

REPORT ON CANADIAN ARCHIVES

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Honourable SYDNEY A. FISHER,
Minister of Agriculture,
&c., &c., &c.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the report on Archives for 1897.

The copying of the State papers in London and Paris is proceeding regularly and systematically. The transcripts received from Paris cover the dates from 1575 to 1741, the work being carried on under the careful supervision of M. Victor Tantet. Mr. E. Richard has been sent to Paris to continue investigations begun by Mr. Marmette in 1883. The work of transcribing the papers relating to Nova Scotia has been begun in London. A calendar of these was published in the report for 1894, abstracts having been made from the original documents in the Public Record Office and Departments of State in London, England.

It is with much regret that I have to report that in consequence of a fire in the Western Block, in which the Archives were deposited, they had to be removed and are now stored in a place of safety in the Departmental Building in Wellington street. The removal was effected by your instructions, thanks to which and to the energetic action of Mr. Jarvis, Secretary of the Department, they were transferred to the present place of deposit without the loss of a single document, the only injury sustained being that caused by water to the binding of a few volumes, which was easily repaired. I was at the time confined to bed from an attack of influenza. Until preparations, now in progress, are completed for the reception of the documents, access cannot easily be obtained to them, they being piled on the floors of the rooms in which they are stored, although as orderly an arrangement has been made as is possible under the circumstances. Some of the transcripts and other papers last received have from necessity been left in the cases in which they arrived. It is hoped that before long the work of preparation for the arrangement of the Archives may have so far advanced as to warrant a beginning being made of the orderly arrangement of the papers, to be carried to completion as shortly thereafter as possible, so as to admit of the same facility of reference as existed before the fire. Notwithstanding the obstacles caused by the fire and by the difficulty of obtaining ready access to the papers, it will be seen by the calendar that no effort has been wanting to make the report as complete as has been the case hitherto.

Inquiries continue to be made in yearly increasing numbers from various parts of Canada, the United States and elsewhere for information on matters of interest, and contributions have, as in former years, been received from learned societies and