

REPORT ON CANADIAN ARCHIVES

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The Honourable J. A. OUIMET,
Acting Minister of Agriculture,
&c., &c., &c.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the report on Archives for 1895.

Additional transcripts have been received from London since the last report relating to Upper and Lower Canada and the work of copying the papers for these two provinces is rapidly approaching completion. The correspondence of this branch increases steadily and no effort is spared to furnish the information desired on points of interest. Contributions continue to be received from learned societies, institutions and individuals ; for these reference may be made to the list of works presented.

In the report for 1894, the calendar of the papers relating to Nova Scotia examined, in the various depositaries in London and elsewhere was published. In the present report the result of these inquiries is continued. The calendar of the papers now presented includes the papers respecting the other Maritime Provinces and Hudson's Bay. Some account of the scattered distribution of these papers in the various state departments and other places of deposit is given in the report for 1894, as well as a statement of the method I have adopted for arranging the transcripts to make them more easily accessible ; it is, therefore, unnecessary to repeat this information. It appears, however, desirable to point out, as some misapprehension exists on the subject, that the transcripts of the papers calendared have not yet been received and that due notice shall be given of their reception.

I have, in accordance with the practice hitherto followed, made a summary of leading events in the history of the different provinces, but as this is not, and was not intended to be, exhaustive, the calendar should be examined to supplement the information given in the summary.

In 1769, it was determined, on the solicitation of the proprietors, to form PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, then St. John's Island, into a separate government, subsidiary to that of Nova Scotia, but previous to that time, in 1763 and 1764, a scheme was proposed by Lord Egmont to parcel the island into hundreds, etc., the whole to be granted to His Lordship, who was to distribute the lands in common soccage, the holders, however, to be liable for military service. This scheme was rejected, as well as one by Admiral Knowles and associates, who also asked for a grant of the whole island. The Board of Trade, to whom the committee of Council referred the memorial distributed the lands