

The Sub-Committee on Historical Documents beg leave to Report:—

That Your Committee were deputed to consider the expediency of making provision to obtain from the public depositories in *Europe*, and elsewhere, copies of historical documents and State papers in relation to the early history of *Canada*, and to advise as to the adoption of measures for the care, preservation and accessibility to the public of the Historical Manuscripts concerning *Canada*, which are already in the Library of Parliament.

The Honorable Mr. *Pope*, Minister of Agriculture and Statistics, who has charge of matters relating to Dominion Records, attended the Committee, by special request, and gave information as to the steps already taken by the Executive Government, pursuant to a recommendation contained in the Second Report of the Joint Library Committee in 1871. He produced and read to the Committee a Report he had made to the Privy Council, on 28th February last, of proceedings in relation to the Public Archives in conformity with the desire of Parliament expressed in a vote granting the sum of \$4,000 "to meet expenses in connection with the care of the Archives." Also a Report from Mr. *Douglas Brymner*, who was despatched from the Department in June last, to institute inquiries into the existence of Public Documents, and the place, condition, and keeping in which they were, in the several Provinces of *Ontario*, *Quebec*, *Nova Scotia* and *New Brunswick*.

The Committee were much gratified with this information, and with the zeal and intelligence displayed by Mr. *Brymner* in the discharge of the duty entrusted to him. They learnt, with satisfaction, that the Government had agreed to recommend to Parliament that a sum of money, equal to the last year's grant should be voted for similar services during the ensuing fiscal year. And that, pending the consideration of the expediency of erecting a suitable building for the deposit and safe keeping of all the Dominion Archives, it was in contemplation to lodge these collections in temporary fire proof vaults, to be prepared for the purpose in the Western Block of the Departmental Buildings, where proper arrangements would be made for the custody, arrangement and preservation of such Documents, as may be collected from time to time.

The Committee approved of the continuance of Mr. *Brymner's* services; and generally of the steps proposed to be taken by Government during the ensuing year for the further prosecution of the enquiries so judiciously commenced. They were of opinion, however, that some competent person, well versed in Canadian history, and acquainted with the character and extent of the manuscript collections already existing in the Library of Parliament, and in other public or private institutions in *Canada*, should be authorised to visit *London* and *Paris*, at an early date, for the purpose of obtaining copies of rare and valuable historical documents, not yet to be found in any Library in the Dominion. The name of *M. l'Abbé Verreau*, President of the *Montreal* Historical Society, and Principal of the *Jacques Cartier* Normal School was suggested, as that of one whose learning, experience and ability, pointed him out as peculiarly qualified for such an undertaking. The Committee have accordingly agreed to advise the Government to avail themselves of his services in this behalf. Mr. *T. B. Akins*, Commissioner of Public Records for *Nova Scotia*, was also mentioned, as having rendered efficient help in the collection and publication of the documentary annals of that Province, and as being able to afford valuable advice and assistance in relation to the archives of the Maritime Provinces.

In the prosecution of these important inquiries, the Committee would furthermore impress upon Government the necessity for including the new Provinces of *Manitoba* and of *British Columbia* within the scope of their investigations, in order to ascertain what materials may exist, of historical value, in those distant parts of the Dominion, and to gather and preserve, for future use, whatever Papers or Records could be found descriptive of the past history, and the progress of settlement and discovery in the northern and western parts of *British North America*. In aid of such researches, the Honorable Mr.