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The Canadian Archives.

THE study of History has undergone a marvellous change during the past half century. Its sphere has been invaded by the prevailing spirit of scientific research with the result that there has been a general movement back to original sources. Thus, to the public records of the past is added a new and greater interest. In like manner, a fuller appreciation of the influence of personality on the life of a people, and the recognition of the share of individual effort in the progress of society has introduced a more sympathetic and truer knowledge of the development of social institutions. The records of men prominent in the various spheres of human interest become the treasury of a wealth of historical data. To the student of History the national archives, as a repository of these documents, public and private, become a source of supreme interest.

The development of Canadian institutions, social, political and economic, merits special attention from the Canadian student. The three centuries of the country's life are crowded with great movements and noble deeds. Strong men,—men revealing an infinite variety of type of personality, have found here ample scope for the practical expression of their ambitions and ideals. For many the Colony proved a theatre for noble actions crowned with grand success; to others, for whom its problems were too great, it seemed a "burying ground for ruined reputations." To the student of History, what sphere offers richer opportunities than the story of the Canadian people? Nor is the field one in which it is necessary to follow beaten paths. Much of inestimable value has been done by Canadian historians; yet much more remains to be accomplished. The examination of records now being discovered casts new light on our history and necessitates a certain measure of reconstruction while it permits a truer interpretation, than has hitherto been possible, of the lives of the leaders of the nation's progress. Thus, to the student of Canadian History the Canadian Archives become a veritable fountain head of knowledge and inspiration.

In 1871 a petition was presented to Parliament emphasizing the necessity of preserving the records illustrative of the progress of Canadian society and with the result that in the following year Mr. Douglas Brynmner was appointed to superintend the work of collecting the Canadian Archives. During the thirty years of Dr. Brynmner's service as Archivist, in spite of difficulties, a great