

To the Honourable LOUIS CODERRE, K.C.,
Secretary of State,
Ottawa.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the following report of the operations of the Archives Branch for the year ended March 31, 1912.

Many important additions were made during the year to the division of Manuscripts, to the Map division and to the Library; and several exceedingly scarce engravings and prints relating to Canadian history were added to our collection. Through the courtesy of the Gentlemen of St. Sulpice access has been obtained to the archives of the Seminary at Montreal. The Sulpicians have been Seigniors of Montreal practically since the foundation of the city, and naturally the Seminary has become the depository of an extensive and valuable collection of documents bearing on the history of Montreal during the past two hundred and fifty years.

The generosity of the Gentlemen of the Seminary in placing copies of these documents at the disposal of the Archives will be greatly appreciated by all students of history. The task of investigating the records has been assigned to Mr. J. C. O. Bertrand who has received much valuable assistance and advice from Mr. Hébert, the registrar, and Mr. Henri Gauthier, the archivist of the Seminary.

A list of the documents already transcribed is given in Appendix C to this report.

The work of copying records in other places in the Province of Quebec, and also in Ontario and in the Maritime Provinces has been vigorously prosecuted. From the Province of Nova Scotia we have received several important collections of documents, including the private papers of Joseph Howe, the gift of Mr. Sydenham Howe, and those of George Johnston, the gift of his estate. By the use of the photostat now in operation at the Archives copies of documents can be made by photography at a great reduction of time and labour, with the additional advantage of an exact reproduction of every feature of the original.

It is the intention of the Department to install a photostat in the Province of Quebec and one in the Maritime Provinces.

Several documents of special interest are printed as an appendix in addition to the lists, and summaries of documents received.

During the past year a calendar of the maps in the Archives has been published, and three volumes of much historical interest are in the press—(1) a second volume of Constitutional Documents, (2) a volume of documents relating to Prairie Legislation, (3) Documents relating to the War of 1812. A catalogue of pamphlets from 1867 to date is in preparation. I have also to acknowledge the generous gift of Mrs.