

# REPORT ON HISTORICAL ARCHIVES.

DOUGLAS BRYMNER, ARCHIVIST.

Honourable JOHN CARLING,  
Minister of Agriculture,  
&c., &c., &c.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the report on the Archives for 1887.

The State Papers in the Record Office, London (Colonial Series), for the period from 1755 to 1791, have been copied and are now on the shelves here, available for reference. The correspondence and documents contained in these cover the time immediately preceding the cession of Canada, down to the division of the Province of Quebec into Lower and Upper Canada. Among the later volumes of this series are six volumes containing report of the investigation in 1787 into the state of the Courts of Justice and the conduct of the Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas, and nine volumes of the papers relating to the estates held by the Jesuits in Quebec, the investigation extending from November, 1790, to May, 1791. Instructions have been given to have the work of copying the documents after 1791 divided, so that those relating to the two old Provinces may be obtained concurrently for reference. Copyists have been engaged on these papers for some time, and they will be forwarded as fast as the volumes are revised and bound.

I would beg to call attention to the report on the documents in Paris, made by Mr. Joseph Marmette, Assistant Archivist, in continuation of report of investigations among the French Archives relating to the Colonies, with list of the documents to be copied there, which can be proceeded with so soon as the necessary means shall be provided.

Satisfactory progress has been made during the year in the copying of the land titles and other papers in the Provincial Registry Office in Quebec. Very important additions have been made to the collection of the old French parish registers, previously here; besides those relating to the Maritime Provinces, to the Bay of Chaleurs, and adjoining territory, &c., the registers of the old French parishes in the west, and others of the earlier dates of settlement, have been obtained. No opportunity is lost so far as means allow, of obtaining copies of these documents wherever their existence can be ascertained. This collection is already beginning to assume importance, and is not only of interest, but of material value. Mr. Riopel, M.P., placed the land register for the early settlement of Bonaventure at the disposal of the branch, for the purpose of being copied, which has been done, and the work carefully revised and bound.