been served, and most of its remaining work has been taken over by Federal organizations, my Ministers propose to devote the labors of the Commission hereafter mainly to the care of the dependents of soldiers, who have been left as a sacred charge upon the community. Complaints having been made as to the conditions prevailing in the Soldiers' Settlement Colony at Kapuskasing, a Commission has been appointed to investigate and suggest remedial action and is now engaged in the work.

"In view of the depletion of our forests, and the growing of a permanent supply of timber for our industries, the Government proposes to make better provision for reforestation, and to organize a more energetic and effective means of fire protection.

"It is proposed to recognize the importance of the mining industry by creating a Department of Mines, thus separating the administration of mining lands and affairs from that of Lands and Forests, and appointing a Minister of Mines. A bill effecting the separation and defining the duties of the respective departments will be submitted. Mining and agricultural development, happily, combine to forward the settlement of newer parts of Ontario, and the encouragement of the search for mineral deposits is an object of the first necessity for the welfare of the mining industry. A bill will be submitted amending the Mining Act by reducing the fees for recording mining claims and providing other assistance to prospectors.

Labor Legislation.

"During the past year a National Labor Conference was held in the city of Ottawa, and also an International Conference at Washington, in accordance with the terms of the Peace Treaty, at both of which gatherings this Province was officially represented. As an outcome of the National Conference the Federal Government has arranged for a meeting of representatives of the Dominion and the various Provinces to consider the unification of the labor laws of Canada. My Ministers realize the importance of this work, both from the standpoint of the workers and the employers. Various

measures affecting labor and improving existing laws will be submitted to you, and also a bill providing for the payment of allowances in certain cases to the mothers of dependent children.

"Among other measures which will be brought to your attention will be bills to provide for the preparation of voters' lists, and to amend the election laws, to amend the Succession Duty Act, to amend the Corporations Tax Act, respecting the law of partnership and the sale of goods.

"Reports will be submitted to you as early as practicable regarding the work of the Hydro-electric Power Commission, the Timiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway Commission, the Workmen's Compensation Commission, and other public undertakings carried on under the authority of this Legislature.

"The public accounts will be laid before you at the earliest possible time, and also supplementary estimates for the current fiscal year, and estimates for the ensuing year.

"In conclusion, I desire to commend to your earnest consideration the measures that will come before you and to express the hope that, under the blessing and guidance of Providence, your deliberations will promote the welfare of all sections and classes in this Province."