

REPORT ON CANADIAN ARCHIVES.

DOUGLAS BRYMNER, ARCHIVIST.

Honourable JOHN CARLING,
Minister of Agriculture,
&c., &c., &c.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the report on Archives for 1890.

The work of making transcripts of the State Papers deposited in the Public Record Office, London, continues. These are carefully compared previous to being bound in London and are again compared on being received here, so as to secure the most absolute correctness. Besides those calendared in this report, there are now on the shelves to this date, documents relating to the two Provinces, from the period of their formation into Lower and Upper Canada, extending in the case of the former to 1817, covering the period of the administration of General Alured Clarke to that of Sir J. Cope Sherbrooke, and of the latter to 1823, which includes the governorship of Simcoe to that of Sir Peregrine Maitland. The documents show the organization of the Provinces, including the early legislation, and in the papers are to be found correspondence, reports and other documents, relating, in both Provinces, to the War of 1812-15, which, with the original papers previously here, will supply information respecting the events of that period, which cannot be obtained elsewhere. The same remark applies to Indian affairs, the additional correspondence in the transcripts supplementing the information contained in the original documents already in the Archives.

The papers relating to the titles of lands in Lower Canada, deposited in the Registrar's office in Quebec, have been copied in full. A very complete index to the contents of each volume has been made, and abstracts of the titles presented at the time of taking the oath of fealty, recorded in the *Actes de foy et hommage*, have been prepared by Mr. Marmette, Assistant Archivist. The abstracts were published in the reports for the years 1884 and 1885. By referring to these reports much correspondence would be saved, as questions are asked relating to the changes in proprietorship of seigniories, to which an answer can be found by turning to the abstracts, arranged alphabetically. The index to each volume is at the end of the volume to which it refers, and is at once available for reference in the Archives rooms.

The publications of the Historical Manuscripts Commission (England) are received as issued. This Commission has unearthed most important collections of documents which have been preserved in the muniment rooms of old families, but had continued useless, their contents being unknown. There are now twelve reports published, with a varying number of appendices, each appendix containing a calendar of documents reported on during the year covered by the report. The publications of the Public Record Office, London, are also regularly received, as are the reports of the Deputy Keeper of Records (England).