

views of Mr. Chief Justice Smith, Attorney-General Monk, and their associates, are necessary to complete the history, and to enable a judgment to be formed of the true state of affairs, and the motives that led to the encouragement of what was called by the Opposition "an American settlement," a policy meant, apparently, to assist the suffering United Empire Loyalists.

I have given these two instances as examples of the necessity, should the collection of such documents be considered desirable, of having the work conducted on a proper system. The papers relating to the Colonies are not the only sources from which to draw in the Public Record Office. There are many in the Domestic series, amongst the Treasury documents and in those relating to Foreign affairs. These would all require to be examined carefully; the search necessarily would occupy a considerable time and most conscientious labour, which, it is almost unnecessary to say, would be facilitated in every possible way by the officers of the State Departments and of the Record Office. Without a thorough report as to the documents, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to arrive at a proper determination on the subject.

As to the current history of the Dominion, the question is one of the greatest interest. No difficulty can be experienced in collecting the public documents, such as the Journals of Parliament, Sessional Papers, and other similar material, and I have taken steps to secure for the Archives complete files from the date of Confederation, these being now in the Repository. The same remark applies to the State papers in the different Departments of the Government, they being preserved and accessible in the respective record rooms. But there is a class of papers which it would be of the utmost possible importance to obtain and preserve, not for immediate but for future reference.

There must be, in the hands of those who have occupied positions of a public nature, either as responsible advisers of the Crown, or as representative men in various capacities, correspondence which would be of immense service in a historical point of view, but which there is every probability will be destroyed, or lost in the course of time. Here, where the children of the men of to-day are, politically speaking, the nobodies of to-morrow, or else who have moved away to other localities than those in which their fathers were known, it is impossible to preserve such papers, as has been done with old family records in Great Britain. There the researches of the commission on historical documents have unearthed papers, letters, charters, &c., dating back to the sixth and seventh centuries, which throw a flood of light on the early history of the country. Here, it is well known, valuable collections have been destroyed by the care of the tidy house-keeper getting rid of them as rubbish. I venture to suggest that, could they be obtained from leading men, or their representatives, such collections, the contents of which it might be at the present moment improper to make public, might be packed up in air-tight boxes, marked with the names of the depositors, and sealed up for a certain length of time, to remain in safe keeping in the vaults appropriated for the custody of the Archives. By this means they would be kept in safety, and available at the time when, without breach of propriety, their contents could be used by the historian.

I would further crave permission to suggest for consideration, whether it might not be desirable to obtain the more active co-operation of Parliament, in the work of collecting and preserving the Court records, State papers, and public and private documents, by asking for the appointment of a joint Committee of both Houses to take up the whole subject. I venture upon this suggestion with great diffidence, but with the conviction that, by this means, there will be created a greater and more general interest in the question of the preservation of documents to form the foundation of authentic history.

With respect to the preservation of the Court records, pending any determination as to the establishment of a Public Record Office, which must, of necessity, be sooner or later established, I would beg to quote the following provisions in an Act relating to Ireland, which will apply to all our Courts, whether of federal or local