

Under British rule, documentary material begins with the correspondence between the Governors and the Ministers in London, in which can be traced the political evolution that brought us from the position of a colony to the status of a Dominion. There also are contained the records of our economic progress in terms of population, business, fur trade, fisheries, agriculture, industry, transport and means of communication, handicrafts, etc. These collections also comprise material relating to religious and educational matters, and to Indian missions, as well as information concerning public works, social assistance, hospitals, alms-houses, immigrants, etc. Thus from the countless papers of the Manuscript Division the story of the political, economic, military, religious, and social life of our country can be reconstructed.

The Map Division of the Archives contains more than twenty thousand maps, charts, plans, and drawings. In addition to their historical value maps are required to visualize a country, to show the adaptation of a human group to its habitat, and to interpret the economic, military, and social evolution of a people. The oldest American map goes back to the year 1500 and was made by Juan de la Cosa eight years after the discovery of the New World. Together with geographical maps can also be seen military, naval, geological, and demographic maps and charts, as well as plans and drawings of public buildings and military works. No end of information can be gathered from the proper reading of such valuable material.

As more and more interest is being attached in historical writing to contemporary representation of the men and scenes of the past, the Print Division of the Archives aims at bringing together iconographic records relating to Canada, past and present. It includes engravings, paintings, aquarelles, lithographs, drawings, photographs, and sculpture. It is rich in portraits, and still more so in representations of scenes, buildings, costumes, and sites. About forty-eight thousand pictures have now been catalogued. With the object of assisting in the teaching of Canadian history, a collection of lantern-slides has been formed and is available for loan to responsible teachers and lecturers in Canada.

The Library Division has a no less useful part in the service rendered by the Archives. So close to the Library of Parliament, it aims merely at assembling works, chiefly documentary, such as are indispensable to the study of Canadian history. Its purpose is to provide members of the staff, historians, students, and other inquirers with a good reference library of historical compilation and literature that may supply them with the required information, and facilitate the making of researches. The library now contains more than forty thousand volumes. The pamphlet section of approximately eleven thousand volumes, with its four thousand items printed between 1600 and 1867, merits special attention. Mention should be made of the Library's collection of old Canadian newspapers, including the *Gazette of Quebec*, which first appeared in 1764.

The Museum Division completes, so to speak, the part which the Archives plays in preserving such materials as are available for reconstructing the past. It contains all manner of objects possessing historic interest, such as flags, furniture, uniforms, medals, arms, coins, personal articles, etc., in exhibition rooms open to visitors.

To make its contents known to the public, the Department has issued since 1872 annual reports containing lists of the material acquired during the year, as well as inventories with indexes of the principal collections. Finally, the Archives has published several volumes of documents relating to the constitution, to discoveries and economics, and certain guides and catalogues of the divisions.