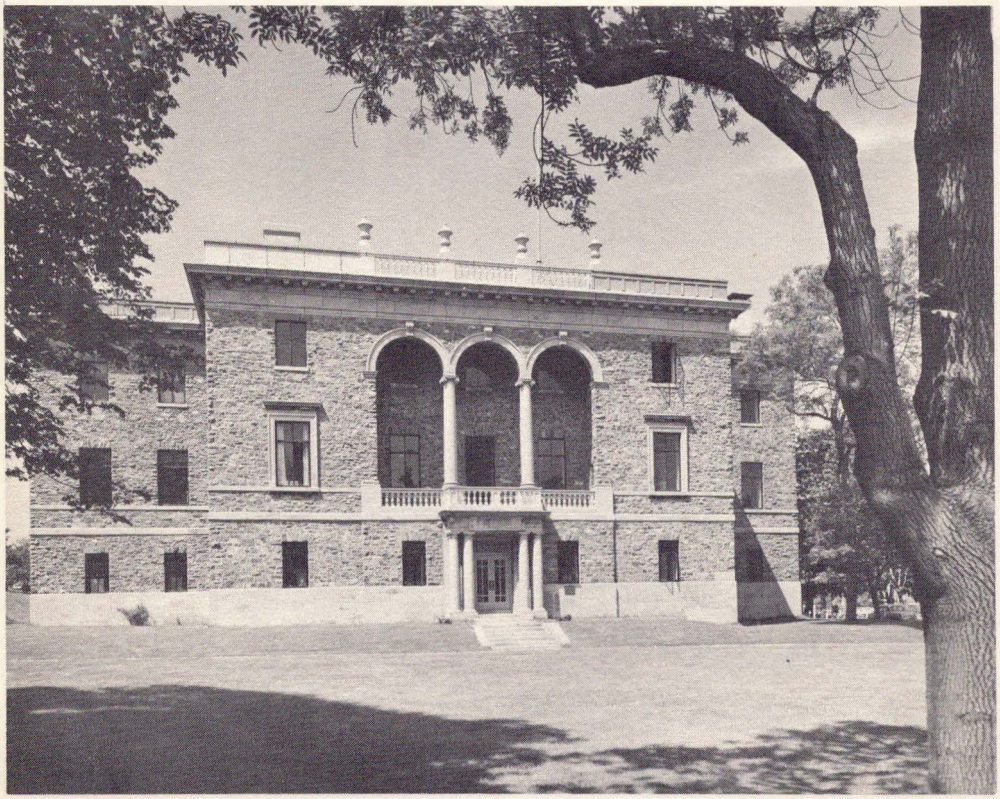
BULLETIN NO. 19

OF THE

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA



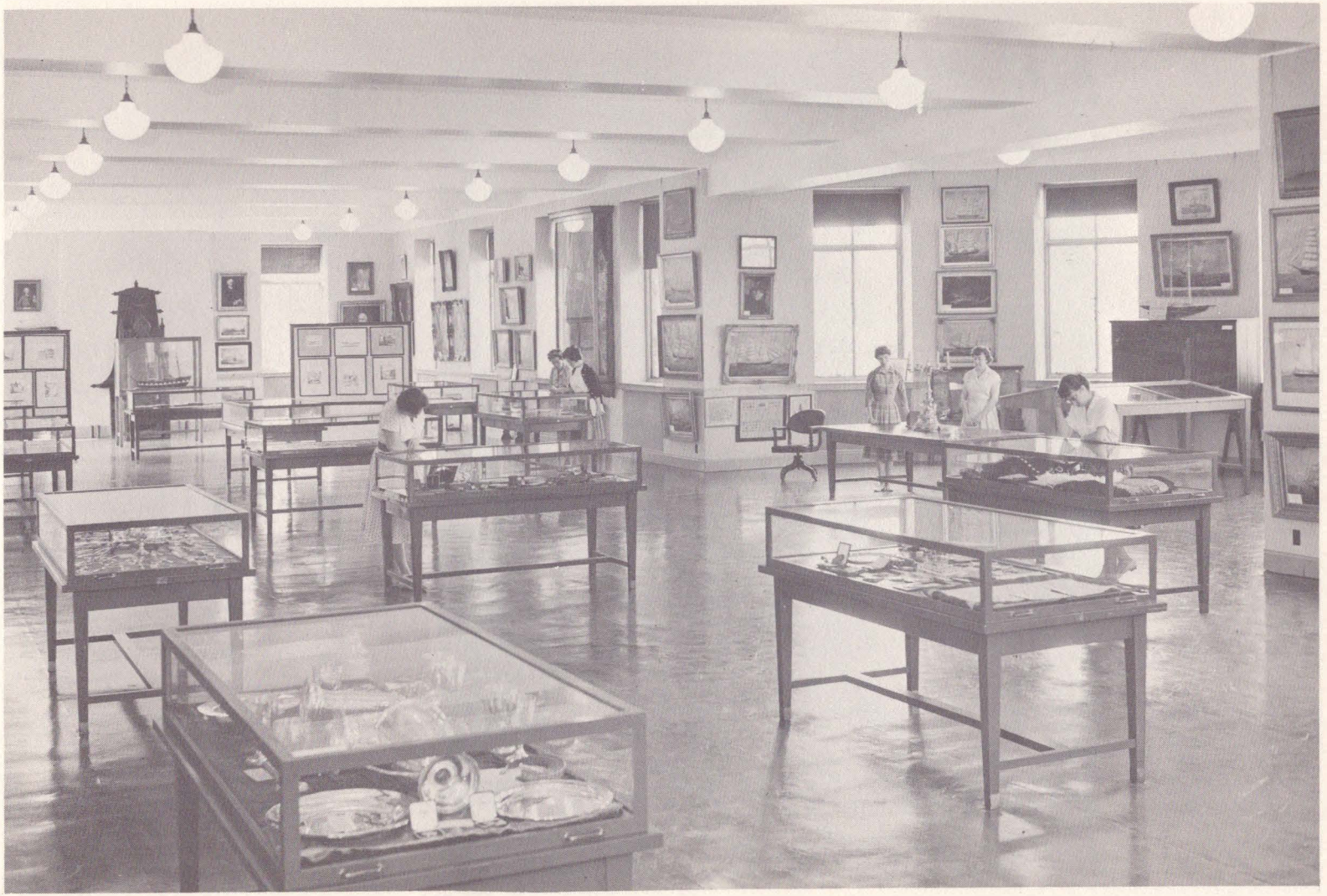
THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

by

CHARLES BRUCE FERGUSSON

Provincial Archivist

PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA
HALIFAX, N. S.
1963



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The Archives Building in Halifax, a public edifice of grace and charm, adorns its academic setting on the Studley Grounds of Dalhousie University and stands as a lasting memorial to the inspiration of Hon. E. N. Rhodes and the benefaction of Mr. W. H. Chase. Now situated between the Arts and Administration Building and the Sir James Dunn Science Building, two newer structures, it may conveniently be reached from Coburg Road by proceeding through the McCulloch Gate and just beyond the Sir James Dunn Science Building, or from University Avenue by passing the Chemistry Building and the Macdonald Memorial Library and veering slightly to the right. It may also be easily approached from other streets or directions.

