

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA

The Public Records of Nova Scotia

Their History and Present Condition

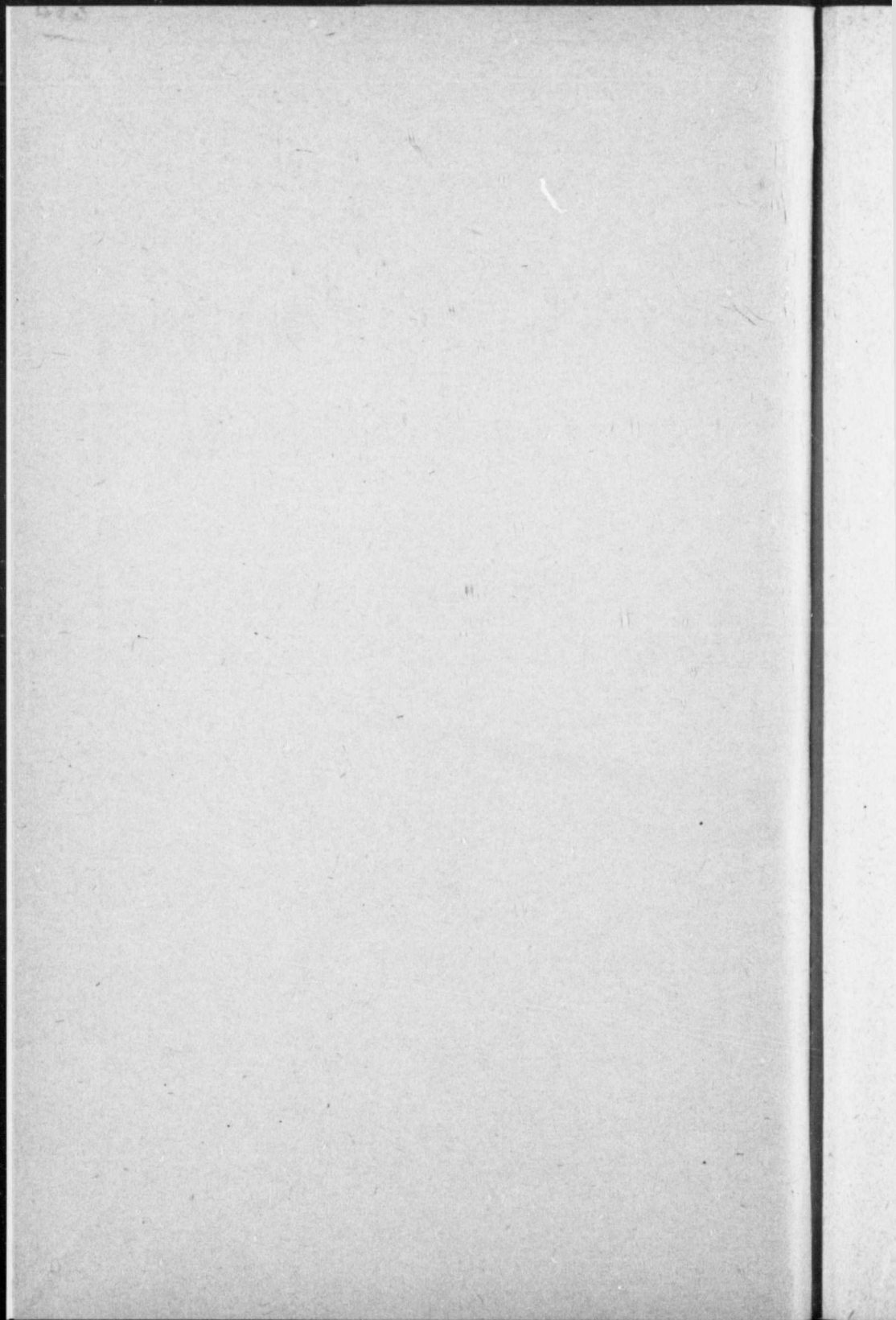
BY

JOSEPH PLIMSOLL EDWARDS.



PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATURE OF NOVA SCOTIA

HALIFAX, N. S.:
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1920.



