

were printed in 1791, in English and in French, at the office of Neilson's old *Quebec Gazette*, is at present a rare and valued document.

This inventory showed that several important records therein mentioned were missing. If not irretrievably lost, their absence from the shelves of the public office, which at one time had owned them, was established.

I can recall visiting in my youth the damp subterranean vaults of the old parliament house at Quebec (since destroyed by fire) and being struck by the prodigious mass of documents, bound and unbound folios, parchments and registers stored there. Some, however, were destined to escape the corroding tooth of time and decay, and one of the most zealous presidents of the Literary and Historical Society at Quebec, the late George B. Faribault had succeeded in inducing the society to have them transcribed. Others were removed to the dark cells of the Quebec court house, whilst many perished in the great fires that ravaged the city. The major part, however, one is happy to say, were safely stored, after Confederation, in the fireproof rooms of the provincial registrar in the new legislative building at Quebec.

Several friends of progress, since that period, the first prime-minister of the province Hon. P. J. O. Chauveau, Hon. Gédéon Ouimet, later on the Hons. Jean Blanchet and C. E. A. Gagnon, provincial secretaries, urged on by