

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

AFTER twelve years a new edition of this collection of documents has been called for, and the Oxford University Press has generously given me an opportunity to revise and enlarge it. I have done so with greater ease owing to the fact that many of the collections which were not available when the first edition appeared have been re-printed, and I am thus able to omit documents which can now be easily consulted. In addition, I have benefited, I hope, from criticisms, and greatly reduced the documents for the period 1791–1840. Many of them have been found superfluous in their endless repetitions, and, at any rate, they can now be referred to with greater facility owing to the increasing interest in and wider dissemination of Canadian historical material since 1918. I have thus made room for more modern material, especially from Bagot's dispatches and from the documents since 1867. I have seen no reason to change my opinions about editing and I adhere to the plan suggested in the preface to the first edition. The book is primarily for students, and one of their most important duties is to learn for themselves to use documents and not to rely on an editor.

It is a pleasure, within so few years for a book of this nature, to prepare a new edition. I am glad to know that the older one has been in use throughout the Anglo-Saxon world and in the universities and government offices of most European countries.

I should like to thank all those who have helped me and to add specially to the names of older friends those of Mr. F. H. Underhill, professor of history in the University of Toronto, and of Mr. N. A. MacKenzie, my colleague in law, who have given me generously of their advice and time. My wife has seen the book through the press and compiled the index, which is meant to provide a reasonable method of reference, as it was impossible for reasons of space to index the volume in the detail which I should have liked. The dedication records memories deeper and more personal of two of my students, whose careers were cut off at the beginnings of brilliant promise.

W. P. M. KENNEDY.

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