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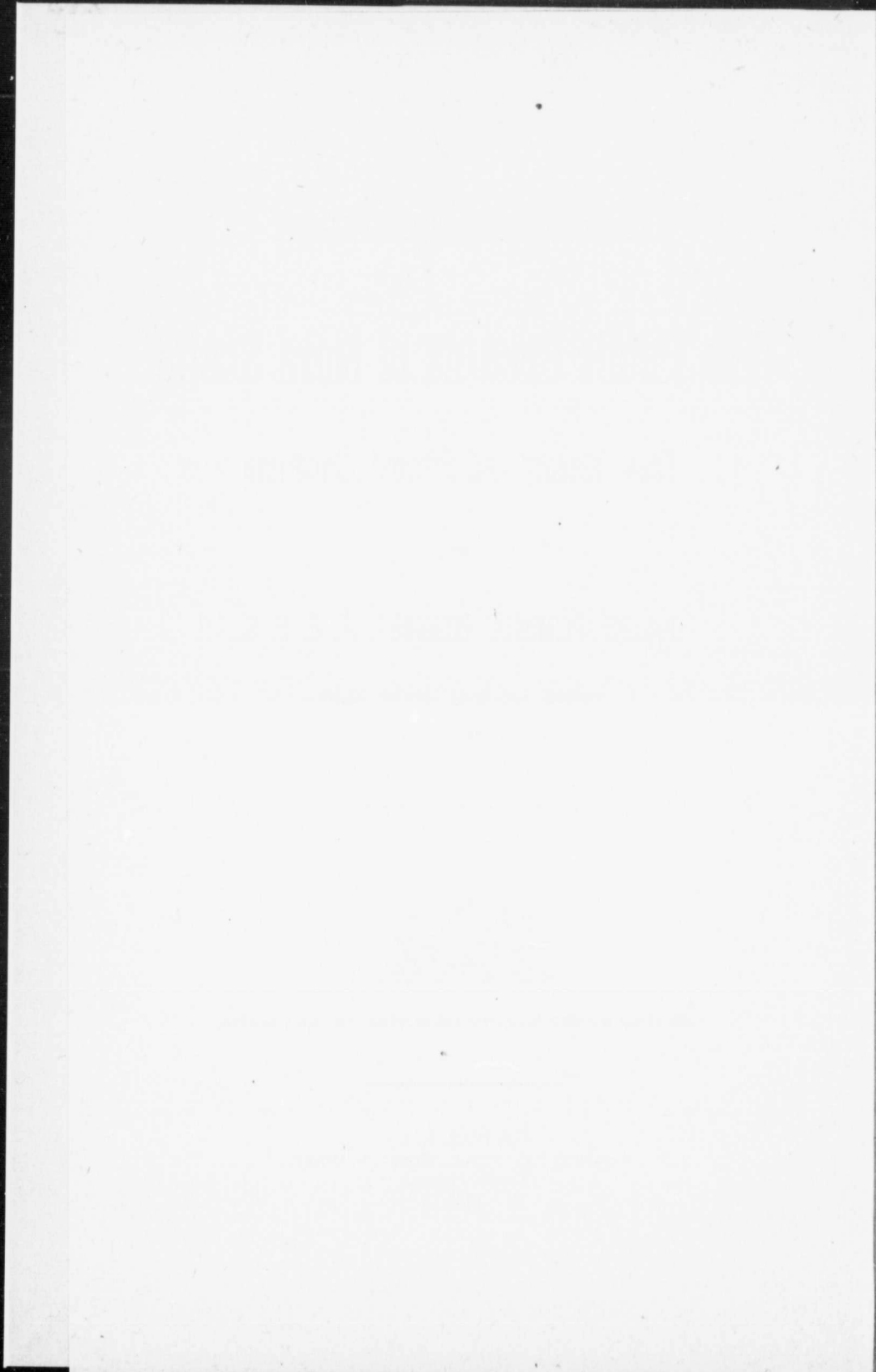
JOSEPH PLIMSOLL EDWARDS, F. R. H. S.

President Nova Scotia Historical Society



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THE PUBLIC RECORDS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

By

JOSEPH PLIMSOLL EDWARDS, F. R. H. S.,
President Nova Scotia Historical Society.

Read before the Nova Scotia Historical Society, 5th December, 1919.

In bringing before you the subject of our Provincial Archives, I have but one object in view, namely, to give publicity to the fact that we have here in the City of Halifax a splendid collection of the manuscript records and documents which to a large extent governed the establishment and the carrying on of British Government in this Province. I am of the opinion that the existence of these papers,—the original sources of the history of Nova Scotia—is practically unknown to the general public. To awaken interest in this priceless collection of documentary material is the purpose of this paper; and I trust that it will lead to ample discussion and unfettered suggestion as to the betterment of the conditions under which these documents are held, and towards making their contents better known and more available to students of our history.

It has been truly said that a country without archives is a country without history or with one of which it is ashamed. Per contra that country which possesses a store of historical documents and shows that degree of proper pride in their holding which leads to care and reverence, has no cause for shame, and has a proper incentive to impress on the succeeding generations the existence of its storied past. Such are, in part, the conditions in Nova Scotia. The development of interest in that past—which by lack of care or thought has become somewhat deficient—can readily be increased.