It is a flat-roofed, fire-proof, stone structure of three storeys, having a loggia in front and a central bay section on its western side. Combining dignity with beauty in a very pleasing design, its aura of charming solidity blends with its surroundings and matches its important functions. It is a building containing an institution; the building is the Archives Building and the institution is the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. The building is a storehouse of historical records, designed for the preservation and display of documents, newspapers, magazines, books, pictures, maps and other muniments. It has a manuscript room, a newspaper room, a library, a public reading room, an historical museum and an art gallery. As an institution the Public Archives of Nova Scotia is an historical laboratory devoted to the collection, preservation, examination and use of archival materials. The word 'archives' means either a place in which public records or historic documents are kept or the historic documents themselves.

From Idea to Realty

Although the idea of a Provincial Archives Building for Nova Scotia was not original with William Henry Chase, the 'Apple King of Nova Scotia', who was also one of the organizers of the Avon River Power Company, as well as a director of the Eastern Trust, Trinidad Electric Company, Porto Rico Railway, and other companies, his was the decision and his were the financial resources which made it possible. It all began while Premier Rhodes of Nova Scotia was the guest of W. H. Chase at a fishing lodge on the Restigouche River in 1928. The informal hospitality of a fishing trip was the occasion which Rhodes seized in order to call his genial host's

attention to the crying need for an Archives Building for their native province. Mr. Chase was in a receptive mood and a responsive chord was struck. As Mr. Chase later declared, he mentally resolved that he would undertake to meet this need, "realizing in this manner there would be preserved to the province through the coming years, many things of historical value and interest, which belong in a particular sense to Nova Scotia, the earliest settled of the provinces, and thus help to foster and inspire that vision without which 'The people perish . . .' "

Reflection turned the suggestion into a favourable decision. The following winter the "successful" man, whose matriculation essay sixty years before, "The Hope of Our Country", elaborated the theme that the hope of our country lies not in the rich assets of her minerals and other natural resources, but in the vision and calibre of her manhood, informed Premier Rhodes that under certain conditions he would undertake the responsibility of erecting a suitable Archives Building. This decision and the fine edifice that sprang from it testify to the nobility of Mr. Chase's foresight.

When the announcement was made early in 1929 that Nova Scotia was to have the first provincial archives building in Canada, no mention was made of Mr. Chase, the province's benefactor. There was no doubt that the benefaction issued from the generosity of a donor, but for the present the donor wished to remain anonymous. Shortly afterwards the Board of Governors of Dalhousie University offered a site for the projected building, and when Premier Rhodes laid the corner-stone of it on August 29, 1929, there was still no hint as to the identity of the donor. At that time Dalhousie University was holding a reunion, and graduates from far and near fell in behind the University band and marched from the Forrest Building to Studley Grounds for the ceremony. There that corner-stone was well and truly laid, and C. H. Cahan, M.P., of Montreal, delivered an address.

A Board of Trustees for the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, comprising the Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, the President of Dalhousie University, Dr. J. C. Webster of Shediac, and Dr. A. G. Doughty, the Dominion Archivist, had been created earlier in 1929, and under its direction arrangements were made for the construction of the building. Andrew R. Cobb was commissioned as architect, and after he had completed the plans and specifications the contract was let to the McDonald Construction Co. The work then went forward to its completion, and on January 14, 1931, the Archives Building was officially opened.

At the opening ceremony, which was presided over by Hon. Frank Stanfield, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, who was also Chairman

of the Board of Trustees of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, the announcement was made that W. H. Chase was the benefactor who had provided this handsome cultural centre for the Province. By statute Mr. Chase was made a life member of the Board of Trustees, of which the president of the Nova Scotia Historical Society also now became a member, and to which the Premier of the Province and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Assembly had previously been added. The displays of archival materials on view in the new building at the time of its opening included a Dominion exhibit from Ottawa under the supervision of Dr. Doughty. The vision and the generosity of W. H. Chase had made possible a splendid edifice which was to become "a House of Learning." As the editor of the *Halifax Herald* stated, he had indeed provided Nova Scotia with a casket worthy of the priceless jewel of her history and traditions.

Perspective

The Archives Building, as Dr. Archibald MacMechan once wrote, was no mere accident; it marked a most interesting culmination of a long train of events in the history of Nova Scotia. A considerable development had taken place and a significant mile-stone had been reached. Now, for the first time, it seemed, an adequate organization was to be established not only for the collection and preservation of the public records and historical documents of the Province, but also for their effective use.

Much time had elapsed since the voyaging of the Vikings and the visit of Cabot. Effective settlement began when DeMonts built the Port Royal Habitation in 1605, and a few years later Samuel de Champlain and Marc Lescarbot wrote their illuminating eye-witness or first-hand accounts of the activities and exploits of the French pioneers in this region. After Sir William Alexander (later Earl of Stirling) received his royal charter of Nova Scotia in 1621, he and Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar wrote prose tracts with the object of inducing their fellow-countrymen to migrate to this portion of the New World. Later in the same century Nicolas Denys, after experiencing many trials in the region, wrote his *Description and Natural History of Acadia.*

Fluctuating fortunes of war repeatedly changed the sovereignty over Nova Scotia until French official control of the peninsula ended with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 and French claims to Cape Breton ceased at the end of the Seven Years' War a half-century later. While the British Government considered plans for founding Halifax as an offset to Louisbourg, which had first been captured by New Englanders, with the aid of a squadron of the Royal Navy, in 1745, and was to be restored to France by

treaty in 1748 and recaptured in 1758, Otis Little wrote a pamphlet to encourage immigration into Nova Scotia. Little himself was a Harvard graduate who became Captain of one of the Independent Companies raised in New England for the colonial service; in 1736 he was at Annapolis Royal, where he was commissioned as Justice of the Peace. His lively interest in this Province is evinced by the fact that he had his 84-page pamphlet, "The State of Trade in the Northern Colonies Considered; with an Account of their Produce, and a Particular Description of Nova Scotia", published in London in 1748. The next year he returned to Nova Scotia in the Cornwallis expedition which founded Halifax, and shortly afterwards he became the first Attorney-General of the Province.

Just as Otis Little described the resources of Nova Scotia immediately prior to the foundation of Halifax, so did John Wilson, formerly Inspector of Stores, depict occurrences in the new settlement shortly afterwards. His pamphlet, which was entitled, "A Genuine Narrative of the Transactions in Nova Scotia, Since the Settlement, June 1749, till August the 5th, 1751", was also published in London, where a smaller sketch, "A Genuine Account of Nova Scotia", had appeared the previous year.

Eye-witness accounts of early days or occasional pamphlets designed to promote immigration served their purpose in the infancy of the colony. But as settlement proceeded and society progressed, the value of records for the writing of a history of the Province would be realized.

