A European scholar once wrote: "The care which a nation devotes to the preservation of the monuments of its past may serve as a true measure of the degree of civilization to which it has attained." The chief monuments of a nation's past are its archives, and throughout recorded history civilized nations have regarded the preservation of their archives as a natural and essential function of government. Our own country, however, was long among the most backward of the great nations in accepting this obligation. In February, 1911 *The Nation* called attention to this fact in an editorial entitled "Our National Archives," which contained the following passage:

All American scholars who visit European archives bring back one story—that ours is the only great government which has made no provision for the care and preservation of its records. They see the great Public Record Office in London, the Archives Nationales at Paris, the Royal Archives at The Hague, the sumptuous new archives house at Vienna, the Fari at Venice, the Tuscan Archives at Florence, and so on, and the contrast at Washington makes them ashamed. It is true that our

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1 Address delivered before the Pennsylvania Historical Association at Bethlehem, Pa., October 27, 1939.
national archives go back only one hundred and thirty-five years, while those of European countries go back eleven centuries; but ours should be as precious to us as theirs are to them.

At the time this indictment was penned the United States government maintained no central repository for its archives. Each of its agencies retained the custody of its own records long after they had ceased to be necessary for use in the conduct of its current business. The records of the government accordingly were scattered throughout the city of Washington wherever storage space could be found for them in more than 235 different buildings. They were stored, according to Waldo G. Leland, "in cellars and subcellars, and under terraces, in attics and over porticos, in corridors and closed-up doorways, piled in heaps upon the floor, or crowded into alcoves: this, if they are not farmed out and stored in such rented structures as abandoned car-barns, storage warehouses, deserted theatres, or ancient but more humble edifices that should long ago have served their last useful purpose."

The scholar who desired to use these records for historical purposes faced an impossible situation. He found most of the government departments so overcrowded that officials could scarcely find room for their personnel or even their active files. No facilities were provided for the student, and his presence was tolerated, but not encouraged by officials already sufficiently burdened with routine duties of the day. Discouraged by the obstacles and restrictions imposed upon him by bureaucratic regulations, the American student was disposed to avoid his own capital city and seek the comforts and facilities of European capitals, even when engaged in searches into the history of his own country.

Happily, this situation no longer obtains, and today no American scholar need be ashamed to contrast the situation in Washington with the situation in any European capital. If he now chooses to do his work in Washington he will find an archives building unsurpassed in beauty, equipment, and facilities anywhere in the world and manned by a competent staff engaged in the scientific preservation and administration of the nation's archives.

The National Archives was established by Congress in 1934, and is charged by law with four major functions, viz., (1) the concentration and preservation in the National Archives Building
of archives of the government of the United States that are of such administrative value or historical interest that they must be preserved over a long period of years or permanently; (2) the administration of such archives so as to facilitate their use in the business of the government and in the service of scholarship; (3) the acceptance from non-governmental sources, storage, and preservation of motion-picture films and sound recordings pertaining to and illustrative of the history of the United States, and the maintenance of a projecting room for showing such films and reproducing such sound recordings for historical purposes and study; and (4) the preservation of all presidential proclamations or executive orders and of all orders, rules and regulations, and similar instruments issued by federal agencies under authority of law, and the publication in the Federal Register of all those having general applicability and legal effect.

The National Archives of the United States differs fundamentally—and for the better—from most of the similar institutions in other countries in that it is not subordinate to any other executive agency or official. Its chief administrative official is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate and reports directly to Congress. He has authority to appoint all employees of The National Archives, subject to civil-service law. His jurisdiction as defined by law extends to “all archives or records belonging to the Government of the United States (legislative, executive, judicial, and other),” and he has “full power to inspect personally or by deputy the records of any agency of the United States Government whatsoever or wheresoever located, . . . to requisition for transfer to the National Archives Establishment such archives or records as the National Archives Council [of which he is a member] shall approve for such transfer, and . . . to make regulations for the arrangement, custody, use, and withdrawal of material deposited in the National Archives Building.” The National Archives, therefore, is an independent agency established for the purpose of preserving the noncurrent records of all agencies of the federal government and making them available for use by government officials and other persons who may have legitimate reasons for consulting them.

