

NEWS IN BRIEF

ALBERTA

The outstanding event of the year has been the passage of the Provincial Archives Act setting up a Public Documents Committee to review all documents earmarked for disposal produced by departments and agencies of the Government of Alberta. Under this Act the Provincial Archivist has power to veto the destruction of any government documents of historical value once they have been declared to be of no further administrative use. It is, at this early stage, difficult to know whether this legislation is fully understood since all requests for review must be initiated by the departments themselves and it is possible that there may be some destruction through misunderstanding. However, the Public Documents Committee has made twenty-four recommendations covering a wide range of material and spread over eleven departments. So far only a small number of schedules have been drawn up and approved. The success of this kind of legislation depends upon the build-up of confidence in the Provincial Archives and so far the response has been quite good.

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There has been a steady flow of private manuscripts into the Provincial Archives recording a wide range of activities in the Province but nothing sufficiently unusual to be of sufficient interest to other archivists. The first printed report to be issued by the Provincial Archives will contain details of all accessions received up to the time of its publication.

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The collection of tape recorded interviews with old-timers has grown steadily, and, in special cases, these recordings have been supplemented by photographs of the interior of the subject's home and familiar surroundings, which they are often eager to speak about. These special projects will be regarded as confidential in nature for some years, and are not given publicity in the press but should, in the future, provide a very personal and intimate view of family life at this time.

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A portable microfilm camera has been purchased and used in the field for material which is not at present available in the Archives. In view of the fact that some very elaborate reprographic divisions are now being set up within other government departments, it has been decided that, for the time being at least, the Provincial Archives will not move into this field but instead make use of their services.

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Because the new Provincial Museum and Archives is at some distance from the centre of the city and from other libraries, it has been felt necessary to build up a fairly considerable collection of printed material to serve both the Archives and the Museum. No attempt will be made to build up a complete collection of Western Canadiana, but the basic works are being sought with some success, and particular attention is being paid to pamphlets and other ephemera which are, for the time being, kept in an Information File arranged by subject under Library of Congress rules so that it may be easily

related to the subject catalogue of the library. Complementary to the library, a Union Finding List of printed books and articles on Alberta available in Edmonton has been compiled in loose-leaf binders and will grow as references are received. This has been based on Peel's Bibliography of the Prairie Provinces and extended to cover additional categories.

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By the time this report goes to press the staff will be moving into the new Provincial Museum and Archives Building on a superb site adjoining old Government House, Edmonton, and overlooking the Saskatchewan River. It is hoped to include the description of the new Provincial Archives in this report next year.

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The Glenbow Foundation, Calgary, has published a booklet entitled **Jerry Potts, Plainsman** in the second of its series of occasional papers. It was written by the archivist, Hugh A. Dempsey, and deals with the career of an early Mounted Police scout.

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A project undertaken by the Glenbow Foundation to gather records of labor unions in the region has proven to be moderately successful. A considerable number of wage agreements, charters, local publications and other papers were obtained, including original or microfilm copies of the following: Bakers and Confectionery Workers Union, minutes 1927-36; Bricklayers and Masons Union minutes, 1903-25, and membership ledgers, 1903-29; Medicine Hat Trades and Labor Council, 1953-57; Beverage Dispensers Union, 1925-56; Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, 1903-23; and Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, 1928-41.

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Among the collections obtained by the Glenbow Foundation during the past year were: papers of the Alberta division, Women's Christian Temperance Union, 1894-1966, including minute books, reports, pamphlets and local records; the papers of Richard Hardisty, 1861-87, relating primarily to his position as Chief Factor for H.B. Co. at Fort Edmonton; and a quantity of letters received by R. B. Bennett, c. 1899-1900, while a Member of the Legislature in the Territorial government.

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SASKATCHEWAN

The Regina office of the Saskatchewan Archives Board will occupy one floor (18,900 sq. ft.) in the new Regina Campus Library in mid-summer, 1967. This move will permit the consolidation of all Regina holdings in one place, and provide adequate office, research, and work areas.

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The provincial archivist was one of three Canadian delegates to the Extraordinary International Congress on Archives held at Washington, D.C. in 1966. He also conducted a seminar in the history of the prairie west at the Regina Campus, 1966-67. Speaking engagements included openings of several local Centennial projects. S. D. Hanson,