

MG 26

D

THOMPSON, Rt. Hon. Sir John Sparrow David (1844-1894). Prime Minister.

Originals, 1867-1901, 13.88 metres. Finding Aid No. 156 and Index cards.

John Sparrow David Thompson was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1844. He began studying law at the age of 15 and was admitted to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1865. In 1877, Thompson was elected to the Nova Scotia Legislature and served as Attorney-General, 1878-1882 and Premier of the province from May to July 1882. In 1882, he was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia and occupied this position until 1885, when he was persuaded to enter Sir John A. Macdonald's cabinet. He served as Minister of Justice under Macdonald and Abbott as well as in his own ministry. In 1888, he was created a K.C.M.G. Following the resignation of J.J.C. Abbott late in 1892, Thompson became Prime Minister. He served as Prime Minister for only 2 years. He died suddenly on 12 December 1894 at Windsor Castle, moments after he had been sworn in as a Member of the Privy Council by Queen Victoria.

The papers of Sir John Thompson were presented to the Public Archives in 1949 by his son, Lt. Col. John Thompson. A scrap-book of newspaper clippings (Volume 299) concerning Thompson's death was transferred from the Department of Justice in 1968. A number of Commissions and letters of appointment were donated by Mrs. Irving Cameron of Rockcliffe in 1971. (Volume 300 and vertical file cabinet.)

There are two card indexes located in the reference room which provide a detailed finding aid to the correspondence in the Thompson Papers. The first is a finding aid to Thompson's political correspondence (Letters received 1869-1894, volumes 1-224) which consists of an index card for each letter indicating date, author, subject, and item number. The cards are arranged alphabetically by correspondent. The second card index is a finding aid to the rest of Thompson's political correspondence (volumes 225-274), his personal correspondence (volume 283), as well as Lady Thompson's correspondence (volumes 288-293), and that of their children (volumes 297-298). This index consists of cards indicating date, author, subject, and location of each letter. Again the cards are filed alphabetically by correspondent.

The file folder finding aid 156 also available on microfilm reel C-11061 contains:

1. A conversion list giving microfilm reel numbers, volume numbers, item or page numbers, and dates. This list includes a description of the items not contained in the card index.
2. A list of the items stored in the vertical cabinet & volume 300.
3. A nominal index for Thompson's political correspondence (vols. 1-224) which indicated by number only the letters from each correspondent.

Political Papers.

Letters received, 1869-1894. Originals, 10.425 m. (volumes 1-224)
These letters are arranged in chronological order and numbered from 1 to 27,891.