

HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES IN CANADA, 1916-1917

The dominion archivist, Mr. Arthur G. Doughty, who by the way now carries the honorary title of colonel, is at present in Europe making a careful survey of documentary material relating to the European war in so far as it relates to Canada and her effort in the great conflict. The dominion government has created what amounts to a national historical commission, although not at present so designated, which is charged with the duty of making "a complete survey of all the war activities official and semi-official of Canada" which it is hoped will provide "a complete and comprehensive key to all classes of public war records, to all the departments, branches, offices, agencies and localities where they originate and where they are to be found, and to the nature and inter-relationships of all the activities in the course of which they are produced." It is not the intention to attempt to collect these records, but inasmuch as they are accumulating in vast quantities, and their preservation will be a pressing duty immediately after the conclusion of the war, Mr. Doughty and those associated with him in the survey are to ascertain what measures have been taken to keep the records intact. Reports are to be made to the government from time to time. Those engaged in the survey are at present working in two groups, one under the direction of the dominion archivist, examining all the sources of material in Europe, and the other, under the supervision of Mr. Adam Shortt of the historical manuscripts commission, performing a similar duty in Canada. The Canadian war records office, under the direction of Lord Beaverbrook, is engaged in the collection of material relating to Canada's part in the war, and has the special duty of obtaining for Canada a series of war films of the activities of the Canadian army.

ACQUISITION OF MATERIAL

Since the publication of the last survey the dominion archives have obtained from the public record office in London transcripts of a number of valuable documents, as well as a collection of the