

## APPENDIX No. I

### REPORT ON PUBLIC ARCHIVES.

(DOUGLAS BRYMNER, ARCHIVIST)

SIR,—I have the honour to present the Annual Report respecting the Historical Archives under my charge. The catalogue at the end of this Report will show the additions that have been made to the collection during the year.

Through the courtesy of the Governments of Ontario and Quebec, collections of the public documents of these Provinces, since Confederation, have been placed in the depository. The Right Honourable Sir George Jessel, Master of the Rolls and Keeper of the Records of England, has made a very valuable gift of the Reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, whose labours were referred to in my last Report, besides the Reports from 1840 to 1882 (43 volumes), of the Deputy Keeper of Records, London, and three volumes of the Calendars of the Colonial series of State Papers, in addition to the two which were acquired last year. Two of the Reports on Historical Manuscripts (volumes 3 and 4) are out of print, but instructions have been sent to London to obtain them, if possible, so as to complete the set. Every exertion is being made to secure as complete sets as possible of the documents relating to the different periods of the history of the British North American Provinces and of the Dominion of Canada.

Of the Haldimand and Bouquet collections, which have been copied in the British Museum, 144 volumes of the former and 17 volumes of the latter have been received. With the exception of those which have only lately been sent, the volumes have been calendared. The Calendar of one of those relating to the negotiations with Vermont and of a volume of correspondence relating to affairs in Detroit and expeditions from thence into the western country, &c., are printed at the end of this Report, to show the system adopted (*See Note A*). The last volume has been selected owing to the interest taken in the events referred to in it, as evinced by the frequent inquiries made by investigators respecting them. Instructions have been sent to have copies made of other papers in the Museum, the work on which is now in progress.

The work of indexing has been continued steadily during the year, so as to make the papers as useful as possible to investigators.

I would respectfully beg to direct attention to the question of enlarged space for the Archives rooms. In order to make the papers there easily accessible, it is necessary that there should be room to arrange systematically the various documents, manuscript or printed, according to Provinces, subjects and periods, besides divisions being set apart for those of a general nature, bearing more or less directly on the interests of the Dominion or the Provinces, such as, to mention two instances, commercial and vital statistics. At present there is no possibility of making any other than temporary arrangements; there can be no permanent method of classifying on the shelves and arranging the catalogue; no way by which, without trouble or hesitation, a work or paper can be given out for reference in the absence of the Archivist. The most has been, and will be, made of the accommodation provided, but there has not been, and still less is there now, any room for satisfactory arrangement. This is a point to which I feel that attention should be directed. It is probably impossible, in the present crowded state of the Departments, to find a remedy for this state of things in the buildings as they now are, but before long, it is evident, some remedy must be found for the general complaint; and the growing importance of this branch will, it is to be hoped, lead to such arrangements as shall be sufficient for many years.