

Report

of the

Ontario Bureau of Archives

PREFATORY

These journals are complementary to those of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada, issued as the Sixth Report of the Ontario Archives (1909) and with them complete the record of Parliament for the years covered.

Since the appearance of the Sixth Report it has been suggested that the Journals ought to be accompanied by a more or less extensive commentary. It should be borne in mind, however, that the object in view is not to furnish an annotated copy, and having regard to the strictly official character of these records, the Provincial Archivist does not feel he would be justified in departing from the rule generally observed in such cases. The text will be found to be fairly free from obscure passages requiring explanations. Even in the case of different spellings of the same personal name—an age honoured practice—a text, as a rule, should be reproduced in its original form.

The relations to each other of the two branches of the Parliament, the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council, as disclosed in the Journals, will be found of special interest at the present time of constitutional changes within the British Empire.

For the greater convenience of reference the following highly interesting documents bearing on the constitution of the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council and the Executive Council, are here reproduced:

DOCUMENT 1

(24th Aug. 1791)

UPPER AND LOWER CANADA FORMED.

ORDER IN COUNCIL BY WHICH THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO SEPARATE GOVERNMENTS OF UPPER AND LOWER CANADA, TWENTY-FOURTH AUGUST, 1791.

AT THE COURT OF ST. JAMES'S THE 24TH OF AUGUST, 1791.

Present, the King's most Excellent Majesty in Council:—

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a report from the Right Honorable the Lords of the Committee of Council dated the 19th of this instant in the words following, (viz.):—

Your Majesty having been pleased by your order in Council, bearing date the 17th of this instant to refer unto this Committee a letter from the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, one of your Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State