

not having access to historical records, a sum of money was granted for the purpose of making a preliminary investigation into the extent and state of preservation of the public records. Mr. Douglas Brymner was selected to conduct the inquiry and during the first year confined his attention to the records already within the country. In 1873 his investigations were extended to Canadian Archives stored in various British repositories. Reports were made on the records of the Hudson's Bay Company, the Tower of London, the War Office, the Public Records Office and the British Museum. In the following year these searches were continued by the Abbé Verriault and were extended to include the more important sources in France and on the Continent such as the Bibliothèque Royale at Brussels, the Bibliothèque Nationale, the National Archives, the Departments of Marine and of Foreign Affairs of France and the Imperial Library at St. Petersburg.

This survey completed, the work of collecting the records began. Under directions from the Secretary of War of Great Britain, a most important series of original military documents were transferred from Halifax to Ottawa. From 1883 to 1887 further investigations were conducted into the French sources by Mr. Joseph Marmette. Calendars were prepared by Mr. Marmette and these, when published, served as an index to the Canadian Material in the French Archives and as a guide for the work of transcription. In 1884 Mr. Brymner began the publication of the Calendars of the Haldimand papers, a work which revealed to the public the extent and importance of the documents being collected in the Archives. The acquisition of historical records already within the country was not neglected.

From various sources, public and private very valuable papers were received. In 1886 new series of papers were opened in London and the transcription commenced of the Military Correspondence of the period of the Seven Years' War and of the Colonial Correspondence in the Public Records office, London. This series of Colonial Office Records is one of the most important single series in the Canadian Archives and the calendars of its contents occupy the Annual reports of the Dominion Archivist for the years 1890 to 1902. The State Papers relating to the other British colonies, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island were likewise transcribed and their calendars published. A step of far reaching importance in the history of the Dominion Archives was taken in 1897 when a departmental Commission was appointed to report on the state of the public records. The Commission examined the records belonging to the various departments and reported on their character and state of preservation. They recommended the concentration of public documents, prior to the federation of the provinces, under the custody of the Dominion Archivist and indicated the classes of papers which should be transferred to the central office. In 1897 the examination of the documents in France was resumed by Mr. Edouard Richard and the results of his investigations were embodied in a special report published in 1899. The work of the Archives suffered a most severe loss in the death of Dr. Brymner in 1902. During the thirty years of his connection with the work, a broad and solid foundation had been laid for the establishment of a National Archives.

A successor to Dr. Brymner was not selected until 1904 when Dr. Doughty, the present Dominion