

An interesting *MS* Orderly book, kept by Captain Jacques Viger, during the War of 1812, has been presented by the Reverend Father Jones, of St. Mary's Jesuit College, Montreal. Mr. Ernest Marceau has contributed an important collection of manuscripts relating to the construction of the Ottawa canals, containing the progress reports, and surveys on proposed changes and modifications of the system. Dr. Robert Bell, of the Geological Survey, has presented a collection of certificates of marriages celebrated by the Rev. Andrew Bell, whilst Minister of Dundas and Ancaster, from 1848 to 1851 and from 1854 to 1856, whilst Minister at L'Original, to which place he had removed in 1852. The Provincial Governments have, as usual, sent the official publications relating to the individual Provinces, and in addition the Provincial Secretary has sent valuable historical publications relating to the Province of Quebec. Other contributions will be found acknowledged in the list at page xlv.

The ordinary work of indexing and preparing the documents for reference is carried on systematically. The utmost economy is exercised in the expenditure of the amount appropriated by Parliament for the prosecution of the work connected with the Archives. I beg, however, to request your consideration of the propriety of increasing the amount to provide for the carrying out of the objects of the branch, so that a suitable sum may be set aside for obtaining transcripts of the documents in Paris, reported on by Mr. Marmette, in order that that work may be prosecuted as earnestly as its importance demands.

The calendar of State Papers forming part of this report, covers the period from 1760 down to the division of the Province into Lower and Upper Canada by the Imperial Act of 1791. The last volumes of the series (from Q-55) consist of miscellaneous papers of various dates, from 1762 down to 1800, gathered together to complete the information relative to the old Province of Quebec. The royal instructions to Murray 1763 and Carleton 1775, are in volume Q-62—A1.

The following brief summary of the information contained in the volumes calendared may be useful. The statements in the summary are, it is scarcely necessary to say, drawn from the documents themselves.

The state of distress to which the French Canadian inhabitants were reduced, as shown by the correspondence, was such as to render relief in some form necessary, and in 1761 the sum of £600 was raised by subscription of the merchants and others, and each soldier in the regular army gave one day's provisions monthly to relieve the immediate distress. Amherst wrote from New York in February, 1761, that supplies would be sent as soon as the river opened, and also that the upper country would be able to assist the lower. (A. & W. I., vol. 96, p. 223.) To provide more permanent relief, however, and to give the inhabitants an opportunity of retrieving their fortunes, General Murray recommended that advances of money should be made to the industrious, so that they might be enabled to resume business. Much of the distress had apparently arisen from the non-payment of the obligations incurred by the French Government, settled for in paper money, of which large amounts were outstanding at the time of the capitulation by Vaudreuil, and which remained unpaid for several years. The correspondence shows the efforts made by the British Government not only to obtain payment for the new subjects from the Court of France, but also to warn them from disposing of their paper money at a low price to jobbers and speculators.