

ments are preceded and followed by a number of closely related papers, such as petitions, reports, letters and proceedings indicative of the forces which prepared the way for the more formal expressions of the general policy or system of government. These in turn are followed by other secondary documents showing the practical consequences of the adoption of this or that policy or system of government.

The documents and papers may be classified as follows, the first two sections covering the central or pivotal documents.

I. Terms of Capitulation and Treaties, determining the limits of the colony and the conditions under which it was ceded or held.

II. Royal Proclamations or British Statutes determining the basis and character of the government to be established and maintained in the colony.

III. Commissions and Instructions issued to the various Governors, giving in further detail the system of government and administration to be established in the colony, and the general policy to be followed.

IV. Such ordinances or laws passed by the local legislative body as prescribe, under the authority of Royal Proclamations or British Statutes and Instructions to the Governors, the courts of law and the general system of justice to be administered in the colony.

V. Special reports, of a more or less official nature, from various Boards, or servants of the Crown in Britain or Canada, setting forth the actual conditions of the country from a constitutional point of view, and proposing lines of policy or necessary changes in the constitution of the country.

VI. A body of miscellaneous papers furnishing the connecting links and general constitutional atmosphere of the central documents of the foregoing classes. These consist of

(a) Petitions and counter-petitions expressing the wishes and aspirations of the inhabitants of the country, or of those in Britain having special interests in Canada, as to the form of government, the system of laws, and the general administration of justice.

(b) Minor reports from the Governors and other officials in the colony, Memorials and Proceedings setting forth the political condition of the country, Minutes of Council and Reports of Committees of Council relating to the system of government or administration.

(c) Correspondence, official, semi-official, or private, between the Canadian Governors and the British Secretaries of State, and between these and others occupying official or at least influential positions in Canada or Britain, discussing, shaping, or advising as to the policy of government, or the condition and wishes of the people.

In considering the documents presented under these various classes, the question of most interest to those wishing to make use of the volume will relate to the principle or principles upon which the documents here given were selected from the general mass of materials bearing upon the constitu-