

REPORT ON CANADIAN ARCHIVES.

DOUGLAS BRYMNER, ARCHIVIST.

Honourable JOHN CARLING,
Minister of Agriculture,
&c., &c., &c.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the report on Archives for 1889.*

There have been received last year from the staff employed under the direction of the High Commissioner at the Public Record Office, London, copies of the State Papers (Colonial Series) down to 1807 for Lower Canada and to 1812 for Upper Canada. There are in addition the volumes of the series "America and West Indies" down to 1769, which include the correspondence of Braddock, with an account of his death four days after the engagement in which he was wounded (9th July, 1755), and sketches of the position of the forces, the one showing that at the beginning of the action, and the other their position about two o'clock, when the whole of the main body had joined the advanced and working parties, then beaten back from the ground first occupied. These plans, which have been partly published, were sent in a letter from General Shirley to Sir Thomas Robinson, dated 5th November, 1755. The documents in this volume (A. & W. I, vol. 82) afford a valuable contribution to the history of this action, for the result of which Braddock has been severely censured and as strenuously defended. The series of volumes now received under the title of "America and West Indies" contains the correspondence of the Commanders during and for some time subsequent to the close of the war in North America in 1760, including the Indian hostilities, Indian conferences, &c. All the plans in the original letters have been traced and bound with the copies; a few have been published in works dealing with the events to which they relate; but the majority are still unknown. They include some plans of the order of battle in different engagements, harbours, forts and proposed defences, north and south, as might be expected, the military command extending at that time over the larger part of North America, including the portion now forming the United States. In the volume for 1769 (vol. 125) is an elaborate report on the defences of Quebec, with plans for a citadel on Cape Diamond, prepared by order of Sir Guy Carleton. These volumes contain the contemporary record of the events of an important period in the history of North America, and will prove of great service to investigators.

A series of volumes relating chiefly to the affairs of the British Army serving in North America from 1756, forms a supplement to the last mentioned series, and will be found of use in dealing with many questions of interest, whose solution depends to some extent on the identification of officers employed on different services.

* In the report for last year, by a typographical error, the date here was given as 1887, instead of 1888. It was corrected in the French edition.