In this brief sketch a large portion of attention will be given to the laborious and faithful work carried on by those gentlemen who have had charge of our archives, and to show from their reports and from other information how this splendid collection has been built up during the past sixty-two years.

The 30th day of April 1857 was the birthday of organized effort in connection with our Public Records, inasmuch as it

witnessed the adoption by the House of Assembly of the following resolution which was moved by the Hon. Joseph Howe, and seconded by the Hon. J. W. Johnston,

“That his Excellency the Governor be respectfully requested to cause the ancient records and documents illustrative of the history and progress of society in this Province to be examined, preserved and arranged, either for reference or publication as the Legislature may hereafter determine, and that this House will make provision for this service.”

On 29th May of same year (1857) Thomas B. Akins,—who, foremost in the study of Nova Scotian history, has bequeathed to us an unusually rich and varied collection of early provincial literature—was appointed Commissioner of Public Records. He was then forty-eight years of age and in the prime of intellectual vigor; he brought to his new duties such a degree of skill and business efficiency as to speedily turn the chaotic mass of ill-kept and unsorted papers into an orderly, systematic, and readily accessible series of historical documents and files which have since been of incalculable value to the students of our history.

A detailed account of his first year's work is contained in a report submitted by him in 1858 to the House of Assembly. It is too lengthy a document to be included in this paper. Its leading features were:

- (1) The condition of the Public Records of the Province when Dr. Akins entered on his duties.
- (2). The methods he employed in systematizing the material at his disposal.
- (3). A general summary of the localities and periods chiefly covered by or dealt with by the records.
- (4). The gaps, in the way of missing books and MSS whose loss or absence seemed to be of special importance.
- (5) The names of those persons who assisted him and his work in various ways.

The report was dated 25th January 1858, and was followed by a detailed list of the books completed to that date which were:

(a) Despatches from the Board of Trade, and the Secretaries of State to the Governors of Nova Scotia from 1748-1799.

(b) Colonial Manuscripts, so called, consisting of Orders-in-Council,—Proclamations—Indian Affairs,—Treasury Accounts, etc. etc.

(c) Minutes of the Executive Council, 1749-1846.

(d) Letter Books, 1719-1798.

(e) Commissions, licenses, and order books, 1720-1853.

(f) Cape Breton books, 1785-1820.

(g) Grant Books, 1731-1854.

(h) Land Books, 1750-1832.

(i) Miscellaneous papers, including warrants, lists of vessels arriving at Halifax, etc., 1778-1820.

(j) Minutes of His Majesty's Council, 1758-1783.

(k) Royal Commissions to Governors, and others, 1811-1839

The Government were not slow in appreciating the importance of this branch of public education, and appointed a special committee consisting of Hon. Joseph Howe, Hon. Wm. Young, J. J. Marshall, and A. MacFarlane to superintend the work, and to be responsible to the House of Assembly for its proper execution. They reported under date 21st April '58, that Mr. Akins' report had been submitted to them, and that they considered that he had performed his duties with great success and ability; that efforts be made to supplement the collection; that missing books and documents be advertised for; that the expense incurred be granted and paid; and that the House of Assembly decide as to its continuance.

On the following day the report of the Committee was brought before the House who passed a resolution that the Commissioner be authorized to continue his labours with a view to bringing them to a close during that year, and that the House would provide for the same.

This promise was carried out, and the work went on steadily during the next year; and on 10th February 1859 Mr. Akins' second report was submitted, and was referred to a Committee consisting of Hon. Joseph Howe, T. D. Ruggles, and Cornelius White.

This second report was somewhat shorter than the previous one, and chiefly refers to the progress made in continuation of the sorting and classifying of documents not dealt with in former report, and roughly covering the period from 1785-1834. He pointed out, however, that there was still a large amount of uncompleted work, such as:

- (1) Collection and classification of Census documents.
- (2). All papers connected with the grant of Crown Lands in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, as well as in Nova Scotia.
- (3). All papers belonging to the Secretary's office.
- (4) All the Criminal records from 1749-1775.
- (5) Records for the Island of Cape Breton.

During the period from 1st May '58 to 26th January '59 the following documents were chronologically arranged, bound and indexed:

- (1) Despatches from the Secretaries of State to the Governors of Nova Scotia, 1800-1833,
- (2) Special papers selected from the Archives of the Legislative Council, 1760-1829.
- (3) Special papers from the Archives of the House of Assembly, 1758-1830:
- (4) Papers relating to the Town of Halifax, 1754-1859, including many dealing with the Shubenacadie Canal.
- (5) Papers relating to the Island of Cape Breton, 1786-1835.
- (6) Ecclesiastical and School matters.

(7) Negro immigration and settlements.

(8) Royal Instructions to Governors.

