

APPENDIX No. 25.

RECORD COMMISSION.

REPORT OF THOMAS B. AKINS,

Appointed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to be Commissioner of Public Records, under a resolution of the House of Assembly, passed 31st day of April, A. D., 1857, as follows, viz. :—"That His Excellency be respectfully requested to cause the ancient records and documents illustrative of the history and progress of society in this Province, to be examined, preserved, and arranged, either for reference or publication, as the Legislature may hereafter determine, and that this House will provide for the same."

TO THE HONORABLE THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY.

Sir,—

I have the honor to submit for the information of the Administrator of the Government, the following report of my proceedings during the last three years, relating to the public archives of this Province under my charge.

By the report of the committee of the House of Assembly on the subject of the Record Commission, made on the 30th day of April, 1860, it was recommended that the work of the Commissioner should be suspended until the termination of the then current year, after which it should be resumed, with a view to its completion. Accordingly, on the first day of January, 1861, the work was resumed, and continued without intermission until April, 1862. During these fifteen months a large mass of papers were examined, and selections made from them of such documents as were considered worthy of preservation, not only as being of historical value, but also such as appeared likely to be the subject of reference for business purposes. These selections occupy sixty-four volumes, and have been bound up and their contents carefully catalogued. A large quantity of papers connected with the granting of land have been also put in order, tied up in bundles under their respective dates, and packed away in boxes. These papers consist of petitions for grants, warrants of survey, orders, original surveys, and drafts of the grants, &c. They occupy four boxes.

The volumes of selections bound during the year 1861, consist of the following, viz. :—

	VOLS.
Papers of the Legislative Council from 1830 to 1841,	7
Supplemental volume of Cape Breton papers from 1799,	1
Continuation of the first series of files of the House of Assembly from 1831,	1
Supplemental volume of papers from files of Legislative Council,	1
Sheriffs' appointments, gaol returns, &c.,	1
Supplemental volumes of general series from Secretary's office, 1760,	2
Papers connected with the criminal proceedings from 1749 to 1800,	1
Papers connected with the partition of the old townships, from 1760 to 1784,	1
Transcripts received from State paper office in London, viz. :—	
Letters from Governors of Nova Scotia to Lords of Trade, from 1715 to 1781,	5