

Further sums have been voted from year to year.

Mr. Douglas Brymner was charged to inquire into the state of the archives in the several provinces of the Dominion.

His voluminous report to the head of his department sums up the whole case so ably, that I cannot do better than quote a portion of it.

“I visited,” says he, “Toronto, Montreal and Quebec (the two latter cities more than once), Halifax, St. John and Fredericton . . .

. . . I consider it desirable to call attention to the manner in which the records and official documents are kept. In Montreal, the vaults under the old government court house . . . and unfit for the purpose to which they are applied. The air is damp and foul, so that it is dangerous to the health to remain in them beyond a very limited time . . . Many of these are of much historical value; some of them could not be replaced.”

“The complaint as to the dampness of the vaults in Montreal, applies also to those under the court house at Quebec.”

It may be well to state that these complaints have since been effectually removed. He continues:

“In Halifax the documents in the province building are stored in a room which is not fire-proof; otherwise they are well kept and in good order. . . .”

“In 1857, on motion of the Hon. Joseph