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that the undersigned would be informed by them of any fact or circumstance which might interest the Dominion.

As regards the Australasian Exhibition to be held at Melbourne, the subject is still under the consideration of your Government.

STATISTICS.

The heavy work of inaugurating the publication of general criminal statistics, to which my predecessor and myself have already referred in the two previous Reports, has been brought to a first result, which is published in a supplementary volume to the present Report, the perusal of which will show that the labour has been one which has presented particular difficulties.

The insolvent statistical tables of 1878-9 are also published as an annex to this Report.

The difficulties of procuring the proper information on these two heads of statistical investigation are almost disheartening, still the Reports, although not altogether complete in details, are sufficiently so to render the study of these tables interesting and useful. A method of lessening the work, and of more easily procuring the elements for final tabulation is being introduced in the Department, and as soon as maturely brought to a satisfactory result, will be laid before your Excellency for approval in accordance with the provisions of the Act "Census and Statistics."

PUBLIC ARCHIVES.

Some few years ago, an examination was caused to be made of the European Archives, in order to ascertain what documents relating to the history of Canada, might be the most interesting, should means be granted by Parliament to have copies made for the Canadian Archives. M. L'Abbé Verreault, Principal of the Jacques Cartier Normal School, and Mr. Brymner of this Department, were despatched for that service. The reports of these gentlemen were published as appendices of the Departmental Reports for the years 1873 and 1874.

In consequence of the recommendation made by Mr. Brymner, in charge of the Archives Branch, after his investigations in London, steps were taken during the course of the year to have copies made of important papers deposited in the British Museum in the first instance, leaving those in the Public Offices, &c., for future operations. The HALDIMAND COLLECTION, a summary of the nature of which will be found in an Appendix to the Report of the Department for 1873, was selected as the first to be copied, and arrangements were this year made for the purpose; the sum of \$3,000 out of the grants for the fiscal years 1878-79 and 1879-80 being set aside to do the work proposed. A staff of competent copyists was engaged, the number being, however, limited to the amount of the funds available from the grants made by Parlia-