(9) Miscellaneous papers relating to the Province; as well as three boxes or chests of Land Grants, Charters, Commissions, Rolls, Account Books, and other material not capable of being bound.

One feature of much interest in this year's report is the suggestion—somewhat forcibly urged—of the publication of a portion of the historical papers now brought to light, especially those relating to the removal of the Acadians in 1755, which, to use Mr. Akins words "Is a subject which has of late occupied the attention of writers both in England and America, and on which much has lately appeared in condemnation of the course pursued by the Government of that day. The papers selected throw additional light on this interesting subject; and for the credit of the Province, all papers that may in any way discover the motives, views and conduct of those engaged in that period in the settlement of the country, and which may tend to contradict or explain partial statements, or put in a new light transactions hitherto considered harsh and cruel, should be given to the public."

The Committee of the House of Assembly to whom had been entrusted the supervision of the work this year reported favourably of Mr. Akins' labours, and recommended that his duties be carried on to completion, in view of the fact that a large mass of valuable documents were still to be classified and bound. And also that the Governor be requested to obtain from Canada and from London copies of documents now lying there, and necessary to complete our files.

They declined to recommend the publication of any historical documents this year.

On 4th April of same year the Lieutenant-Governor was authorized by vote of the House to procure from Quebec copies of some papers in the archives of that City relating to the early history of Acadia.

As recommended by the Committee, the work was carried on into the third year, and on 24th January 1860, Mr. Akins presented another report. This gives the usual details of the

treatment of the various MSS left over from previous years, and also chronicles the arrival of new material from Canada, England and other sources. He again draws attention to the advisability of publishing a volume of documents dealing with the Acadian troubles of 1755; and also makes public his regrets at his inability to find any trace of the files of the judicial proceedings for the trial of piracies and murders committed on the high seas. He states that much remains to be done to complete his work, and gives details of unfinished matters.

This report was duly submitted to the House of Assembly, and the usual Committee appointed to examine and report thereon. While appreciating its merits, they recommended that in view of the depleted condition of the public funds this work be suspended for a time. This was concurred in by the House, and little progress was apparent during the year 1860.

On 1st January 1861, however, Mr. Akins resumed his labours and continued them without intermission until April 1862. He reports that during these fifteen months a large mass of papers were examined, and selections made from such documents as were considered worthy of preservation,—not only as being of historical value, but also such as appeared likely to be the subject of reference for business purposes. These selections were bound up in sixty-four volumes, and their contents carefully catalogued. A large quantity of papers connected with the granting of land were also put in order, tied up in bundles, and packed away in boxes.

Details are given of the subjects of the sixty-four volumes just mentioned, but the list is lengthy.

In March 1861 an Act was passed by the House vesting in Her Majesty and her successors, the books, papers and records of all public offices in the Province, and providing penalties against any person taking or holding any public documents, books, records, or writing.

From May 1862 until end of that year all work on the Records was suspended, probably for financial reasons. In the following January, however, it was resumed, and excellent progress made during succeeding months. Selections from the Secretary's Office, and from the files of the House of Assembly, were completed to the year 1841. The most important work,

however, was in connection with the Registry Books of Crown Grants of Land, which were fully indexed from the year 1725 down to a comparatively recent date.

The special Committee of the House of Assembly appointed to deal with this matter made a very satisfactory report on the archivist's work, and embodied in it suggestions of practical value, including a recommendation in favour of the publication of a volume containing some of the most valuable and useful documents in the collection. This recommendation was repeated in the Committee's report to the House a year later (March 1865), and was adopted on the 15th of that month. No report from Mr. Akins for that year appears in printed form.

Between 1865 and 1868 there is no public mention of archives or archivist; and the latter year contains but a brief memo from Mr. Akins, referring to his long-hoped-for volume with selections from the Archives now at last being published. This work, its title page dated 1869, deserves more than a passing mention. It is a bulky volume of 755 pages, carefully indexed, and contains:

- (1) Papers relating to the Acadian French, 1714-1755.
- (2) Papers relating to the forcible removal of the Acadian French from Nova Scotia, 1755-1768.
- (3). Papers relating to French Encroachments in Nova Scotia 1749-1754, and to the War in North America, 1754-1761.
- (4) Papers relating to the first settlement of Halifax, 1749-1756.
- (5) Papers relating to the first establishment of a Representative Assembly in Nova Scotia, 1755-1761.

Its value is greatly enhanced by the inclusion of two facsimiles of important treaties connected with the Micmac Indians, showing signatures of the British officials, and the totem or sign-marks of the Indian chiefs. There is also a printed copy of the signatories of the oath exacted by Governor Phillips in 1730 from the Acadian inhabitants of the Annapolis River country.

