

independent of political influence while it directs attention to the national and public character of the work being done.

The policy at present being carried out is twofold. The collecting of material will always constitute an important part of the work of the Archives. At present an examination is being made by representatives of the department of the papers of the historic value in the Maritime Provinces, in Quebec, and in the North-West. A most important feature of this work is that being conducted under the direction of Mr. H. P. Biggar, European representative of the Canadian Archives. The relations of this country with France, covering over two centuries, render the French Archives a fruitful source of information on Canadian history. The Public Records Office, London, contains many records of great Canadian interest. This office will issue next year a new calendar of documents relating to the colonies and it is confidently expected that traces will be found of many important records. These papers, both in Paris and in London, are now being examined and copied. From such sources new material is being constantly added to the Archives.

The other phase consists in securing such a command of the contents of the various documents that they may be readily serviceable for purposes of research. So extensive have been the recent acquisitions that for some time to come much attention will be devoted to the work of cataloguing, calendaring, and indexing. A calendar is now being prepared, which, until the more detailed work of indexing is completed, will be of great value in indicating what information the Archives actually contain.

Most important in this connection is the policy of the Archives Department to present to the public a series of documents relating to important phases of the development of Canadian institutions. The fruits of this policy is seen in the issue this year of a volume of "Documents relating to the Constitutional History of Canada, 1759 to 1791," edited by Professor Shortt and Dr. Doughty. Authentic copies are presented of the treaties defining the limits of the colony, of proclamations and British Statutes determining the basis of government, and of the Instructions to Governors illustrating the policy of the mother country respecting the government of the colony. The facts in connection with the establishment and early development of British institutions in Canada are most clearly set forth in these documents. The favour with which this volume has been received indicates that its purpose is being realized. With the completion of the publication of documents relating to the constitutional history of the country other phases of its life will doubtless receive like consideration. A great public service would be performed by the publication of documents relating to the development of Canadian trade and commerce, to its international relations, particularly in connection with the boundary question. The foundation and growth of Canadian educational institutions, the history of the Church and its important connection with the nation's progress, seem to deserve and would amply justify similar treatment.

Extensive work of this nature necessarily requires considerable time and deals with matters only of the broadest national concern. There are many other questions of either less general importance or of purely local interest