

# REPORT ON HISTORICAL ARCHIVES.

DOUGLAS BRYMNER, ARCHIVIST.

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Honourable JOHN CARLING,  
Minister of Agriculture,  
&c., &c., &c.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the report on Historical Archives for 1886.

The work of copying the State Papers in the Public Record Office, London, has been continued during the year. In addition to the documents relating to events since the conquest (1760), a considerable portion of those concerning the beginning of the final struggle for supremacy on this continent has been received, in which is included the correspondence of Generals Braddock, Shirley, Johnson (Sir William), Webb, Abercromby, Lord Loudoun, Hopson, Forbes, Wolfe and Amherst; Admirals Boscawen and Saunders; Commodore Holbourne and others, with the secret correspondence relating to the conduct of the war. The work of copying is steadily prosecuted, and the same care and watchfulness exercised to secure exact transcripts of the original documents.

As recommended, Mr. Joseph Marmette, Assistant Archivist, was sent to Paris, with instructions to examine and report on the documents to be found in the Archives there, affecting the history of Canada. He has transmitted an account of his proceedings, which is appended to this report.

Additions continue to be made to the registers of the births, marriages and deaths in the earliest settlements, which are found to be of great value in tracing descent. These include the early Acadian registers, those of the French settlements in the west and a portion of the Protestant registers immediately subsequent to the conquest. A complete collection is also in progress of the land titles from the first settlement of the Province of Quebec. Abstracts of the Fealty Rolls (*Acts de foy et hommage*) have already been published, but there is still a large number of documents of the same nature, now being copied. A very important contribution to the history of the country, from a legal point of view, has been made by the Government of Quebec, by the publication of the judgments and deliberations of the Superior or Sovereign Council (by both of which names it was known). Acknowledgments are due to the Honourable Mr. Blanchet, Provincial Secretary, for the gift to the Archives of the two volumes published up to this date.