The years 1870 and 1871 were blank as regards the Public Records, but in 1872 a short report appears, in which Dr. Akins refers to fifty volumes of Military documents which had arrived in Halifax from Quebec en route for England. Dr. Akins obtained the privilege of examining these, and ascertained that they were rich in valuable historical material on the Revolutionary War, Loyalists, and War of 1812. He recommended that an effort be made to obtain these papers for the Provincial Archives; but the result of his suggestion is not stated. The books probably eventually went to England.

No report appears in the two following years, 1873 and 1874.

In 1875, under date of 5th March, a short, but interesting report appeared drawing attention to the urgent need of more funds. The archivist states that the British Government had lately issued a public catalogue of their Colonial Documents, many of which should be transcribed for the Public Records of Nova Scotia. He also mentions that the Provincial collection now consists of about 200 bound volumes of documents, and contains the best lot of MSS to be found in the Dominion of Canada.

In 1876 he reports an addition of 46 volumes of selections from the papers in the Secretary's office from 1835 to 1867,—all arranged, catalogued and bound. This completes the file to date of Confederation, and covers a wide range of subjects of which he gives full detail. Another point of interest to his work commented on is the urgent need of a safer depository for the Archives.

No report appears in 1877, but in 1878 he stated that a number of copies of documents in the Public Record Office at London had been received relating to the early history of Acadia, chiefly to the various negotiations between France and Great Britain, the condition of the French settlements, trade with the Indians, etc. Others of equal importance were expected.

This year there was published the first complete catalogue of the Archives in the form of a pamphlet of 35 pages, entitled:

CATALOGUE

or

LIST OF MANUSCRIPT DOCUMENTS

Arranged, Bound and Catalogued

Under the Direction
of the

Commissioner of Public Records,

Together with a

List of Books of Entry

Consisting of

Minutes of His Majesty's Council,

Letters, Registers of Crown Grants of Land, Commissions,
Orders of Government, etc. etc.

From the

Year 1710 to Year 1867,

**Preserved in the Government Offices at Halifax,
Nova Scotia.**

Also

A List of the Boxes

Which contain Papers assorted in Bundles with memorandum
of contents of each Box.

Halifax, N. S.,

1877.

This gives us an excellent idea of the condition of the
Archives at this date.

Next report is dated 8th April, 1879; it mentions receipt of more valuable transcripts from the Public Record Office, London; and also acknowledges permission from the Massachusetts Historical Society to copy such documents as are in their hands which refer to the removal of the Acadians, etc. It also mentions that the collection at this time amounted to about 400 bound volumes and 58 boxes of MSS.

On the 4th March, 1880, the Archivist reports receipt from the Massachusetts Historical Society of a valuable MS Journal of Colonel Winslow in 1755. Also, that he had received from Ottawa,—after much trouble and delay—a large number of documents which had been removed from Halifax to Ottawa in 1867 by the then Governor, Sir Fenwick Williams of Kars. These papers contain the correspondence between the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Governors of Nova Scotia, 1852-67,—thus completing the files of correspondence from 1712 to 1867.

He also acknowledges a number of original letters from the British Ambassador at Washington to the Governors of the Provinces, 1852-68, in re Fisheries, Reciprocity, etc.; also two volumes of letters, 1852-66, from the Governors of the other Provinces to those of Nova Scotia. He states that in the British Museum there are many documents of great interest to Nova Scotian history which can be copied, and asked an appropriation for this purpose.

Next report, dated 7th March 1881, mentions receipt of a large number of copies of very important MSS from the New Brunswick Historical Society, British Museum, and Public Record Office, London. He gives full details, but space does not permit me to reproduce. It is also stated by him that many important papers regarding Nova Scotia exist in Quebec and Boston, and that these should also be copied.

In 1883, further important papers in the British Museum and in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society are reported to have been copied and added to the Nova Scotia collection.

Three years later, in 1886, a second and last complete catalogue of the Provincial Archives as at that date was issued to the public in the form of a pamphlet of forty-two pages with title somewhat similar to that of 1877 catalogue already reproduced

in this paper. The edition must have been a small one as it has long since been out of print and unobtainable in detached form. By this time the collection had grown into one of over 500 bound volumes and 59 boxes of documents and papers.

The following year, 1887, saw the last public report from the expert hand and brain which had, at a minimum expense to the Province, evolved from a mass of unsorted papers and files, the collection of documents known as the "Public Records of Nova Scotia" systematically arranged, carefully catalogued and indexed, which show the progress of our Province from its earliest years to a comparatively recent date. Dr. Akins was now nearly 80 years of age, and the strain of time and stress of work were beginning to show effects. This, his valedictory report, is a very lengthy one as it contains in the form of an appendix a long detailed list, occupying seventeen printed pages, of documents which he deemed to be of great importance to this collection and which had been transcribed and embodied in the Archives of the Dominion at Ottawa; the care of that collection then being in the hands of the late Dr. Douglas Brymner, Dr. Akins strongly recommended that copies of these documents be made forthwith and added to the Halifax collection, and thus enable the Nova Scotia students to draw freely from these original sources of history; but it is not apparent that any action was taken.

