

"could be reached at once. In both provinces there are collections of private documents especially relating to the period of the Revolution which it will be necessary to take an account of before the history of the two provinces can be fully told.

"Having disposed of most of the material immediately available in Halifax I went to Fredericton and addressed myself to the difficult task of examining the historical documents in the possession of the Provincial Government. Unlike Nova Scotia, the Province of New Brunswick has never made any systematic attempt to take care of its Archives, so that my work not only included examining them but discovering their whereabouts.

"Up to the year 1784 when it became a separate province the history of New Brunswick is included in that of Nova Scotia, but as the French claimed that the limits of Acadia as surrendered by the Treaty of Utrecht, were confined to the Peninsula of Nova Scotia, they continued to hold a more or less efficient possession of the territory of New Brunswick until the fall of Quebec. Therefore many of the records connected with the territory now known as New Brunswick are to be found in the French documents relating to Quebec and Cape Breton. It was to New Brunswick that many of the Acadian refugees fled after the expulsion of 1755, and more than 80,000 of their descendants live in the province to-day.

"About half a century ago three volumes of French documents relating to the early history of the province were obtained from Quebec, being transcripts of documents in the Bureau of Marine in Paris. Of these I have made a complete list or calendar. Since then hardly anything has been done in the way of preserving the Archives of the Province, some portions of which are allowed to remain in private hands for months and even years at a time. In 1902 and 1903 I made an index of the Legislative papers of the Province from the meeting of the first Legislature in 1786 down to the year 1858. This index fills two large volumes and by means of it reference can be had to any papers between these dates. The papers themselves are kept in cabinets in a large vault, safe from fire and properly arranged. Previous to this time a Mr. Miner had collected and put in order a number of papers which were in the garrets of the Departmental Building and these, with the permission of the Government, I have brought down to a room, in the Parliament Building where they are accessible, and I have also made a list of them. These papers relate to the offices of the Provincial Secretary, Board of Works, and Surveyor General and many of them are of great importance. The papers of the Executive Council were also kept in the garret of the Provincial Secretary's office, but have been removed by the Clerk of the Executive Council to a more suitable location and are being properly catalogued.

"These papers, of course, contain the inner history of the Province and supplement the minutes of the Executive Council, which in some cases are quite full and in others very meagre. The Legislative papers and the papers of the Executive Council must be read together for the purpose of reaching a proper understanding of the facts of any case which came before the House of Assembly. For instance at the first election which was held in 1785, in the city of St. John, there were two sets of candidates, the nominees of the more aristocratic element and those of the democracy. As no legislative enactment fixing the qualifications of a voter was in existence, the Governor in Council dealt with that matter and gave a vote to all persons who had resided for three months in the province. At the close of the poll it was found that the Democratic candidates had a large majority of the votes cast. A scrutiny was immediately demanded and was held by the Sheriff, Mr. Oliver, who struck off 180 votes from each of the six men who had a majority of the votes cast and declared the nominees of the aristocratic element elected. As the men whose votes were objected to and struck off had been residents as long as the others, the whole affair looks like a high handed outrage. The defeated candidates petitioned the Legislature for redress but received none, the technical ground being raised that they should have objected to the proceedings of the Sheriff. The Legislative papers give the petitions, but on reference to the Executive Council papers the whole story is made more clear, because there are to be found the various documents that passed between the Sheriff and the candidates reciting the facts, and also the statement of the Sheriff thereon. The sequel to this