There was recognition of the need even in the 18th century. As settlements put down their roots and assumed more and more of the attributes of permanency, concurrent with their growth there emerged a community and local-consciousness, which would one day demand expression in a written history of the Province. Within twenty-five years of the founding of Halifax, a Mr. Legge, who was there in 1773, announced his intention to write a Political and Natural History of Nova Scotia and solicited suggestions and information. He received a number of replies, but if he expected to get all the assistance he needed by so asking for it, he does not seem to have succeeded. In 1776 Abbé Raynal's *Philosophical and Political History of the British Settlements and Trade in North America,* which contained an account of Nova Scotia, appeared in an English translation. During 1783-84 Rev. Jacob Bailey not only collected materials for Rev. Samuel Peters and a member of Parliament in England, who were then engaged in writing a description of Nova Scotia, but also wrote a concise account of the Province and sent it to Dr. Peters. In 1786 S. Hollingsworth's *An Account of the Present State of Nova Scotia* was published; it contained a description of the situation, appearance and extent of the Province, as well as material on its geography, climate, flora and fauna, settlements, fishing

and trade. A second edition of this volume, revised and enlarged and entitled *The Present State of Nova Scotia: with a brief Account of Canada and the British Islands on the Coast of North America,* appeared in 1787. The author declared that all the descriptive parts of it were written "amidst those rude and magnificent scenes, which are so frequently met with in the yet uncultivated regions of the New World." Without a critical use of documentary materials, however, no treatment of the history of the Province was likely to be adequate.

None of these sketches or accounts did justice to the romantic age or the recent growth of Nova Scotia. Still virtually unwritten were the fascinating exploits of discoverers and explorers; the colour and romance of early French and British settlement; the stirring events of imperial rivalries; the unhappy fate of the Acadians; the founding of Halifax; the coming of the New England planters, fishermen and lumbermen; the return of Acadians from exile; the arrival of early Irish and Scottish settlers; the influx of Loyalists, refugees and disbanded soldiers; and the gradual growth of the colony along many lines. Echoes, traces and patchy traditions of a vivid past and a lively present awakened such men as Dr. William Cochran and Dr. Andrew Brown to the significance of the story of Nova Scotia and imbued them with a desire to investigate its history.

Rev. Dr. Brown was the minister at St. Matthew's Church in Halifax when he first showed his interest in the history of the Province. He had been a student of the famous Scottish historian William Robertson; he had been graduated at Edinburgh University; he was a Presbyterian minister. Crossing the Atlantic in 1787, he reached Halifax only 38 years after the foundation of that town, and just 32 years after the deportation of the Acadians. There he remained until 1795, except for an interlude in 1791-92, when he went home to bring out his wife. The inspiration of Clio relieved the loneliness of his early winters in Nova Scotia and prompted him to project a history of the Province. He read and took notes on American colonization in general and Nova Scotia in particular. He corresponded with New England historians. He set out to collect not only all the muniments of Nova Scotian history he could, but also the recollections and impressions of men who had participated in some of the notable events since 1749. When he consulted the Board of Trade papers in London, during his visit to Britain in 1791-92, he was amazed at the mass of material relating to Nova Scotia in that collection. After his return to the Old Country in 1795, he again had access to those records. Thus, through a labour of love on both sides of the Atlantic, Rev. Dr. Andrew Brown compiled a considerable collection of source materials pertaining to the history of this Province. Those documents which he consulted or used in London may still be found there; but some of the records which he gathered are

valuable original documents missing from their places elsewhere; others are corroborative copies of dubious matter or unsubstantiated personal reminiscences drawn from failing memories. Quite obviously some of these records must be used with caution. Dr. Brown himself did something more than gather documents; his intention was to write a history of Nova Scotia and, though he failed to complete that project, he did write a sort of first draft which actually amounted to notes for a book running to the year 1766, with separate sections on some later periods. After Dr. Brown's death in 1833, his heir treated his accumulated papers carelessly. Some of them were burned. The remainder were in a box about to be sent off to the snuff-shop, when Alexander B. Grosart, a student in theology, stumbled against it in the lobby of his rooming house and had the curiosity to examine some of the manuscripts. Thus were the Brown papers saved from impending destruction, and eventually they were turned over to the British Museum.

Meantime, in 1789, Dr. William Cochran, graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, former professor of Greek and Latin at Columbia College, New York, and then master of the Halifax Grammar School, as well as editor of the *Nova-Scotia Magazine*, referred to the history that was in preparation by a hand that was "amply capable of such an undertaking." Perhaps that hand was Dr. Brown's, perhaps it was Dr. Cochran's. Whoever was meant by that remark, Dr. Cochran, who took charge of King's College in Windsor in 1790, also made notes and memoranda for a history of Nova Scotia. Although he too failed to finish such a project, Dr. Cochran left behind him two volumes of memoranda and extracts; one runs to the year 1757; the other deals with the period from 1758 to 1811, and contains not only comments upon Haliburton's *An Historical and Statistical Account of Nova Scotia*, but also a journal of the weather at Windsor for the first seven months of the year 1814.

Those eighteenth-century would-be historians of Nova Scotia were handicapped by the fact that little attention had been given to the preservation and the management of public records. There was neither an archives building nor an archivist; there was not even a suitable place of deposit for the records of government. Those not in current use soon became an encumbrance to the various offices in which they lay. For convenience some of these were removed at intervals and placed, without much consideration to their order or to their safety, in attic or basement, or in some other available space. These records were, accordingly, not infrequently subject to disarray and dampness, with resultant obliteration, loss or damage. Moreover, prior to 1819, when Province House first came into use, the governmental records were rather precariously stored in one of the

several buildings which successively accommodated the legislature and the courts.

With the opening of the nineteenth century there was some realization of the need for action to collect, preserve and administer the public records of the Province. In 1802, James Gautier, who was a clerk in the office of the Provincial Secretary from 1785 to 1809, sorted and arranged the public papers then in that office, as well as those of the legislature and some of the courts. Late in 1809 the House of Assembly directed its clerk to make an index of the Journals and to have it properly bound. Early in 1811, after Samuel Hood George, the Provincial Secretary, reported that the records were imperfect, in a ruinous state, and with defective indexes, a committee of the House examined them and declared that it would cost at least £150 to put them in good condition. The House of Assembly, in what was perhaps the first significant attempt to repair and improve the documents, then voted that sum for binding and indexing them. Subsequently, Sir Rupert George, who was Provincial Secretary from 1814 to 1848, made a catalogue of the dispatches from the Secretaries of State and the Board of Trade for the years 1759 to 1835. These spasmodic efforts were helpful but meagre, and a more systematic and permanent management was needed.

