

and preserving the Historical Records, or Archives, was, by a special resolution of Parliament, on the report of a Joint Committee of both Houses, entrusted to the Minister of Agriculture, as Minister of Arts and Statistics, in whose custody all documents of this nature ought to be found.

In 1872, Parliament voted to the Minister of Agriculture the sum asked for, and in that year I had the honour of being selected by you to organize the newly created office. The work had to be begun *ab ovo*, not a single document of any description being in the room set apart for the custody of the Archives. Much that was necessarily of a preliminary nature, had to be done. The first important contribution to the collection was made by the War Office, which, after some negotiations, conducted by me when in London, in 1873, consented to transfer the Canadian military correspondence, going back nearly 100 years, which was packed up in Halifax ready for transmission to London. These papers number upwards of 200,000 documents of various sizes, shapes and contents, and no provision having been made for clerical assistance, I was obliged, unassisted, to classify, arrange and prepare them for binding. They are now on the shelves, bound in 1,087 volumes, besides a collection of mixed Civil and Military documents obtained elsewhere, about the same time, which had also to be arranged and classified, and which are now on the shelves, to the number of 197 volumes. The Haldimand collection, copies of which have been obtained in the British Museum, I have calendared, so far as received, to the date of my leaving for Europe, in May last, and since obtaining clerical assistance, I have had upwards of 2,600 pages of the calendars so prepared, copied for the printer, in case it should be determined to have them published, which I beg to suggest, or to be bound for reference in MS., should that suggestion not be adopted. In the Report for 1882, will be found a specimen of the manner in which the work of calendaring has been done. These various operations were, of course, in addition to investigating, corresponding and attending to other duties, and are mentioned simply as an evidence of the careful economy observed in the expenditure of the grant made by Parliament, an economy which continues to be strictly adhered to. The progress of the work will be best seen by referring to the Reports which I have had the honour to present, from time to time. I venture again most respectfully, to call attention to the inadequacy of the Archives rooms, in point of space and accommodation. Additional shelving has been added, which will relieve the pressure for a time, but only at the expense of encroaching on space, already too limited.

According to the instructions I received before leaving Ottawa, to enter on the work of investigation, I at once, on my arrival in London, placed myself in communication with the Colonial Office, which had received a despatch from His Excellency the Governor General, accrediting me to the Earl of Derby, the Secretary of State for the Colonies; every facility was afforded me by the Colonial Office, by placing me in communication with the Master of the Rolls and the different Departments of