We are celebrating at the present time what is really the fifth anniversary of The National Archives. The agency began its work
on November 1, 1934, with a staff consisting of the Archivist, his secretary, and a stenographer, which occupied two unequipped offices in the new building of the Department of Justice. It was not until November 8, 1935 that its own offices in the National Archives Building were ready for occupancy. In February, 1936 it received its first accession, but it was not until May, 1936 that any stack equipment was ready for its use.

Since that date, somewhat more than three years ago, The National Archives has accessioned 200,498 cubic feet of ordinary paper records, 38,031 maps and atlases, 1,630,812 feet of motion-picture film, 325 sound recordings, and 87,504 units of other photographic records. This material came from the United States Senate, from all ten of the executive departments, from some thirty independent agencies, and from four federal courts. The Senate records cover most of the Senate files from 1789 to 1929. Most of the ten executive departments have transferred the greater part of their old records. The extant records of certain independent agencies that have gone out of existence, such as those of the World War period, have been received almost intact. Perhaps I can give you a better idea of what all this means to American history in general and to the history of the several states in particular if you will permit me to describe some of these groups of records a bit more in detail.

The files of the United States Senate contain the originals and copies of bills introduced, committee reports on elections, bills, treaties, and presidential nominations requiring senate confirmation, occasionally official correspondence and minutes of committees, all of which furnish valuable material for students interested in the careers of individual senators. There are also thousands of petitions and memorials from individuals, organizations, and state legislatures reflecting organized public opinion in the various states on such public questions as the tariff, Indian affairs, the abolition of slavery, prohibition, transportation and industry, and, as early as 1869, the burning problem of "female suffrage."

The State Department has transferred all of its records down to 1906. They include the entire series of international treaties and accompanying papers, 1778-1906; diplomatic notes, diplomatic and consular instructions, and diplomatic and consular despatches, 1789-1906; official papers relating to the ratification by the states of the federal Constitution and the first nineteen amendments,
1787-1920; the Territorial Papers, 1788-1873; hundreds of volumes of miscellaneous and domestic letters, covering almost every imaginable subject of national and local interest, 1789-1906; applications for office, 1797-1901; and the passport file, 1791-1879. In addition the department is now bringing to this country for deposit at The National Archives the records of scores of diplomatic and consular posts abroad.

From the Treasury Department, The National Archives has received a large volume of financial records of great historic interest. Among them is the group generally known as the “Old Loans Records” that resulted from the functions of the loan offices set up in the several thirteen states by the Continental Congress in 1775. From the Pennsylvania office, which was located at Philadelphia, came more than 1,100 volumes covering the period from 1790 to 1825. These records reveal the role played by Pennsylvanians in financing the American Revolution and the government of the United States during its critical early years. Everybody is familiar with the use made of these records by Charles A. Beard in his *Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States*, but apparently nobody has yet realized their value, or has been courageous enough to explore them, for biographical or genealogical purposes or for studies in economic and social history. There are also among the Treasury Department papers many early customs records of value for the maritime history of Pennsylvania and numerous bonds of privateers which attest the patriotism of Pennsylvanians during the days of the Napoleonic wars. Treasury records of value for more recent history are those that reveal the workings of the late “noble experiment” in national intemperance and those of the United States Secret Service, which contained many famous sleuths long before the “G-Men” came into being.

Several Pennsylvanians served as Attorney-General of the United States. The noncurrent files of the Department of Justice, all of which have been transferred to The National Archives, include many papers reflecting the official activities of Richard Rush, Henry D. Gilpin, Jeremiah S. Black, Benjamin H. Brewster, and Philander C. Knox. Among the Department’s files are many documents dealing with the enforcement of federal laws in Pennsylvania. They include reports of United States attorneys and marshals in connection with civil suits and criminal trials of all kinds, including material relating to the Credit Mobilier and con-
licts with state courts and state officers in the enforcement of the fugitive slave laws. Between 1849 and 1870 facilities for the federal courts were procured through the Secretary of the Interior. The secretary's correspondence in the files of the Department of Justice reveals an interesting story of an offer in 1854 by the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia to rent its hall for use as a federal court room and the subsequent anxiety of the Society in 1857 to sell the property to the United States.

