

In preparing the following catalogue, I have, in the case of public documents anterior to Confederation, given the dates in detail. The object of this is to call the attention of residents of the different Provinces to the gaps that exist, which may possibly be filled up by their means. The most complete of the series is that of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick, there being an almost entire fyle of the Journals from the first meeting of the Legislature in 1786, with two breaks (1834, 1835) down to 1859, the years 1860 to 1865 being wanting. Since Confederation, the Journals are wanting from 1873, inclusive. These and all Sessional Papers of all dates would be of great service. Of the Council, there are continuous journals from 1786 to 1836, but only 1845, 1871 and 1872 of a more recent date. Those of Nova Scotia and of the old Province of Canada will be found in the catalogue. Of the separate Provinces of Canada East and West (Upper and Lower Canada), and of Prince Edward Island, we have no separate records, nor of British Columbia; it would be of interest to have them as well as those of the Council of Assiniboia. I would respectfully suggest, therefore, that the attention of the representatives from the different Provinces might be directed to the importance of having in one collection, not only such papers as I have referred to, but all papers bearing on the history of the various portions of the Dominion. The work of collection is only in its infancy, but if properly carried out and supported by the co-operation of all who can render effectual assistance, with comparatively slight trouble, it should form the nucleus of a most valuable depository, not only of printed works, but of manuscripts, which otherwise, as I have already stated, will probably before long be destroyed.

A number of the more recent acquisitions are not yet bound. I have specified the number of the unbound papers, but as it will be advantageous to group together some of the same character into one bound volume, I have not extended the total number, since when bound, as I propose doing, the numbers would not agree with those given in the present catalogue. It will be seen, however, by referring to past reports, how large an addition has been made to the documents, bound and unbound. The catalogue, as will be seen, is divided into two parts: the one giving the manuscript, the other the printed papers.

MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS.

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