

REPORT ON CANADIAN ARCHIVES.

DOUGLAS BRYMNER, LL.D., F.R.S.C., ARCHIVIST.

Honourable A. R. ANGERS,
Minister of Agriculture,
&c., &c., &c.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the report on Archives for 1894.

Transcripts of the State papers in London continue to be received. Those sent since the last acknowledgment contain the succeeding years of Lord Dalhousie's administration, that of Sir James Kempt and a portion of that of Lord Aylmer, down to December, 1831, for Lower Canada. These deal with questions of settlement, the political state of the province, and other matters of interest. For Upper Canada, the transcripts are continued from 1829 to the end of 1832, but the land transactions with the Canada Land Company, the proposed charter and negotiations for the acquisition of the clergy reserve lands, take in the years 1824, 1825 and 1826. The transcripts are carefully checked here and explanations asked respecting doubtful points or apparent errors, so as to secure absolute correctness. An additional instalment of the papers copied in Paris has been received; a list of their contents will be found in the report on Archives for 1885.

Inquiries both personal and by letter continue to be numerous, and every care is taken to attend to the requirements of investigators and correspondents; the catalogues and indexes to the documents greatly facilitate the work rendered necessary by these inquiries. The demand for the reports remains unabated, and the importance attached to them is manifested in many ways, not the least being the frequent references made to them in historical works as an authority in the settlement of disputed questions. A reference to the list of books and documents presented will shew the widespread interest that is felt in the work.

As the work of copying the state papers in London respecting the old provinces of Canada was approaching completion, the date to which they could be made public having been fixed to the end of the period immediately preceding the union of the two provinces into the Province of Canada, I was instructed by the Hon. John Carling, then Minister of Agriculture, to proceed to London for the purpose of examining the documents relating to the other provinces and of arranging for their transcription. I reached London on the 18th October, 1892, and in carrying out the instructions, I lost no time on my arrival in entering upon the work, which required close application and examination. I found papers scattered in various departments; of those deposited in the Public Record Office there are several series; the division made many years ago of these papers has not always been judicious. Papers relating to Prince Edward's Island (originally St. John's) are among those relating to the Virgin Islands, one of the islands in that group being called St. John; many of those