

of cards added to our index files. In short, we have made every effort to prepare finding aids for the use of the public. An examination of the finding projects now in preparation will indicate that this work is far from complete. It has been our policy to service records immediately after their arrival even if that means the postponement of other projects already under way, for simply to care for records physically is only half the work of an archival establishment: to hold them safe in the vault removed from the eyes of the historian and the governmental officer who need them is a service of questionable value.

From the beginning of the Hall of Records until 1941 there was no change in legislation governing its duties. In that year two acts were passed providing (1) that any governmental agency wishing to have its records copied might send them to the Hall of Records to be photostated or otherwise reproduced photographically rather than to have them copied by any of the older manual methods and (2) that any governmental agency wishing to dispose of its records must first offer them for deposit at the Hall of Records. In the case of this first Act, the Hall of Records became a partner for the first time in the preservation of records not destined for deposit at the Hall of Records, and in the case of the second Act, the Hall of Records found itself the judge—with some exceptions and subject to the approval of the Board of Public Works—of what records should be preserved at the Hall of Records, what records should be preserved in the office of origin and what other records should be destroyed. By virtue of these new duties we became something more than a depository for “historical” records. We were launched into the important and complex problem of the care of almost all the governmental records of the State.

That our original historical function was not forgotten, however, was demonstrated by an Act passed by the Legislature of 1945. Whereas every custodian of records was permitted by Chapter 18, Acts of 1935, to deposit his non-current records in the Hall of Records, he is now *required* to deposit those created before the adoption of the Federal Constitution by Chapter 248, Acts of 1945. (See page 44.)

These additional duties have been performed by the Hall of Records staff with the same number of members and approxi-