

live rats which were thus disturbed from their nests.”¹

The only exception to the “shocking state” of the documents is in the case of Scotland, of the record office of which the committee spoke in these terms: “Collected together, in one central, ample, commodious and safe building in Edinburgh, placed under the custody of most competent and responsible keepers, they appear to be kept in a state of perfect arrangement and ample information supplied by full calendars and indexes.”

The systematic arrangement of records, the facility of access thereto, the ample information supplied by full calendars and indexes,” outlined in old Embro, one is happy to find, has guided the canny hand of her industrious son, Douglas Brymner, in the formation of our own public record office at Ottawa.

It has been previously stated that the Historical Society of Montreal, and her older sister, the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, had repeatedly urged on successive administrations the propriety of collecting, preserving and publishing documents of an important historical character. Both associations deserve a good word, but the share of the Quebec institution in this progressive work, ever since its foundation, on the 6th January,

(1) Report of Dominion archivist, 1881. p. 6.