

REPORT ON CANADIAN ARCHIVES.

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The Honourable

SYDNEY A. FISHER,

Minister of Agriculture,

&c., &c., &c.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the report on Archives for 1899.

The internal work of the branch goes on, as usual, with regularity, industry, and the strictest regard to economy. The State papers in London, relating to Upper and Lower Canada, continue to be received, every care being exercised both in London and here to have exact transcripts made, and to guard against errors in copying. The missing volumes from Paris have been received besides additional volumes supplying gaps which had existed in those previously on the shelves.

The correspondence of Bougainville, received from M. de Kerallain, of Quimper, France, credited to him in last report, as an acknowledgment to which he was justly entitled, is, he writes, the property of Mdme. de Saint Sauveur Bougainville, to whom thanks are due. The letters contained in the correspondence do not in any degree support the charges brought against Bougainville of incapacity, carelessness or disobedience to orders at the time of the attack on Quebec by Wolfe, the letters from Messrs. Vaudreuil and Levis after the disaster to the French troops on the Plains of Abraham and the death of Montcalm, containing on the contrary many expressions of esteem and regard, which would not have been the case had he been guilty of the misconduct alleged. His letter to Madame Herault published in the report for 1898 gives an account of his proceedings during the campaign and after the death of Montcalm which is altogether irreconcilable with the charges.

As usual, a sketch is given of the events treated of in the correspondence, the facts being taken from the documents themselves, with occasional references to other authorities.