

whose department the Archives were then a branch; but only last year it was transferred to the control of the Secretary of State. And now there is at work a Commission—composed of Sir Joseph Pope, Deputy Minister of External Affairs, Mr. E. F. Jarvis, Assistant Deputy Minister of Militia, and Dr. A. G. Doughty, Archivist—which will conduct a thorough inquiry into the management and preservation of the public records.

The present Archivist, Dr. A. G. Doughty, joined the service in the year the new building was opened. He had previously been joint librarian for the Province of Quebec, and while in that position had pursued extensive studies in the early history of the country. In the course of these studies he was daily impressed with the lack of access to historical documents under which Canadian historians were suffering, and he succeeded in interesting Sir Louis Jette, then Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec, in the subject. Accordingly, a meeting was held in Sir Louis Jette's office in 1900, which had much to do with bringing the question of a Dominion Archives to the front. At that meeting were, besides Sir Louis, the Honourable Thomas Chapais, Monseigneur Laflamme, rector of Laval; Monseignor

Mathieu, and Dr. Doughty. A plan was then drawn up for the publication of the early historical records of the Dominion. The Provinces were to be asked to provide for the collection of their records, and then these records were to be edited by a qualified committee and published under the authority of the Federal authorities, the expense to be borne in part by the Provinces and in part by the Dominion. Difficulties, however, arose and the plan had to be dropped; but in the meantime Lord Minto's interest had been enlisted, and largely through his influence the Dominion Government was induced to take up the work.

The Archives building is open to students from all over Canada, and from other countries as well. Post-graduate investigators are now at work there from many of the universities of the Dominion and from some of those of the United States. The sources of Canadian history are being minutely examined within its walls, and the materials are being gathered from which it will be rewritten. It may be that even now there is working among these "ancient archives" the historian, or school of historians, who will inspire the Canadian people with the meaning of their past and the vision of their future.