From the War Department, The National Archives has received the largest volume of records received from any of the executive departments. They comprise most of the centralized archives of the army up to 1912; correspondence and other papers of the Secretary of War to 1913; and the records of various department bureaus prior to 1894. The War and Treasury Departments have also transferred a large collection of archives of the Confederate States, 1861-1865, which were seized by the United States government at the close of the Civil War.

Perhaps the records of no executive department are concerned with a greater variety of matters of interest than are those of the Department of the Interior, large groups of which have been transferred to The National Archives. Among the oldest and most important of them are the records of the Office of Indian Affairs, 1775-1935; the records of the Danish West Indies, now the Virgin Islands, 1632-1933; and tract books and other land records, some of which originated in Florida and California during the period of Spanish sovereignty. Among them also are records of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company; maps and papers dealing with the establishment and development of the District of Columbia as the seat of the nation's capital; and records concerned with such diverse matters as early geological surveys, national parks and monuments, and the conservation of the national fisheries.

The records received from the Navy Department contain in detail the story of the development of the navy from pre-Civil War days to the present. From the Department of Commerce have been received, among other records, extensive files of certificates of registry, enrollment, and license for ships in the American merchant marine; records that tell the story of the government's efforts to increase the safety of life at sea; and scientific records of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.
Independent agencies in the government have been many and important. I shall mention only a few, however, of the thirty or so independent agencies whose records are at The National Archives. It is curious that the oldest of these agencies, the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, established to see to the retirement of the national loan of 1790, went out of existence in 1836 because there was no more public debt. Another of the older independent agencies, the Office of Indian Trade, was established in 1795 to set up government trading posts in competition with private business, which was said to have been overcharging the Indians. The National Archives has approximately 5,000,000 closed pension cases from the Veterans’ Administration based on military and naval service between 1817 and 1917; and it has an unusually complete collection of records of various independent agencies established between 1898 and the present time to deal with labor disputes. The World War period is represented by the archives of such emergency agencies as the Food Administration, the Fuel Administration, the Shipping Board and the Emergency Fleet Corporation, the Council of National Defense, the War Industries Board, and the Committee on Public Information.

Students of American history have only recently awakened to the importance of legal records for historical purposes. The judicial records which have been transferred to The National Archives have come from the United States Court of Claims for the years between 1855 and 1923 and from district courts in the District of Columbia, North Carolina, and Ohio. The North Carolina records throw interesting light on the history of the Reconstruction period in that state, while those from Ohio consist of papers concerning the Burr conspiracy and the preparations for the indictment of Aaron Burr and Harmon Blennerhassett for violation of the Neutrality Act of 1794 in setting on foot an expedition against the territories of the king of Spain.

Thus far I have spoken only of whole groups of records, many of them amounting to hundreds or even thousands of cubic feet. Scattered through them are so many famous historical documents that they make all the groups, as the late Will Rogers once said about Massachusetts, “mangy with history.” I have refrained from testing your patience with a catalog of particular items, but you must forgive me if I cite a few that are pertinent to this occasion. Among them is the original journal of the commissioners
who located Mason's and Dixon's Line, 1763-1767, written by Charles Mason and containing a detailed account of the proceedings of each day. Here also are the originals of two of the most important treaties in American history—the Treaty of Amity and Commerce with France, 1778, the only treaty of alliance ever entered into by the United States, and the Treaty of Paris of 1783, both negotiated chiefly by Benjamin Franklin and both signed by him on behalf of the United States. An interesting exhibit is composed of the originals of the oaths of allegiance signed by Washington's officers at Valley Forge in 1778; sandwiched in between the oath of Nathanael Greene and the oath of William Alexander, who signed as the "Earl of Stirling," is the oath of Benedict Arnold. Two other documents of special interest to Pennsylvanians are the Ordinance of the Pennsylvania Convention of 1787 ratifying the Constitution of the United States and the engrossed copy of the resolution of Congress submitting the "Bill of Rights" to the several states. Both of these documents are signed by Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, the first as president of the Pennsylvania Convention, the second as speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States. Finally, I must not fail to mention the Treaty of Ghent in 1814, which bears the signature of Albert Gallatin.