He chronicled the addition of four volumes of important miscellaneous papers from 1842 to 1867; draws attention to the imperfect condition of the records regarding Cape Breton between 1788 and 1820; also to the unsafe condition of many of the boxes containing valuable MSS and of the condition of the records of the Supreme Court, and ends with this quiet but significant summing up of his thirty years' work; "I have "felt it my duty thus to afford the Government all information "possible with respect to this Department of the public service, "for the guidance of those who may come after me in the work."

Nothing appeared in 1888, 1889 or 1890, and on 6th May 1891 Dr. Akins passed away, aged eighty-two years. As the most prominent figure in connection with the subject of this paper it seems fitting that portions of the "In Memoriam" tribute published at the time by this Society may be here reproduced.

After reviewing his life, accomplishments, honours, and work, the writer says:

"His skill and industry in arranging and cataloguing the documents in his keeping, and the important additions which he made to them with very inadequate grants, have won the approval of many historians. He has shown admirable judgment in his selection of manuscripts for publication in the single volume which he was authorized to print, a volume whose value he has largely enhanced by his excellent explanatory notes. Parkman, who has quoted frequently from it, pronounces it in his "Montcalm and Wolfe" to be "a government publication of great value." Numerous extracts from it, as well as several tributes to its excellence, may be found in the "Narrative and Critical History of America," edited by Justin Winsor. In the fifth volume of this elaborate work, in an essay on the sources of information concerning the final struggle of France and England in Acadia (pp. 418-419) Dr. Akins' compilation is classed as the first in importance.

"He died on the 6th of May 1891. He was buried on the 9th, in the cemetery of St. John's Church in the suburbs of Halifax, his funeral being attended by many of the most distinguished citizens. On the day after his death a resolution regretting his loss, and acknowledging his services was adopted unanimously by the House of Assembly.

"His memory was a store-house, not only of historic and antiquarian lore, but also of charming miscellaneous anecdotes. He was a kind friend, a genial companion, a doer of unobtrusive charities, a lover of truth, and a most thorough gentleman. Shunning, almost abhorring popular notice or applause, writes an editor who knew him well, "he did for Nova Scotia a work that well entitles him to rank with her most illustrious sons. Thinking only of 'the lightning of the deed' and caring nothing for 'the thunders of applause that follow at its heels, that men call fame,' his name will live deservedly and honorably in the annals of his country, long after many apparently greater names are wholly forgotten."

He was succeeded in office by his assistant Francis Stephen Beamish, a barrister by profession, and a relative of Dr. Akins who retained charge of the Public Records until 1895, when he retired and was followed by Edwin C. Fairbanks of the Provincial Secretary's Office. Mr. Fairbanks reigned until 25th

May, 1901, when the present occupant, Mr. Harry Piers, was appointed to the dual office of Curator of the Provincial Museum, and keeper of the Public Records.

During the regime of Messrs. Beamish and Fairbanks 1891-1899, no reports of any sort were published; and if any accessions were made to the documents during those years no record is now available. Mr. Piers, for the first ten or twelve years since his appointment, reported annually on the condition and growth of the Museum, and occasionally referred very briefly to the Archives:—so briefly in fact that Dr. Akins' report of 1887 can be considered as being practically the last that has been made public on this topic—one so important to historical students. For thirty-two years no catalogue or list of any description has been published, nor even any detailed report for the information of the public.

Reference to the subject in the Museum reports is of the most fragmentary nature, such as "in 1905 that large accessions were made during the year, and that the care and cataloguing of the papers involved much time."

There was certainly much time involved during this period in connection with a matter of the greatest importance to the students of our history, namely, the acquisition from the Imperial Government of no less than two hundred and seventy bound volumes of military, and five volumes of naval papers, dealing with the Nova Scotian command from 1783 to 1903,—a series constituting by far the most valuable addition to the Archives since, its establishment; and it is safe to say that, but for Mr. Piers personal efforts, extending over several weeks, not only would these two hundred and seventy-five volumes of great and unique importance have been lost to Nova Scotia, but several hundred other volumes of official military correspondence relating to the Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Lower Canada, and Upper Canada would have gone direct to England and been destroyed, the latter having been the intended fate of about one hundred volumes of naval documents from 1750 to 1900, which were ultimately sent to London.

