

building, secured through the generous co-operation of the Minister of Agriculture, inspires the assurance that everything is being done to preserve these valuable papers.

The work of collecting manuscripts has been steadily pursued. The series commenced by Dr. Brymner have been rendered more complete. Another thousand volumes augment the Military papers. The French Correspondence has been increased by more than one hundred volumes. The State Papers of the Maritime Provinces from 1802 to 1820 have been added. Two new series of exceedingly valuable documents have been established. From the Governor-General's office were secured three hundred and ten volumes of original papers, being the despatches from the Colonial Office, London, to the Governors of Lower Canada and the Lieutenant Governors of Upper Canada from 1791 to 1841 and to the Governors of Canada to 1867, as well as one hundred and eighty volumes of miscellaneous papers including correspondence with the British Embassy at Washington, papers on Emigration, and draft letters from the Governors to the Colonial Office. In addition to this, from the Department of the Secretary of State have been transferred over one thousand volumes of manuscript books including the letter books of the various colonial governors and the several provincial Registers. An acquisition, the value of which is yet to be learned, is a series of eight thousand volumes of original papers—yet but to a slight extent classified—but containing the Minutes of Council, petitions to Council, the records of land grants and various proclamations and state papers. From the Privy Council has been secured the complete series of Canadian State Books down to the time of Confederation. Still another collection of infinite importance in illuminating Canadian history is composed of the various papers preserved by men prominently connected with the development of our country. Thus the Durham papers are a most valuable contribution to the history of the struggle for responsible government. The letters of Sir Charles Bagot bring us into close contact with the actual working out of the scheme of Union. To these collections it is expected that a series of Townshend and Chatham papers will soon be added.

This brief review presents a faint idea of the extent of the work being done in the Canadian Archives. The papers here referred to, comprise over thirteen thousand volumes of manuscript books. Here, surely, is a mine of historical wealth. Yet it is feared that but to a slight degree is the work of the Archives appreciated by the Canadian student and still less is it known to the Canadian public.

This year an important step was taken by the formation of the Historical Manuscripts Commission of Canada. Its constitution combines the representation of the leading universities with that of the various sections of the Dominion. Under the presidency of the Minister of Agriculture it is to act as an advisory board on questions of policy to be pursued in the Archives Department. Its advice will be sought on matters relating to the purchase and preservation of documents, to their classification and publication, and to the general administration of the department. The constitution of such a board brings valuable assistance to the Dominion Archivist; it renders the department more