

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

The manuscript materials, upon which this study is based to a considerable extent, are to be found chiefly in the Public Archives of Canada, at Ottawa. The two most important collections of state papers are the *G* series and the *Q* series which contain the originals or the transcripts of the correspondence between the provincial governments and the imperial authorities in England. Together these two series cover the entire period which is dealt with in this volume; and, up to about the end of the eighteenth century, they are supplemented by the *C.O. 42* series, which contains transcripts of the papers of the imperial board of trade. The official correspondence within the different Canadian provinces during the period is to be found in several collections which are variously designated. The *Upper Canada Sundries*, the *Secretary of State's Papers*, *Internal Correspondence* and the *Correspondence of the Governor-General's Secretary* are the series which have been principally used. The minutes of the executive councils of the different provinces—as well as the minutes of the council of the old province of Quebec in its legislative capacity—are preserved in manuscript volumes. These collections of state papers, and particularly the *Q* and *G* series, have long constituted the staple sources for the political and constitutional history of Canada; but, in addition, they contain a wealth of material on economic matters, which has been heavily drawn upon in the preparation of this volume.

In addition to these series of state papers, a number of other collections of manuscripts have been used. Among the most important of these collections are the following: the *Shelburne Manuscripts*, the *Richardson Letters*, the *Dalhousie Papers*, the *Merritt Papers*, the *Durham Papers* and the *Grey-Elgin Correspondence*. These sources yield a certain amount of information on the general financial and commercial problems of the colonies. They supply, in some cases, more intimate details concerning the relations between commerce and politics. Collections, such as that of the *Merritt Papers*, which illustrate the activities of people who were at once business men and politicians, have, of course, been particularly useful; and if more of these collections had been available, the task of writing the history of the commercial state would have been correspondingly more simple.

A portion of this contemporary manuscript material has been printed and published in recent times. The Public Archives of Canada has issued three invaluable collections of documents: A. Shortt and A. G. Doughty (eds.), *Documents Relating to the Constitutional History of Canada, 1759-1791* (Ottawa, 1918); A. G. Doughty and D. A. McArthur (eds.), *Docu-*