

ARCHIVES.

Archives
branch.

898. The importance of the archives branch of the Department of Agriculture has steadily grown since its establishment, and references to it from various parts of the world, for information respecting questions which have to be settled by documentary evidence, are daily increasing, while there is scarcely a work recently published on the history of Canada or the United States which has not been much indebted to this branch for information, and which does not contain acknowledgments of obligations for assistance rendered.

Date of
establish-
ment.

899. The branch was established in June, 1872, since which time the collection and classification of State papers and records, parliamentary documents of all kinds, copies of parish registers, old documents and family papers, original accounts of many of the early settlements, and miscellaneous documents of general and local interest, have been perseveringly proceeded with, and the value of the present collection, incomplete as it is, can hardly be estimated.

Copying of
State
papers.

900. Good progress has been made with the copying of the State papers in London, and work has been continued on the copying of the archives in Paris, which are of great importance to the early history of the present Province of Quebec.