To conclude our record, it may be stated that from 1906 to 1912 the only reminders to the public that the Provincial Archives still existed were in the form of extremely brief references to them in the reports of the work of the Provincial

Museum. Prior to 1906 there had been no reports at all since 1887. What mention there was in the later years chiefly related to the time given by the Curator of the Museum to the care and arrangement of the Archives. He also referred to copies of some of the papers having been made for interested parties, and the furnishing of information regarding the Fisheries for use in the arbitration before the Hague Conference in 1910.

These somewhat meagre references have been, since 1905, contained in the annual Reports of the Department of Mines—a somewhat unlikely subject to be consulted by any one desiring information about the documentary records or Archives of the Province. In Dr. Akins' time, a special report was given each year, or nearly so, under the heading of "Public Records".

Since 1912 no report of either Museum or Public Records has appeared in print.

In discussing the character, condition, and scope of this priceless collection of documents let me mention the very praiseworthy action of the Provincial Government in publishing at its own expense Nos. II and III of the series of printed volumes, known as "Nova Scotia Archives." We have already noted the publication in 1869 of the first volume of this series, containing copies of several important papers on the removal of the Acadians and other subjects of interest. This excellent work was greatly appreciated by all students of our history, and has now become very difficult to procure, the edition having long since been exhausted. Thirty-one years later a second volume was published; and in 1908 volume III appeared. Both were very fittingly devoted to the earliest days of our history as a British Province. Volume II is a work of two hundred and seventy pages containing a reproduction of the letter book of the Governors at Annapolis Royal from 1713-1742; also the Commission Book 1720-1741, with copies of all Commissions, Orders, etc., issued during that period. Volume III (408 pages) gives us the Minutes of His Majesty's Council at Annapolis Royal 1720-1739. Both works are neatly printed, and reflect great credit on the Government, and on their editor Professor Archibald MacMechan of Dalhousie University. The publication of a fourth volume was agreed to by the Government a few years ago; progress has recently been made in preparing it for the printer, and its publication may be looked for at an early date.

The Archives now comprise about 775 bound volumes of documents and MSS, and about 60 boxes of less important papers, and of those whose size, shape or condition preclude their being bound up in book form. These may be roughly divided as follows:—

(1) Copies of certain documents in London relating to the earliest years of this Province, 1624-1699.

(2) French documents relating to Acadia under the Government of France, 1632-1751.

(3) Documents relating to British Government at Annapolis Royal, 1710-1749.

A most valuable collection of books and papers, covering all phases of life in Annapolis when it was capital of Acadia:—Nicholson's Journal of the Seige 1710;— Minutes of the Council; letters, orders and commissions;—efforts to check French and Indian aggression, and to govern the struggling colony:—one volume of a French Register of baptisms, marriages and deaths at Annapolis, 1702-1745; and many other miscellaneous documents of great interest and value.

Four volumes of this series have been reprinted in Volumes II and III of the "Nova Scotia Archives," published respectively in 1900 and 1908.

Included in his lot is a volume of copies of despatches from the Governor of Louisbourg to the Secretary of State 1745-1749.

(4) Documents relating to the founding of Halifax 1749, and the subsequent operations of the Government there down to about the year 1807.

These documents form 28 bound volumes, and would be invaluable to anyone writing the history of this City.

(5) Letters, dispatches and correspondence exchanged between the Governors of Nova Scotia and the Secretaries of State, 1800-1867.

A magnificent set of 73 volumes, giving in detail the inner history of the Government of the Province during its most important period.

(6) The correspondence of Governor Wentworth when Governor at New Hampshire, 1767-1778. Comprised in three volumes.

(7) Copies of letters from the Provincial Secretary to various parties chiefly within this Province, but not wholly so, extending from 1803-1869, and bound in 25 volumes.

This correspondence is of the most varied nature, and with many features of great interest.

(8) Correspondence relating to the Acadian inhabitants of the Province, 1752-1755.

(9) Correspondence with Governors of the other Provinces and with the French Governors at Louisbourg, 1753-1756.

(10) Copies of letters of Sir Jeffrey Amherst and other Governors of neighbouring Provinces relating to the wars, 1760-1784.

(11) Miscellaneous papers of all sorts which cannot be classed or included in any of the other subjects of the collection.

(12) Records of all Commissions, Licenses, Warrants, Orders, etc., issued by the Governors of the Province from 1749-1853.

(13) Minutes of His Majesty's Council at Halifax from 1749-1870. Contained in 28 volumes.

(14) Journals of His Majesty's Council when convened in their legislative capacity, 1758-1783.

In connection with these journals Dr. Akins notes that "The Journals of the Legislative Council after 1873, will be found in the Legislative Council Chamber, under the care of the Clerk of the House. The Journals of the Legislative Council were not printed until about the year 1830."

"The Journals of the House of Assembly from 1758 to 1868, are complete with the exception of one volume, and are in charge of the Clerk of the House. The first volume, from 1758 to 1760, is in manuscript."

