

Records which had been received from public and semi-public sources had fared better. However, the large collection which had come from the Court of Appeals was not accessioned in good order because in accessioning an effort had been made to arrange the books in the order in which they had been catalogued in 1926. For the large majority of the records this catalogue was correct, but a considerable minority of them had been arranged seemingly without detailed knowledge of the history of that court or of the Provincial or General Courts for whose records the Court of Appeals had become the depository. Neither was proper study given to the records of the Land Office before accessioning. Finally in no case were loose papers (a very large part of the Court of Appeals materials) accessioned.

It was necessary, therefore, to revise some of the early accessioning before newer materials could be touched. Most of this work was accomplished this year. At the beginning of the year nothing had been accessioned which had come to the Hall of Records after December, 1936. At the end of the year the work had been completed for materials transferred before December, 1940; by the end of this year we expect to be able to accession our materials as soon as they arrive. In addition to the Assistant Archivist and the Librarian who did the actual accessioning, credit must be given to Mr. Skordas and to the group of WPA and NYA workers whom he directed. These workers received the materials, studied each volume and each paper, and arranged them in good order. To say, therefore, that the materials have been accessioned through December 1940 means also that they have been arranged and made available for use. Arranging and accessioning are necessary and proper ends in archival administration, but they are also the necessary preliminaries to indexing and cataloguing, and for that reason this work was pushed forward with all possible speed since no kind of final indexing is possible without it and no kind of cataloguing at all. To the Archivist this work with the records inside the stacks and out of view of the public has been the most gratifying of the year and he calls it, therefore, to the special attention of the Commission.