While this unsatisfactory state of affairs persisted, new efforts were made to write a history of Nova Scotia. In 1801 William Sabatier, a Halifax merchant who lived in the Mansion House at Fort Sackville and who was later to be Sheriff of Halifax County, issued a prospectus for such a purpose. He hoped not only to gather information by question and answer, but also to use the services of a visiting English draftsman to make illustrations for the proposed volume. But nothing came of this proposal. Not much more was achieved by Anthony Lockwood, Professor of Hydrography and Assistant Surveyor General of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, whose *Brief Description of Nova Scotia,* which was published in London in 1818, was merely a technical description of the harbours of it; he lamented the fact that he could not give his information to a person of talent, possessing a local knowledge of the country, who would take the pains to blend it with a particular account of the Province.

Not long after that, however, Thomas Chandler Haliburton, who was to achieve fame as the creator of "Sam Slick", undertook to write a history of Nova Scotia. Then a struggling young lawyer in Annapolis Royal, he was impelled by the want of society there to seek for sources of amusement at home, and it occurred to him that he might use his leisure hours for this purpose. If his history was begun as a hobby, it was also history with a purpose, for he was aware of the unfavorable opinion of Nova Scotia which

was then common in Europe, and he resolved to try to eradicate it. Burke had referred to "that ill-thriven, hard-visaged, and ill-favoured brat." Goldsmith had described Nova Scotia as "a place where men might be imprisoned, but not maintained," because "it was cold, barren and incapable of successful cultivation." Others had depicted it as a land of unrelenting sterility by dubbing it Nova Scarcity. Haliburton resented this erroneous but prevalent impression and set out to counteract it.

Haliburton could not devote all his time to this project, for he was to become a member of the legislative assembly of Nova Scotia as well as a practising lawyer. There was no public library in Annapolis Royal. Little had yet been done to collect or preserve, and less to make accessible, the records of the Province. There were many difficulties to surmount before a real history could be produced. He hoped to consult the Minutes of Council at Halifax; he enlisted the aid of many persons in Nova Scotia or elsewhere; so much laborious effort was required that he became discouraged at times. "It is too much for one person," he wrote to his friend Judge Peleg Wiswall, "who has any other business to do, and who has no public library."

He persevered, however, for seven years until the work was done. In the meantime, in 1823, he had published anonymously an immigrant's guide, *A General Description of Nova Scotia,* comprising 208 pages. During the next six years he went on with his larger work, which was completed in 1829. When he sent it off to the printer, Haliburton told his wife that he felt as though he had said good-bye to a child. It was printed by Joseph Howe in two volumes, under the title *An Historical and Statistical Account of Nova Scotia.* Haliburton had done what others had failed to do. He had produced the first history of Nova Scotia worthy of the name. He was a pioneer who set an example and provided an inspiration for others.

One of those who aided Haliburton in gathering material for his history was T. B. Akins. Young Akins thus acquired an absorbing interest in the history of Nova Scotia and became acutely aware of the condition of the records of the Province. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1831. Seven years later the Halifax Mechanics' Institute offered a prize for the best essay on the early history of Halifax, and Akins decided to enter this competition. As he wrote his essay, for which he was awarded the prize in 1839, Akins' interest in history was rekindled and his awareness of the state of the provincial records became more acute.

The next step was for Akins to propose the establishment of a depository of Provincial records. This he did in a letter to the president of the Halifax Mechanics' Institute which was read at a meeting of the Institute

early in 1841. The committee of the Institute viewed this proposal with favour and a subscription committee was later appointed to take steps to collect a small contribution from the members for the purpose of defraying incidental initial expenses. For several years the Institute expressed its interest in this project, without bringing the depository into being. Yet Akins had not only realized the need for it, but he was recognized as the guiding spirit of a mission which he had made his own and he was acknowledged to be the driving force behind it.

Akins continued his urging, but 15 or 16 years elapsed before effective action was taken. During the interval interest in the history of Nova Scotia was quickened by three events. One was the publication of Akins' prize essay on the history of Halifax in 1847; another was the appearance two years later of his booklet entitled *A Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Church of England in the British North American Provinces;* the third, which also occurred in 1849, was the celebration of the centenary of the founding of Halifax. These occurrences stimulated the minds and fired the imaginations of many.

The Beginning of an Archival Organization

Eventually the urging of Akins prompted action. For years his advocacy had achieved little. But support gradually grew and his opportunity came when he appeared before a committee of the House of Assembly to promote the idea. On that occasion what might have been refused to argument yielded to enthusiasm. The result was that in 1857 the provincial legislature decided to provide for the care and management of public records and historic documents.

On April 30, 1857, Joseph Howe moved, and Premier J. W. Johnston seconded, the following resolution:

> Resolved 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 this House will make provision for this service.

Thus sponsored by leaders of both parties, this resolution was passed by the legislature.

Recognized to be the man for the job to be filled, Akins was appointed Record Commissioner on May 29, 1857, to carry into effect the resolution

which the Legislature had passed. Nova Scotia, though still without an Archives building, now had its first archivist. As if the present and the future would never become the past, it was expected that the work of the Record Commission would soon be completed. With the aid of a small staff, Akins hoped to realize that expectation. But new needs appeared as the work progressed and Akins' death 34 years later brought his period of service as Record Commissioner to a close without finishing the assignment.

His achievement, primarily concerned with records of government prior to Confederation, was a notable one. It included examining, selecting, binding and cataloguing documents. It also meant efforts to fill gaps in the records by obtaining transcripts of documents in London, Quebec and Boston. W. B. Tobin, a Haligonian residing in London in 1880, was one of those who assisted in this work on the other side of the Atlantic. In the course of his investigations in London, Tobin found that the Brown manuscripts were in the British Museum. He informed Akins of his discovery and sent him a catalogue of this collection of records pertaining to Nova Scotia. As a result Akins arranged to have Tobin copy some of the Brown manuscripts. In all, as Record Commissioner, Akins sorted, classified, arranged, catalogued and bound more than 500 folio volumes of manuscripts, which have been and still are of great use for historical research.

Even without proper accommodation for the care and use of the records of the province, Akins' work led to a number of worthwhile publications. Worthy of mention are Beamish Murdoch's *History of Nova Scotia,* which appeared in three volumes between 1865 and 1867; Akins' *Selections from the Public Documents of Nova Scotia,* a volume of 755 pages which appeared in 1869; and Duncan Campbell's *History of Nova Scotia,* which was printed in 1873. Akins also prepared three catalogues of manuscript documents, which were printed by the Government; one was a "Descriptive Catalogue of Books in the Iron Safe in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Nova Scotia" (1859); the other two, of the collection of which he had charge, were published in 1877 and 1886, and comprised 35 and 42 pages, respectively.

During the lifetime of Akins, moveover, a number of papers were prepared by various persons for presentation at meetings of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, which had been founded in 1878. All of these were the better for the work that Akins had done on the records of the Province, and Akins himself provided ten papers for this society, five of which were printed in its collections.

