

which it was most important should be accessible at Ottawa, I thought it desirable to make a further application, and, therefore, prepared the following memorandum. It will be seen by its contents how seriously these restrictions, if enforced, reduce the value of the papers as a State collection, for deposit amongst the Archives of Canada. One volume (98) of the series, "America and West Indies," containing Amherst's correspondence, from January to November, 1763, has been entirely withheld from examination.

MEMORANDUM as to restrictions in the Public Record Office.

"All papers are subject to revision and probably to mutilation, after copies have been taken.

"The Foreign Office does not allow searches to be made among documents dated after 1815.

"The whole of the Treaty and Boundary papers are, under this rule, inaccessible subsequent to that date.

"The restrictions are not merely formal, but are acted upon by the officers of the Record Office, in obedience to the orders to that effect, received from the Department of State.

"Such precautions may be considered necessary in the case of private individuals or even of foreign Governments. Where, however, the records of the Dominion and Provinces are concerned, the existence of these rules is, I respectfully submit, open to serious objection. Copies of the papers are not desired for publication, but to be deposited amongst the Archives, as records of the history of the country, which should be full, complete and authentic, containing every fact and all the details of events, so far as these have been placed on record in reports, correspondence and other documents."

DOUGLAS BRYMNER,

Archivist.

LONDON, 11th September, 1883.

This I placed in the hands of Sir Charles Tupper, the High Commissioner, who at once urged the matter personally, with the result shown in the following official answer from the Foreign office to the Colonial office.

"FOREIGN OFFICE, 21st September, 1883.

"SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 15th inst., I am directed by Lord Granville to inform you that his Lordship has no objection to treating Mr. Brymner's case as an exceptional one, and to allowing him to have access to the Foreign Office papers, deposited in the Record office relating to Canada down to the year 1842, but that he is of opinion that he should not be allowed to take away copies of any papers, without submitting them to the authorities of the Record Office in the first instance, and subsequently to the Foreign Office for the approval of Lord Granville.

"His lordship also directs me to inform you, that he desires it to be clearly understood that Mr. Brymner is not at liberty to copy any Departmental minutes which he may find on the letters and despatches in question.

"I am, &c.,

"PHILLIP W. CURRIE.

"The Assistant Under Secretary of State,
"Colonial Office."