

work was accomplished. Most important among the documents collected were copies of the official correspondence between the French Government and their representatives in New France. From the time of Cartier and of the Company of New France, through the administration of Frontenac, of Beauharnois, of Hocquart and of Duquesne, down to the days of Vaudreuil, of Bigot and of Montcalm, the life of the French Colony is pictured with a realism which nothing but the narrative of its leaders could supply. In the same series is a wealth of correspondence relating to the history of Acadia, of Cape Breton and of the missions of the Roman Catholic Church. As a continuation of this series there are the state papers of Lower and Upper Canada and of the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island. The official correspondence of the Governors of Quebec, and later of Lower Canada, from the Conquest to the Union of the Provinces occupies over eight hundred volumes. Nearly two hundred volumes are devoted to the correspondence of the Lieutenant Governors of Upper Canada between 1792 and 1841, while the same number contained the State Papers of the Maritime Provinces from their earliest days down to 1802. In addition to this, more than one thousand volumes, classified as Military Correspondence, furnish valuable data in connection with the War of 1812, the Rebellion of 1837, as well as on the early development of our land and water communications, then valuable quite as much for their military as their commercial utility. A collection of letters of Colonel Bouquet throws much light on the period from 1755 to 1765 while the correspondence of General Haldimand, comprising two hundred and fifty volumes, supplies information of inestimable value on the history of the colony from the cession to the Constitutional Act. Such a collection forms a worthy monument to the energy of Dr. Brymner.

Nor was this the extent of his labours. In addition to collecting manuscripts he endeavoured to bring their contents within the reach of the public. The yearly reports of the Archives, containing calendars of the various documents, were the sole means by which the public were enabled to learn of the facts hidden in these manuscripts.

Not, apparently, till 1897, when a fire threatened the destruction of valuable records, did the importance of the work of preserving the Archives appeal to the government. In that year a commission was appointed to report upon the state of the public records. It was recommended that the offices of Dominion Archivist and Keeper of Records, formerly distinct, be combined and that in the custody of this officer should be placed all the documents then composing the Archives, the records, prior to Confederation, in the Department of the Secretary of State, in the Privy Council Office and in the office of the Provincial Secretary of Canada as well as particular and valuable series of documents from various other departments. The value of such an acquisition remains yet to be seen.

It may truly be said that the appointment in 1904 of the present Archivist, Dr. Arthur G. Doughty, C.M.G., marks a new era in the history of the Canadian Archives. One of the early problems was to secure a suitable building for the preservation of the archives. The erection of the present fire-proof