His prize essay on the history of Halifax, which had been submitted

to the Halifax Mechanics' Institute in 1839 and published by English and Blackadar of Halifax as a pamphlet of 62 pages in 1847, was subsequently amplified, amended and expanded by Akins until it reached book-size proportions. As the years rolled by, Akins resided in his town house at 283 Brunswick Street in Halifax or at his summer home on a pretty estate in Falmouth. He found pleasure in spending his summers at his rural seat, which he adorned with beautiful shrubs and lovely trees for ornamentation or shade, some of which were planted by distinguished guests such as Lieutenant-Governor A. G. Archibald, Rev. G. W. Hill and Vice-Admiral Sir Edward A. Inglefield. He delighted to entertain there, and he had a steady stream of guests, some who stayed for a few days, others who came to tea or dinner, or to spend an evening. From Falmouth he could conveniently go to Windsor to visit the library at King's College, to take part in activities at the college or to attend divine service, Church of England, Methodist or Salvation Army. There, close to nature, he noted the first strawberries and the first roses of spring, the appearance of fish in the river, the changing weather, and he found contentment and renewal. He also did some writing and work on records. In June 1883, for example, he finished cataloguing a selection of the Haldimand Papers, and in August and September 1880 he corrected the sixth chapter of his expanded version of the history of Halifax. In 1895, four years after his death, the Nova Scotia Historical Society published his history of Halifax, as volume 8 of its Collections, just as he had left it, even though he, if he had lived, would undoubtedly have wished to edit and amend it still more. Akins died at his residence in Halifax on May 6, 1891.

The Work Continued

Dr. Akins was the pioneer of the documentary age in Nova Scotia; but his death was not the end of that era. Though the position which he had held for thirty-four years was not filled at once, the care of the public records of the Province was immediately entrusted to the hands of another. Actually the next full-time archivist was not appointed until forty years later, and by that time, fortunately, Nova Scotia had been provided with an Archives Building. During the interval, however, three men, in turn, had charge of the historic documents of the Province.

The first of these was Francis Stephen Beamish. He was a barrister, as well as a relative of Akins and he had occasionally been seconded from another department for duties with the Record Commission during Akins' term of office. Now the records were left to his care from the death of Akins in 1891 to his own retirement in 1895.

At that time this responsibility was transferred to Edwin C. Fairbanks,

who was a clerk in the Provincial Secretary's Office. He kept it until 1899. As in the case of Beamish, this was only a stop-gap.

The custody of the records was next given to a man whose main work was done as Curator of the Provincial Museum—Harry Piers. For thirty-two years he had the dual role of Curator of the Provincial Museum and Deputy Keeper of the Records, until he relinquished the records when the Archives Building was ready for their accommodation in 1931.

Mr. Piers, a man of many interests, was an antiquarian above all else. Born and educated in Halifax, of which an ancestor was one of the founders, he lived and laboured and died there. He loved its sights and sounds, and was engrossed in its buildings and in its historical landmarks. He found it difficult to resist the claims of the smallest detail, and his notes and his mind were crammed with information about the city in which he spent his life and about other topics which shared his attention. These were not limited to archaeological and scientific subjects, for to him artistic and military history had a particular appeal. His writings included not only articles on aboriginal remains in Nova Scotia and on the occurrence of tin in the province, but also essays on the evolution of the Halifax fortress and on the Fortieth Regiment, an account of the master goldsmiths and silversmiths of Nova Scotia, and a biography of Robert Field, the portrait painter. These topics are only indicative of the range of his writings.

To Piers the provincial records were an extra responsibility for which he received no additional remuneration. Although a great many documents were in his care, he had neither the space nor the staff to make them readily accessible to scholars and others. Yet he rendered meritorious service in both the preservation and the collection of manuscripts, and on request he got out records for use by interested persons. While the public records were under his direction, they remained for a number of years in Province House, until the vault in the basement of the Technical College building on Spring Garden Road was ready to receive them late in 1914.

In 1899 Piers had assumed the care of 508 volumes of manuscripts and 43 boxes and bundles of records. To these he added at least 323 volumes and 319 plans during his custodianship, many of the new accessions being military muniments. He also gathered a collection of photographs of historical structures and personages, which was subsequently transferred to the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

When the Public Archives of Canada took steps in 1913-14 to open a branch in Halifax, Piers did not relish the idea. At a meeting of the Council of the Nova Scotia Historical Society on April 1, 1913, he brought up

"the matter of the disadvantages to us of Dominion Archives Dept. collecting in Nova Scotia". This branch of the Public Archives of Canada was in operation at Halifax until December 19, 1931.

Although the Province of Nova Scotia did not have a public record office or an archives building while Piers was in charge of the records, he was one of those who discussed with Premier Murray on February 27, 1907, the need of a vault for their safekeeping. Provision was made for the desired vault in the Technical College Building on Spring Garden Road, and in December 1914 Piers supervised the transfer of many of the records to it. The first load of volumes was moved from the ante-room or committee-room of the Legislative Council, in Province House, on December 5th of that year, and the other bound volumes were transferred on December 7th, 8th, 9th and 11th.

Even then, however, not all the records had been moved to the Technical College Building. There was not space in the vault for about fifty chests or boxes of miscellaneous governmental records from about 1749 to 1867, and these remained in the attic of Province House until arrangements were made for their accommodation in the Technical College. Racks were installed, and the boxes were transferred in December 1916. While they were being moved, the carters turned the chests over and over in handling them, with the result that their contents were displaced, and care had to be taken to put them in order again. These boxes were at first temporarily placed in a large room in the basement of the Technical College, where they were rearranged, while the smaller room in which they were to be placed was made ready.

During this period further progress was also made in the publication of records. Akins had published *Selections from the Public Documents of Nova Scotia* in 1869. Although this was his first and only volume of this sort, Akins introduced Professor Archibald MacMechan to the records of the province and stimulated MacMechan's interest in its history. Subsequently this interest of MacMechan bore fruit in the form of several volumes on Nova Scotian topics, including *Sagas of the Sea*, *Old Province Tales*, *The Book of Ultima Thule*, *There Go the Ships*, and *Red Snow on Grand Pré*. It is also seen in two other volumes which carried forward the project of publishing some of the provincial records. These were printed while Harry Piers had charge of the provincial collection. *A Calendar of Two Letter-Books and One Commission-Book in the Possession of the Government of Nova Scotia, 1713-1741*, edited by Archibald M. MacMechan, appeared in 1900. Eight years later *Original Minutes of His Majesty's Council at Annapolis Royal, 1720-1739*, edited by Archibald M. MacMechan, was published.

Eventually, through the generosity of Mr. W. H. Chase, an archives building was erected at Halifax in 1929-30. When it was formally opened on January 14, 1931, Piers was not present, for he had not been invited, although he had been Deputy Keeper of the Public Records for almost 32 years. Shortly afterwards, when the records were transferred from his custody to the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, it was with reluctance that he saw them go. ". . . These records," he wrote, "were like adopted children, which I had nourished by my own endeavours, and I had got to actually love them. Knew they would go to the new building, but the parting from them was very hard. . ."

