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NORTHCLIFFE COLLECTION

When Sir Leicester Harmsworth presented to the Dominion the invaluable collection of historic documents relating to the conquest of New France, as a memorial to his brother, Lord Northcliffe, it was agreed, on the suggestion of the archivist, Dr. Doughty, that a calendar should be prepared to serve as an official guide to the collection. This has now been done, and a volume of unique interest and value is the result. The Northcliffe collection consists of two sections; in the first are comprised 130 volumes under the classification of the Monckton papers, which contain the documents relating to the various campaigns in which that distinguished general served. He it was who commanded the forces in Nova Scotia at the time of the expulsion of the Acadians; he was second brigadier at the surrender of Quebec, and later became governor of New York and commander in chief of the expedition which wrested the Middle West from the French and commander of the expedition which captured Martinique and other West Indian islands. The second collection in importance contains the papers of George Townshend, who signed the capitulation of Quebec. There are many other papers of surpassing interest, together with numerous maps in manuscript and print. Sir Leicester Harmsworth has added the twenty-four volumes from Wolfe's library at Blackheath.

The calendar is preceded by a copy of the correspondence which passed between Premier Mackenzie King and Sir Leicester Harmsworth in reference to the gift and acceptance of the collection, and there are two beautiful reproductions of oil paintings—one of Viscount Northcliffe, by de Laszlo, and the other of Louis XV., being a fine copy of Van Loo's portrait of that monarch. There are also excellent colored reproductions of specimens of binding and a large number of facsimiles of manuscripts in French and English. The arrangement in chronological order of the various exhibits provides a very convenient means of reference. There can be no doubt about the great value of these documents to the student of history, and their appeal is almost equally great to the general reader, for their intrinsic interest. Here, following each other, for example, are the last letters written by Wolfe and Montcalm respectively; the letter of the British commander, dated Sept. 12, 1759, being instructions to Brigadier-General Townshend concerning the disposition of the troops under his command. Montcalm's letter concerns the capitulation of Quebec, and was written on the 13th of September, 1759, just before his death. Both these letters are given in facsimile in the volume. The possession of an authentic record of this elaborate character, done with such care and thoroughness, is the next best thing to possessing the originals, and the public will be grateful to the government for producing such a complete record of the collection.