

governors. Already the papers of General Murray, of Lord Durham, of Sir Charles Bagot and of Lord Elgin have been acquired. In this connection too much cannot be said in praise of the public spirit manifested by the representatives of the families of the early governors in placing at the disposal of the Canadian people the valuable records of their ancestors. They have come to regard themselves not as the owners of these documents but rather as the custodians, holding them for the benefit of the colony and the Empire which their family served. Conditions in Canada in this respect are different. Her youth and the democratic spirit inevitable to a colonial society has not permitted the development of magnificent family traditions based on long records of public service. The preservation of family papers cannot be viewed in the same light as it is in Britain. Nevertheless, the Archives has been fortunate in securing such private collections as the Neilson papers, the Rolph papers, the Clause papers and the Askin papers.

#### The Utilization of Archives.

Archives may be used in conducting current business as the record of past transactions, or they may be consulted by the historian in his endeavour to interpret the life of the past. A command of their contents is necessary before records can be used for one purpose or the other. The preparation of adequate indexes therefore becomes a matter of great importance. The Canadian Archives is attempting the preparation of two indexes, the one, which is not to be published, a minute detailed key to the contents of the records for the purpose of aiding investigations conducted within the office, the other, which is to be published, a general

guide designed to indicate to the students the extent and character of the material on various historical subjects. Unfortunately the preparation of indexes has not kept pace with the rapid accumulation of records.

Nevertheless the records in the Archives have proved of inestimable value in determining rights to property both public and private. The interpretation of treaties would be impossible without reference to the correspondence connected with their formation. In the determination of boundary lines, water-courses and other matters of international interest, both the documents and the maps have afforded valuable assistance. Similarly, in case of private litigation, resort is continually being made to the records in the Archives to establish the validity and extent of claims to property.

But it is for the purpose of historical research that most frequent use is made of the Dominion Archives. It has been the policy of the Department not only to permit students to have access to the documents but, as far as possible, to publish faithful copies of the texts of the more important series of documents. The publication of annual calendars has been discontinued for the reason that in many cases the documents calendared had not been transcribed by the Archives, and in others, calendars could not be made of all the documents constituting the series. Under the present policy two classes of reports are issued—the Annual Report of the Dominion Archivist and special Publications of the Archives. The annual report, to a large degree, fulfills the purpose served by the former calendars in that it gives a summary of all the material secured by the Archives during the period which it covers. In the special publi-