An Archives Building and Another Archivist

Under the direction of The Board of Trustees of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, created by "An Act Respecting the Public Archives" which was passed on March 13, 1929, arrangements had been made for the construction of the Archives Building. The first meeting of the Board of Trustees took place the day following the enactment of this statute. Andrew R. Cobb was engaged as the architect, and before long the McDonald Construction Co. contracted for the construction of the building. By the summer of 1930, satisfactory progress had been made, and the Board of Trustees was giving consideration not only to newspapers, books, documents and other materials that might be transferred to the new building, but also to the acquisition of equipment and to the appointment of persons to the staff that would be required.

The Board of Trustees, realizing the desirability of securing expert advice in the formative stages of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, decided on August 25, 1930 to approach Dr. A. G. Doughty, the Dominion Archivist, for the loan of the services of Mr. Norman Fee of the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa. Mr. Fee, the archivist in the Division of Maps of that institution, arrived in Halifax in October 1930, in order to investigate and report on matters relating to the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

Meantime, a caretaker was needed for the Archives Building, and on August 25, 1930, it was decided to offer this position to former Battery Sergeant-Major Joseph Jussup. He accepted it and entered upon its duties on September 4, 1930. This was the first appointment made to the staff of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

Immediately after his arrival a few weeks later, Mr. Fee began his investigation. First of all he looked at the materials already in the Archives Building and made a preliminary examination of the materials in other

public buildings in Halifax. On October 31st he prepared his first report. At that time the materials in the Archives Building consisted of about forty boxes of manuscript records of the House of Assembly, about two hundred maps, and a small quantity of printed matter, all of which had been transferred from Province House. Fee's visit to the other public buildings in the city, however, indicated that the materials still to be transferred were greater both in volume and in importance than those in the Archives Building at the time. He made a number of suggestions and recommendations as to the transfer of those records, the cleaning and the classification of materials, and the staff and equipment required.

Then, to provide a proper basis for a fuller report and more detailed recommendations, Mr. Fee undertook a more careful survey. This was, in his own words, "to indicate the location, quantity, condition and in a general broad way the subject matter of material in the Province and more particularly in public buildings in the City of Halifax." On account of the quantity of material and the impossibility of listing it immediately under the proper classification, he described it under the heading of the building in which it was located.

There were some public records in the Provincial Museum in the Nova Scotia Technical College building on Spring Garden Road. Certain documents and other archival material selected by Dr. Akins were then stored in the basement of that building. The bound volumes, 520 in number in fair condition, were in what was stated to be a fire-proof vault, whereas 61 boxes of unbound documents were stored in a room in the basement. In both the bound volumes and the boxes there were maps attached to some of the documents. In addition there were about 325 loose maps, and these were in a filing cabinet on the second floor of the building.

There were other records in Government House. These comprised dispatches or letters from the Secretary of State in London, other governmental officials and other persons to the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia from the year 1862 (with the exception of a number of dispatches then in a vault in Province House), letter-books containing copies of letters sent from Government House, 1867-1900, and visitors' books containing the signatures of those who called at Government House or attended levees and receptions since 1878.

There were still other records in Province House. Records of the Court of Sessions of Cumberland County were in the vault of the Deputy Provincial Secretary's office. So too were one large bundle and three bound volumes of documents for the years 1864-69, including copies of

communications sent by the Lieutenant-Governor and dispatches received by him. The original minute books of the Executive Council of the Province from the year 1749 to the present and related correspondence, memoranda and other documents since 1903 were in a vault used by the Provincial Secretary in the basement of the building. Another vault, which was used by the Provincial Treasurer, contained records of the Receiver-General's office and of the Provincial Treasurer's office. Manuscript journals of the House of Assembly, original bills and amendments proposed by the Legislative Council, manuscript bills passed by the House of Assembly, registers of marriage licenses for the year 1852-55 and visitors' books of Province House for 1892-94 were stored in an office in the building. The attic provided storage for about 60 volumes of Sessional Papers of the House of Commons, blue books of the various Provinces, Nova Scotian records relating to agriculture, agricultural societies and trade, petitions to Council from 1769, papers of the Legislative Council 1790-1809, and statutes of the Province in their original manuscript form. A map of Nova Scotia by John Montresor and a collection of large-scale maps of various parts of the Province were in the attic also. The store-room of the Legislative Library accommodated Journals and Proceedings of the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia, statutes of other Provinces, Sessional Papers from Ottawa, Journals of the Senate, Canada Year Books, 73 volumes of Nova Scotian newspapers, about 150 maps and a number of pictures. The Akins Library was also stored in a room in Province House. This consisted of several thousand volumes of books and pamphlets relating to travel and exploration, as well as to the general history of North America or to the history of the Maritime Provinces and particularly to Nova Scotia. It had belonged to T. B. Akins, Record Commissioner or first Archivist of Nova Scotia.

Furthermore, there were records in the Provincial Building Annex in which the Crown Land Office was located. This office contained petitions for land, warrants to survey, surveyor's reports, licenses for occupation, grants of land, documents relating to escheat and forfeiture, plans and maps.

In addition, there was archival material in the Court House. This included records of the Quarter Sessions and of the Municipality of the County of Halifax and papers of the Chancery Court, the Divorce Court, the Equity Court, the Supreme Court and the Vice-Admiralty Court.

When he prepared his second report on November 10, 1930, Mr. Fee not only listed these materials and made recommendations as to their transfer to the Archives Building, but he proposed that steps be taken to collect other public documents elsewhere in the Province, as well as church

records, and he drew attention to the Nova Scotian material in the Public Archives of Canada at Ottawa. At the same time he offered advice as to the work to be immediately undertaken and as to the staff and equipment required for it. He also reported that a file of *The Acadian Recorder* from 1813 to 1930 had been received from the estate of the late C. C. Blackadar. After his return to Ottawa, Mr. Fee at the request of the Board of Trustees prepared estimates for the Public Archives of Nova Scotia for 1931. He had kept in mind Premier Rhodes' hope that "the pathway to this Building would be well trodden," and he had considered it not merely as a storehouse for the records of the Province, but as a repository for material essential for the historian and of material which would help to make the Archives Building a centre of interest and the pride of the people of Nova Scotia.

As yet the institution had no permanent director. A caretaker had, however, taken up his duties on September 4, 1930, and Miss Eileen Odevaine was assigned as Assistant Archivist on January 12, 1931, two days before the Archives Building was officially opened. Steps had been taken to appoint an Archivist and on August 3, 1931, Professor Daniel Cobb Harvey, graduate of Dalhousie University, Rhodes Scholar for Prince Edward Island, and recently head of the Department of History at the University of British Columbia, commenced work in that capacity. Under Professor Harvey's direction, during the next twenty-five years, a great deal was done to assimilate and make accessible a large amount of material and to encourage the study of Nova Scotian history. In addition to the annual reports of the institution, a number of bulletins, booklets and books were published. Professor Harvey was also a special lecturer in the history of Canada at Dalhousie University, the representative of Nova Scotia on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and a member of the Historic Sites Advisory Council of Nova Scotia. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and has been awarded honorary degrees by Dalhousie University and St. Mary's University.

