

view this branch has been of great service, an important part of its functions which is apt to be overlooked, its value for historical purposes, being that to which attention is chiefly called, owing to the greater publicity naturally given to this part of the office, as there is scarcely a recent work published relating to the history of Canada or the United States that does not contain acknowledgements of obligations to this branch for information given and assistance rendered. It will not, I trust, be considered out of place to quote one or two of the many notices by authorities on historical subjects in the United States; those from Canadian writers are equally favourable. In the *Atlantic Monthly* (Boston, Mass.), for November last, is a review of Mr. Theodore Roosevelt's "Winning of the West," which states that he has in the preparation of the work "consulted original documents in the State Department at Washington, the Canadian Archives at Ottawa—*unrivalled on this continent for materials in Western history.*"

In the "Narrative and Critical History of America," edited by Mr. Justin Winsor, the latest extensive work on this subject, it is stated, in reference to the sources of information with respect to Canada from 1763 to 1867: "The most remarkable service done to the history of this period (1763 to 1791), as well as to that of several years following, has been accomplished by the Canadian Archives Department, Ottawa, whose collection, begun in 1872, under the indefatigable management of Mr. Douglas Brymner, has grown with marvellous rapidity in the few years of its existence." (Vol. VIII, p. 171.)

At the recent meetings of the American Historical Association the Canadian Archives have been specially noticed for their importance. At the meeting in Boston, in May, 1887, Mr. Justin Winsor, of Harvard College, President of the Association, in his address on the "Manuscript Sources of American History," says: "We owe it to the intelligent action of the Dominion Government and to the assiduity of the Dominion Archivist, Mr. Brymner, that copies of the Haldimand Papers are now at Ottawa, of which we are given an excellent key in the calendar in course of publication by that same Officer."

At the meeting of the same association held at Washington in December, 1888, the President, Dr. F. W. Poole, of Chicago, said, in reference to the "Sources and Facilities for the Study of North-Western History:" "I will first call attention to the collection of original documents in the Canadian Archives at Ottawa. A large portion of these documents relate to the early history of the North west, then a part of Canada. Some of them have been used by Mr. Parkman; but as a collection it is little known to writers on Western history. It covers the period from the earliest settlement of Canada to recent dates, and is especially rich in documents of the last century relating to the North-West, in reference to which our National and State archives are very weak.

"The intelligence with which these documents have been collected, arranged, and calendared in print is most creditable to the Canadian Government, and to its accomplished Archivist."

In summing up, Dr. Poole adds:

"Something of the enterprise of the Canadian Government should animate the Congress of the United States in the establishment and support of a Department of Archives, which will be worthy of this nation."