

REPORT ON CANADIAN ARCHIVES.

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The Hon. SYDNEY A. FISHER,
Minister of Agriculture,
&c., &c., &c.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the report on Archives for 1896.

The transcription of the documents in the Public Record Office, London, is going on with regularity, the utmost care being taken both in London and here to secure absolute correctness. The last of those received up to this date include for Lower Canada part of the administration of Lord Aylmer and for Upper Canada part of the administration of Sir John Colborne. In the documents respecting both provinces details are given of the proceedings connected with land and land companies. The calendars for this year are brought down to 1818 for Lower and Upper Canada; these include the war of 1812 from an early date to its close.

Of the documents copied in Paris, 61 volumes have been received; that marked volume 1 is largely taken up with information respecting the proceedings of Jacques Cartier and of the establishment of the *Compagnie de la Nouvelle-France*; the others relate to subsequent affairs in New France. The work of transcription continues.

In consequence of the necessary absence of the Archivist in London to prosecute additional investigations, the usual preliminary report was not made in the year 1893. Many of the documents calendared in that year give informations on the differences with the United States during the presidency of Mr. Jefferson. In Note B of this year's report a selection of these is published in full, remarks on which will be found in a subsequent part of this report. An examination of the calendar for the two Canadas, contained in the report for 1893, will show the beginning of the war of 1812, which, as already stated, is continued in the papers calendared in the report for this year (1896), which show also that during the discussions with the United States there was a steady acquisition of lands by new settlers. The reports for the years 1894 and 1895 are occupied with the affairs of the maritime provinces and in part with the early affairs of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The effect of the collection of Archives has been to modify greatly in many cases the histories of Canada and the United States and their relations to the mother country. The requests for the reports continue to increase more and more, and applications for them are received from the most divergent points as may be judged from the list of works presented; very many requests are also sent for information which are in all cases promptly attended to. As previously reported, the utmost economy is exercised in the expenditure of the amount granted by Parliament for the Archive service.