Another Provincial Archivist

In 1956, after having been Assistant Archivist (in succession to Dr. James Martell) for ten years, Dr. Charles Bruce Fergusson, Governor-General's Medallist at the Nova Scotia Normal College, Great Distinction graduate of Dalhousie University where he won the Bennett Shield for debating, and Rhodes Scholar for Nova Scotia, was appointed Provincial Archivist. Previously he had served in the Royal Canadian Navy and as Civil Service Examiner in Ottawa. He is now also Associate Professor of History at Dalhousie University, member of the Historic Sites Advisory Council of Nova Scotia, and Chairman of the Historic Sites and Mounments Board of Canada.

The present staff of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia includes Dr. C. B. Fergusson, Provincial Archivist; Miss Phyllis Blakeley, Assistant Archivist; Miss Winifred McFatridge, Secretary; Mrs. R. E. MacLaren, Librarian; Miss Anne Hyne and Mr. Victor Stanton, Research Assistants; Mr. Donald Turner, Binder-Photographer; and Mr. Herbert Keddy and Mr. Paul Hamilton, Caretakers.

The achievements of the Public Archives of Nova Scotia are recorded in its annual reports. Since 1931, however, when the building provided by Mr. Chase was formally opened, this Province has seen a signal development in the organization and use of its public records and historic documents. In recent years, moreover, archival materials have not only been collected from all parts of the province and elsewhere, sorted, classified, catalogued and made available, but increasing use is being made of microfilms. In addition to the annual reports, there are now three series of publications.

The Building and the Institution

The Public Archives of Nova Scotia is both a building and an institution. As a building it is a storehouse for the preservation of historical records of many kinds, including documents, newspapers, books, maps, pictures and other muniments. As an institution it is an historical laboratory devoted to the examination and use of archival material. The student, the historian or the writer, however, needs more than merely official documents; he wants what has already been written and a wide range of supplementary material. Hence the Archives Building contains a library, an historical museum and a picture gallery, as well as a large collection of public records and historic documents.

It is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays to Fridays, inclusive, except for statutory holidays, the year round, and on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 10 from October to May, inclusive.

The Ground Floor

The door on the eastern side of the building is the main entrance. Near this door on the outside of the building is a tablet commemorating the fact that Mr. W. H. Chase gave this building to his native province. Passing through the door the visitor goes into the porch and then into the lobby or entrance-hall. There beneath Venables' portrait of Joseph Howe may be seen the resolution moved by Howe and seconded by Johnston, in the House of Assembly in 1857, which led to the establishment of an archival organization for the Province in that year. The entrance-hall

also contains two plaques, erected by the Government of Canada, in honour of Thomas Beamish Akins, who was appointed Record Commissioner or first Archivist in 1857, and Beamish Murdoch, lawyer, legislator and historian. There one may also see a bust of Sir John Thompson, a Haligonian, who was the first Nova Scotian to become Prime Minister of Canada, the coats of arms of Canada and Nova Scotia, a picture of the mace of the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, and the Canadian Bill of Rights. There are also two brass cannon which were used in the early days at Lunenburg to summon the inhabitants from their homes when an attack from the Indians was feared. An alcove has mementoes of Sydney and Louisbourg.

To the left of the doorway as one enters the building is another door leading into a small room, where paintings and other objects may be seen. These paintings include "Bear River" by Forshaw Day, "Antwerp" by an unknown artist, a landscape by Homer Watson, "Trade Winds" by C. R. Patterson, "Off St. Michael's" by J. Wilson, "Willow Tree" by J. E. H. MacDonald, "Two Girls" by Rosenburg, "Bleu Sur Bleu" by Una Gray, and "The Dancer" by Lewis E. Smith. This room also contains a spinet, given to Mary, daughter of Captain William Ross by Lord Dalhousie in 1816, which is said to have been carried by soldiers from Chester Basin to Sherbrooke (New Ross). On the mantel stands an original Eli Terry model mantel clock which was the property of the Logan family of Musquodoboit early in the nineteenth century. In front of the fire-place is the emblem of the Phoenix Assurance Company which was carved by G. McLeod of Halifax in 1864. Above the spinet is a nineteenth-century panoramic view of Halifax.

Beyond this room is another area for displays. It has several display-stands bearing materials of timely or topical interest. There one may also see two old printing presses, an old teleprinter and an early typewriter. One of the printing-presses is the famous Joseph Howe press, on which Howe printed not only *The Novascotian,* his newspaper, but also T. C. Haliburton's Clockmaker series and other volumes. A desk which is said to have been used by Howe when he was Premier of Nova Scotia is in this part of the building. On its walls may be seen a variety of pictures and other framed articles, including the passenger list of *The Hector,* which carried Scots to Pictou in 1773, scenes of Halifax after the explosion of 1917, a number of ships, other pictures of Halifax, Lunenburg, Acadia Iron Mines, the Studley Quoit Club, persons and buildings. In addition there are a number of models of ships here.

Other parts of the ground floor are taken up by a large collection of newspapers, manuscripts and some maps.

Returning to the entrance-hall one may ascend the stairway (or take the elevator), to the second floor. On the landing between the floors one may see a picture of Donald McKay, the famous designer and builder of clipper ships, pictures of two of his ships *The Great Republic* and *The Flying Cloud,* and a picture of the *W. D. Lawrence,* the largest square-rigger built in Canada, which was built by W. D. Lawrence at Maitland, N.S. On the wall between the landing and the second floor are paintings of more than fifty Nova Scotian birds. These were the work of Mr. Stephen March of Bridgewater.

The Second Floor

This floor comprises the lobby, offices, the main exhibition room and the Halifax room.

Prominently displayed in the lobby is a large portrait of Colonel the Honourable Edward Cornwallis, Governor of Nova Scotia and founder of Halifax. Also on its walls are other paintings—"Uniacke House" by Maria Morris, "York Redoubt" by Elizabeth S. Nutt, "View of Cornwallis, Grand Pre and Basin of Minas from North Mountain" and "View of Blomidon and Basin of Minas" by William Eagar, Charles Morris II by J. Weaver are some of these.

The main exhibition room is a fine one, 40 feet by 120 feet, and is a combined historical museum and art gallery. It contains 16 show-cases filled with materials illustrating the history of the Province, and has more than a hundred paintings and pictures on its walls, as well as scores of others on display-stands. In addition one may see in this room models of ships, including one of the *Hector,* one of the *W. D. Lawrence,* and one of the *Bluenose,* a wardrobe of Dr. Thomas McCulloch, founder of Pictou Academy and first principal of Dalhousie College, and a Speaker's Chair from the House of Commons, Ottawa, which was used by Hon. E. N. Rhodes in the years 1917-21.

