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"records of the Privy Council, but also to the Archives of Massachusetts. These remarks are made for the purpose of illustrating the difficulties which lie in the way of a thorough understanding of Acadian history and to show that he who wishes to be well informed upon it must not be content to merely study the material at his hand, but must seek many distant fields for the purposes of research.

"It is now more than half a century since the first step was taken in Nova Scotia to collect and preserve the records of that Province. A commission was appointed by the Government at the request of the Legislature for the purpose of effecting this object and by great good fortune Mr. Thomas B. Akins was selected to do the work. The zeal, industry and energy displayed by Mr. Akins could not have been surpassed, and the result is a collection of records which, although not complete, is a wonderful result of the work of one man for a quarter of a century of his life.

"As soon as I arrived at Halifax I placed myself in communication with Mr. Harry Piers who has the custody of the Archives of the province and who is also the curator of the Museum. I was received by him with the greatest courtesy and during the whole period of my stay in Halifax I received from him every attention possible, for which I wish to express my thanks. Indeed every person in an official position in Nova Scotia that I met, from the Premier down, seemed anxious to favour my views and to show me attention. As the Archives are kept in the Province, and the Museum is the Burns Building, Mr. Piers, who has to remain in the Museum most of the day, is unable to give much of his time to the Archives. For that reason the work of collection seems to have come to a standstill in Nova Scotia. But considering the unwillingness of the average legislature to expend money for such objects, we ought to be thankful for what has already been accomplished. The room in which most of the Archives are kept is a Committee room of the Legislative Council and connected with it. It therefore does not belong exclusively to the keeper of the Archives, so that he was unable to give me the right to work in it as I wished, and for several days my work was done in the Legislative Library, which is just opposite, and into which the books were brought one by one. This arrangement, however, did not last long. The Hon. M. H. Goudge, the President of the Legislative Council, came into the Library one day and learning the work I was engaged in at once placed the room at my disposal so that I was able to consult the Archives with much greater convenience. In fact, during the months I was in Halifax, that room was practically my own to be used night or day, and I availed myself to the fullest extent of the privileges thus obtained, and spent nearly all my evenings in it. It was no small task to go through about 500 large volumes of documents and obtain an idea of their contents, but this had to be done to enable me to make a complete report.

"The Archives of Nova Scotia may be divided into four classes—those that relate to the French occupation of the country; those connected with the purely military occupation of Annapolis from 1710 to 1749; the papers and documents subsequent to the later date when Halifax became the capital of the Province, and the papers relating to the Island of Cape Breton. There are only three volumes of French documents in the collection and these appear to have been obtained from Quebec about fifty years ago. They are transcripts of the documents originally obtained from the Bureau of Marine in Paris. The first of these volumes contains papers of the period between 1632 and 1699; the second, papers from 1700 to 1749; about half of them relate to events that occurred prior to the capture of Port Royal in 1710; the third volume contains papers from 1614 to 1751 including the correspondence of the priests in Acadia with the authorities of Quebec. It will be seen that these documents are very incomplete in comparison with the mass of papers that have since been brought to light concerning Acadia and which are now among the Archives at Ottawa. The most valuable documents are the letters of the Governors of Acadia between 1692 and 1710, the Diary of Governor Villebon and the correspondence of DesGoutin, Bonaventure and other officials with the Minister in Paris.

"There are 24 volumes relating to the affairs in Nova Scotia between 1710 and 1749. At that time there were no English settlements in the Province and the only places that were held by the British were Annapolis and a small post at Canso. These