

IX. PROVINCE OF MANITOBA.—The early history forms part of that of the North-West Territories. It would be well, however, if the materials would admit of it, to divide them from the rest, and have—1. The papers relating especially to the events at Fort Garry, now Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba; 2. Manitoba since its erection into a Province in 1870.

X. THE DOMINION OF CANADA from 1867, the date of its being organized by the confederation of the different Provinces.

The policy of organizing new Provinces, as the North-West Territories become settled, has already necessitated further divisions, which cannot be overlooked in devising a system for the arrangement of the Archives, so as to render them of the greatest benefit.

By an Order in Council, dated 8th May, 1882, four Provisional Districts have been formed out of these territories. They are:—

1. DISTRICT OF ASSINIBOIA, with an area of about 95,000 square miles.
2. DISTRICT OF SASKATCHEWAN, with an area of about 114,000 square miles.
3. DISTRICT OF ALBERTA, with an area of about 100,000 square miles.
4. DISTRICT OF ATHABASCA, with an area of about 122,000 square miles.

In order to complete the collection of papers relating to the history of British North America, it seems desirable to make a collection of those relating to NEWFOUNDLAND. The collection of manuscripts in the British Museum is not large, but they include the claims of Kirke and Sir George Calvert (afterwards Lord Baltimore), an account of its settlement, dated in 1676; accounts of the fishing trade so far back as 1615, up to 1706, not continuous; with remarks on the relations between the French and English, besides other interesting information. Such a collection seems all the more desirable in view of the claims of France under the Treaty of 1763.

These main divisions must be sub-divided so as to allow of the annual accumulations being systematically added to the shelves. I refrain for the present from making any special suggestions as to the best mode to be adopted in dealing with this subject. Before, however, any determination is arrived at with respect to larger accommodation, the important question of arrangement would require to be most carefully considered.

From the nature of the relations between the Federal and Provincial Governments, the latter have retained the documents relating to the histories of the respective Provinces previous to Confederation, and also, of course, those since that date. The papers to which investigators have occasion to refer are thus scattered in the Provincial Capitals. When an investigation is of a general nature, that is, one relating to all British North America, the great loss of time is of consequence and the cost of consulting the various documents is largely increased, as compared with what it would be were a complete collection made as proposed in the petition of the authors and historians, by whom the subject was so earnestly pressed in 1870 on the Parliament of Canada. If lists of the records of the different Provinces in the possession of their respective Governments were procurable, they would be of the greatest use in proceeding with the work of this branch, and would assist very materially in furnishing information to historical investigators who not unfrequently make inquiries as to the existence and places of deposit of papers which they desire to consult. The question of preparing such lists is one for the consideration of the Provincial Governments, but I may be pardoned for referring to it in this Report.

The policy of having one general collection of historical documents at the seat of the Federal Government, and one special to each Province in each Provincial Capital, is of importance from various points of view. In respect to investigations of a general nature, all the documents should be together, classified and accessible, so that, at the least possible expense, those who desire to study the papers relating to the history of British North America should be able to do so, without being compelled to make long and tedious journeys in search of the information wanted. On the other hand, the records of each Province being in the possession of the Provincial Government are available for the use of those who only seek to make a special investigation.