The showcases in this room contain materials relating to the Micmacs, a variety of documents, including an original parchment of 1626 confirming Nova Scotia to Sir William Alexander (later Earl of Stirling and Viscount Canada), another parchment of 1631 which is the letters-patent of a Knight-Baronet of Nova Scotia, and other articles. Other documents on display include the passenger lists of the thirteen transports that brought settlers to Halifax in 1749, the log-book of the privateer *Lawrence* of 1757, the journal of John Witherspoon (a man who was captured by the Indians, transferred to the French and taken overland to Quebec), a reproduction of a part of Wolfe's diary, a township grant, and a teacher's license for

1781. The showcases also contain materials relating to newspapers, schools, libraries, churches, shipping, agriculture, and other topics, stamps, coins, medals, silver, mementoes of Hon. E. N. Rhodes, Captain W. G. Stairs, Beamish Murdoch, Prince Edward (Duke of Kent), and others, and military and naval souvenirs. On a table stands a lovely candelabrum which was given to Lieutenant-Governor Kempt by the citizens of Halifax in 1828. First editions of Hakluyt's *Principal Voyages and Discoveries,* Marc Lescarbot's *History of New France,* Captain John Smith's *General History of Virginia* and Nicolas Denys' *Description and Natural History of the Coasts of North America* (Acadia) may be seen in one of the cases. The Colours of the 25th and the 85th Battalions are also on display in this room.

The paintings in the main exhibition room include portraits by Robert Field, William Valentine, William Gush, Robert Harris, Albert G. Hoit, Mrs. C. McIntosh, J. Edgar Williams, and A. E. Wells. The portraits are of Rev. Robert Alder, S. G. W. Archibald, Edward Mortimer Archibald, Henry D. Blackadar, James C. Cogswell, Hon. Richard Cornwallis, Sir Samuel Cunard, W. S. Fielding, Dr. John Garvie, William Garvie, John C. Halliburton, John Howard, Andrew B. Jennings, Martin von Kaulbach, Frederica von Kaulbach, Sir Wilfred Laurier, Captain John George Legett, Mrs. Samuel Leonard, Rev. Charles Porter, John S. Thompson, James Thomson, Sir Charles Tupper, W. B. Vail, John Young and Mrs. John Young.

There are landscapes, seascapes and other paintings by Francis Jones Bannerman, Forshaw Day, William de Garthe, Michele Federico, Arthur Lismer, Donald Mackay, Elizabeth S. Nutt, John O'Brien, Mrs. Florence Rogers, Stanley Royle, Marjorie Tozer, Faith Wood and others.

The Archives Building provides accommodation for pictures of the Nova Scotia Museum of Fine Arts as well as for those belonging to the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

Statuettes of Joseph Howe and Sir Charles Tupper may also be seen in the main exhibition room.

In the Halifax Room on the second floor may be seen a desk that was used by Joseph Howe, mementoes of the engagement of the *Shannon* and the *Chesapeake* in the War of 1812, the Halifax Explosion of 1917, Melville Island, and the Halifax Fire Insurance Company. On the walls are Richard Short's sketches of Halifax of 1759 and other pictures. A clock made by John McCulloch and exhibited in London in 1851 is also here. In addition there are copies of the *Halifax Gazette,* Canada's first newspaper, and other newspapers.

On ascending from the second to the third floor one may see pictures of several Premiers of Nova Scotia, as well as paintings of buildings.

The Third Floor

The third floor comprises a lobby, offices, a public reading room, a library, and a manuscript room.

A portrait of Bishop Charles Inglis by John C. Miles may be seen in the lobby. On its walls and also on part of the wall along the stairway, are pictures of Governors and Lieutenant-Governors of Nova Scotia.

The central area is the public reading room in which visitors may use the records and other materials accommodated in the building. To one side of the reading room is a library containing more than 20,000 volumes dealing with the history of Canada in general and of Nova Scotia in particular, so that students, professors, writers, and other visitors may have at their convenience not only manuscripts and documents but also secondary sources of printed material. To the other side of the reading room is a manuscript room containing a fine collection not only of governmental records but also of other public records and historic documents, community, church, business, political and personal. The reading room also contains pictures and photographs of places, people, streets and buildings, including floral paintings by Maria Morris and paintings by Ernest Lawson, and a large collection of maps.

"A wise nation," as Joseph Howe said, "preserves its records, gathers up its muniments, decorates the tombs of its illustrious dead, repairs its great public structures and fosters national pride and love of country, by perpetual reference to the sacrifices and glories of the past."

A LIST OF THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

Bulletins

Vol. I.

1. A Documentary Study of Early Educational Policy, by D. C. Harvey.

2. A Study of Early Provincial Taxation, by Margaret Ells, 1937.

3. A Catalogue of Maps, Plans & Charts in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, by Marion Gilroy.

4. Government House, by J. S. Martell, 1939.

Vol. II.

1. Letters of Rev. Norman McLeod, 1835-1851, by D. C. Harvey, 1939.

2. The Achievements of Agricola and the Agricultural Societies, 1818-25, by J. S. Martell.

3. From Central Board to Secretary of Agriculture, 1826-1885, by J. S. Martell, 1940.

4. A Documentary Study of Provincial Finance and Currency, 1812-36, by J. S. Martell.

9. A Documentary Study of the Origin and Distribution of the Arms Funds (In succession to Vol. II, No. 4), by D. C. Harvey.

10. Journal and Letters of Col. Charles Lawrence. Introduction by D. C. Harvey, 1953.

11. Journal of James Boutineau Francklin. Introduction by D. C. Harvey.

12. Glimpses of Nova Scotia, 1807-24, as seen through the eyes of two Halifax merchants. Introduction by C. Bruce Fergusson.

13. Letters and Papers of Hon. Enos Collins. Edited with an introduction by C. B. Fergusson.

14. Mechanics' Institutes in Nova Scotia. Prepared by C. Bruce Fergusson.

15. The Life of Jonathan Scott. Edited with an introduction and notes by C. B. Fergusson.

16. Liverpool and Its Diarist, by C. B. Fergusson.

17. Local Government in Nova Scotia, by C. B. Fergusson.

18. The Nova Scotian Institute of Science, by C. B. Fergusson.

Other Publications

No. 1. A Catalogue of the Akins Collection of Books & Pamphlets, compiled by Sheila I. Stewart.

2. Holland's Description of Cape Breton Island, with an introduction by D. C. Harvey.
3. Calendar of Official Correspondence and Legislative Papers, Nova Scotia, 1802-15, compiled by Margaret Ells.

4. Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia, by Marion Gilroy, 1937.

5. Calendar of the White Collection of Manuscripts in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, by Margaret Ells, 1940.

6. Immigration to and Emigration from Nova Scotia, 1815-1838, by J. S. Martell.

7. Evolution of the Halifax Fortress, 1749-1928, by Harry Piers, revised and edited by G. M. Self, with the assistance of Phyllis Blakeley, 1947.

8. A Documentary Study of the Establishment of the Negroes in Nova Scotia, by C. B. Fergusson, 1948.

9. Glimpses of Halifax, 1867-1900, by Phyllis Blakeley, 1949.

Nova Scotia Series

1. Uniacke's Sketches of Cape Breton & Other Papers relating to Cape Breton Island, with an introduction by C. B. Fergusson.

2. Directory of M.L.A.'s in Nova Scotia, 1758-1958, with an introduction by C. B. Fergusson.

A section of the public reading room, third floor