

# REPORT ON HISTORICAL ARCHIVES.

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Hon. J. H. POPE,  
Minister of Agriculture.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the report on Historical Archives for 1884.

During the year, very considerable progress has been made in the work of investigation and in procuring copies of documents of historical value. The acquisition of the papers of Dr. Rolph, in relation to the rebellion in Upper Canada in 1837-8, tending to throw light on the events of the period, is of interest, as the documents will be an assistance to those engaged in studying the history of Upper Canada. The papers include Dr. Rolph's own statement of his connection with Mr. William Lyon Mackenzie, letters from Mr. Baldwin, Sir Francis Hincks, Mr. David Gibson, Mr. W. L. Mackenzie and others, largely relating to the vexed question of the "Flag of Truce." Original papers and copies have been received from Detroit, Windsor, Sandwich, &c., respecting the early occupation of that district. Copyists are at work in the Public Record Office, London, on the State Papers from a date immediately preceding the cession of 1760, every copy being carefully revised, checked and compared with the original before transmission to this office, so as to ensure, if possible, that exact copies are obtained for consultation here. It was considered better to begin at the period of the cession, leaving documents of an anterior date to be copied afterwards, one reason for the delay being the fact that many of the papers relating to Canada, classed under the title of America and West Indies, are to be found scattered in different series, so that much confusion would have arisen in having them transcribed before preparing a chronological arrangement. Many documents under the sub title of "New England" relate directly to Canadian affairs, but a number of the volumes being altogether, some chiefly, composed of documents having no connection, even indirectly, with Canadian affairs, it is impossible to give general instructions to those engaged in the work of copying; they must be special, requiring care and deliberation in their preparation. So soon as I can have a definite chronological scheme ready, for the guidance of copyists, I propose to have the work proceeded with concurrently with that now going on in the Record Office.

Copies are also being made in Rome of documents till now inaccessible, Mgr. Taschereau, Archbishop of Quebec, having, by the good offices of the Abbé Casgrain, undertaken to have documents transcribed from the Archives of the Gesu, the Propaganda, &c., and carefully revised to secure correctness.