

knowledge of the vast field of unexplored subterranean resources.

The labours of science have disclosed the presence in the Province of considerable mineral treasures.

As these latter are gradually developed, so also will be sufficiently established new centres of settlement and labour, and fresh fields for the exertion of private capital in divers public enterprises, such as the construction of branch railways, and other kindred aids to the development of that active commerce which is the truest test of national health.

During this session I hope to be in possession of such information relative to discoveries of coal as may justify my inviting your assistance in devising some means for immediately acquiring the great benefits that ought to result from such a discovery.

To this end I shall probably request your co-operation in an endeavour to induce the employment of private capital under such conditions as

will harmonize with a concurrent expenditure of public monies.

The accounts of the past financial year I shall cause to be immediately submitted to you.

You will be gratified to find that there remains a general balance in the Treasury amounting on the whole to near £30,000; and I am advised that there exists a reasonable prospect of the recent and present rate of revenue being steadily maintained.

You will therefore be in a position to sanction a very considerable outlay in the improvement of the country—present prosperity, however, also suggests and justifies the propriety of reducing and consolidating the debts of the Province; accordingly I purpose asking you to sanction the immediate redemption of the Canterbury Association Debentures; this being effected, would leave the proper debts of the Canterbury Government comprised within two items only, viz.: The Emigration Debentures, amounting to £30,000, and the Railway Loan Debentures, not yet sold. With respect to the former amount of £30,000, I may state that a considerable sum is secured by