"The original Bills, in manuscript, which have passed the Legislature since 1758, are kept in the ante room of the Legislative Council, under the charge of the Clerk of Bills."

(15) Selections from the files of the Legislative Council, 1760-1841.

(16) Selections from the files of the House of Assembly, 1758-1841.

About two lots of "Selections" are bound up in 23 volumes, containing a vast variety of papers of more or less importance.

(17) Papers relating to the Island of Cape Breton, 1785-1835.

These fill 25 volumes, and contain the original dispatches from the Secretary of State to the Governor of that colony, when a separate one from Nova Scotia, 1785-1820. Also Minutes of His Majesty's Council; correspondence of Governor Desbarres and others:—Orders in Council, and miscellaneous papers of all sorts.

(18) Papers dealing with the Public Accounts of the Province, and all financial matters generally 1758-1846.

(19) Papers dealing with Quit Rents, 1722-1827.

(20) Original papers connected with the settlement of Halifax; the Alloting Book; names of residents in 1752; and other matters of a similar nature dealing with the first years of the life of this city.

(21) Papers relating to Refugee Negroes, 1790-1839.

(22) Papers relating to Sable Island, 1801-1862.

(23) Papers relating to Indian Affairs, 1751-1840.

(24) Church of England School and Glebe Lands, 1779-1859.

(25) Papers relating to King's College, 1816-1853.

(26) Schools and School Lands, 1813-1861.

(27) Militia, 1778-1867.

(28) Mines and Minerals, 1803-1866.

(29) Papers relating to Railways and Telegraphs, 1835-1865.

(30) Census and Poll Tax, 1790-1851.

(31) Registry of Crown Grants of Land, 1759-1784. These occupy 59 volumes and are of great value and interest.

(32) Papers relating to the War of 1812.

(33) Papers relating to the American Revolution and of concurrent troubles in Nova Scotia.

(34) Papers relating to the settlement of Loyalists in Nova Scotia.

(35) Correspondence between the Governors of Nova Scotia and the British Ministers at Washington, 1798-1866.

(36) Correspondence between the Governors of Nova Scotia and those of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, 1816-1851.

(37) Royal Proclamations, 1748-1807.

(38) Royal instructions to Governors of Nova Scotia, 1729-1867.

(39) Papers relating to the settlements of Lunenburg, Horton, Shelburne, and other places in the Province.

(40) Vice Admiralty Papers.

(41) Copy of manuscript journal of Col. John Winslow, and of the removal of the Acadians in 1755.

(42) Letter Books and other bound volumes from the Commanding Royal Engineer's Office, Halifax, 1806-1859.

These occupy 57 volumes and are invaluable for reference on all points connected with the fortifications and other Imperial works in this Province.

(43) General and Garrison Orders, Halifax, 1783-1903. These are contained in 213 volumes, and are certainly one of the

most valuable sets of documents in the collection. They have been supplemented with about 200 volumes of military correspondence dated from Halifax and centred about Halifax, but these latter, I understand, were sent by mistake to the Dominion Archives, Ottawa in 1903 or thereabouts, together with a similar quantity of like correspondence which related more particularly to Western Commands.

(44) Letter Books and memda of His Majesty's Naval Yard, 1783-1809.

The 5 volumes that comprise this set were all that could be obtained from a very large quantity which were displaced when the naval authorities turned over their property to the Canadian Government. All the others were sent to England by order of the Admiralty.

(45) Record Books of the early Fire Protection Companies of Halifax, 1813-1917. This, the most recent addition to the collection, is contained in 16 volumes.

The above data and notes present a fair summary of the work performed in connection with the Public Records, progress made in putting them into orderly shape, and their present condition. As regards suggestion for their future usefulness;

(1) We would urge retention of all documents now in the Archives.

(2) That effort be made to secure additions to the collection, either by gifts or purchase; this to relate to documents, etc., dealing solely with Nova Scotia and generally of a purely local nature.

(3) That the Provincial Government should issue with least possible delay a complete catalogue and index of the volumes and documents, and of the boxes and papers.

(4) That the Government be asked to include in the annual volume of Appendices of the Journals of the House of Assembly a report of the Public Records of the Province, as was done for many years. This report should show progress and other details, and reproduce at least one document of historic value.

(5) The Dominion Archives Department at Ottawa should be given every facility to copy all our records.

(6) Arrange to give a certain degree of publicity to the existence of this valuable collection of historical documents bearing on the history of the Province from its earliest days, so that historical societies and students generally may be aware of the facilities which it offers for inquiry or research.

These suggestions are made solely in the interests of the development of historical study in Nova Scotia, such being the main object of this Society's existence and work.