There are at The National Archives, as I have said, more than 38,000 maps and atlases which have been transferred from the Senate and from various executive departments. The outstanding group in this collection came from the State Department and relates chiefly to territorial clauses in treaties to which the United States has been a party and to boundary surveys often prescribed by those treaties. One of these maps that deserves special mention is the famous Mitchell map of 1755 of the British dominions in North America. This was the map used in the peace negotiations that resulted in the Treaty of Paris of 1783 and in the Webster-Ashburton negotiations relating to the United States-Canadian boundary line. Colonel Lawrence Martin, of the Library of Congress, pronounces it "the most important map in American history." The map collection from the War Department is a close rival of that of the State Department. These maps are chiefly military-topographical maps of historical importance. Among them is the manuscript map of the battlefield of Gettysburg which is based on the surveys made by Major General C. K. Warren in 1868-1869.
and constitutes the definitive representation of the terrain at the
time of the battle. For ten years the National Park Service sought
high and low for this map for use in its reconstruction work but
could not locate it until it turned up recently in a large collection of
maps transferred to The National Archives from the Office of
Engineers of the War Department.

No activity of The National Archives has aroused more interest,
both in our own country and abroad, than its plans for the collect-
and preservation of historical motion-picture films and sound
recordings. The National Archives Act authorizes the Archivist
of the United States to accept from private as well as from govern-
mental sources recordings illustrative of American history and to
maintain a projecting room for showing such films and reproduc-
ing such sound recordings for historical purposes and study. In
motion pictures and sound recordings we have two new mediums
for recording important events, the significance of which both
statesmen and historians have been quick to recognize. Through
them, as President Roosevelt said recently, “the human, the indi-
vidual factor will enter into the writing of modern history far
more greatly in the future than it has in the past.” The National
Archives already has a great collection of such records. From
governmental sources it has received motion pictures showing the
activities of such federal agencies as the United States Coast
Guard, the Bureau of Fisheries, the Bureau of Public Health, and
the Farm Security Administration. The last named, for instance,
has sent to The National Archives two really great motion pictures,
“The Plow that Broke the Plains,” which shows the problems
raised by the creation of the “dust bowl,” and “The River,” which
 teaches an unforgettable lesson in the necessity of flood control
in the Mississippi Valley. From private sources have been re-
ceived motion pictures of such historic events as the raising of the
Maine, Lindbergh’s trans-Atlantic flight, the burning of the Hind-
enberg, Admiral Byrd’s trans-Atlantic and Polar flights, President
Roosevelt discussing with his cabinet his plea to Hitler and
Mussolini for world peace, and the recent visit of Their Britannic
Majesties to the United States. The President himself recently
sent to The National Archives for deposit 150 recordings of the
voices of contemporary leaders throughout the world and some 200
reels of motion pictures which show many of these leaders in
action.
The question is often raised as to whether these old archives or records are worth preserving. Before answering that question we should first determine what is meant by the term "archives." Originally the term was applied only to the records of a governmental agency, but by analogy it has gradually come to be used for the accumulated files of an institution, a business firm, a family, or even an individual. We can accept this use of the term, but should be careful to distinguish between the two types of records as public archives and private archives. The term "archives" is never correctly used with reference to a collection of historical documents, manuscripts, or other similar materials, no matter how valuable they are, that have been fortuitously assembled by an institution or an individual. The proper term for such materials is historical manuscripts or historical records.

Public archives, then, as distinguished from private archives, comprise the sum total of documents, papers, and other records made or received in the transaction of public business by officials and agencies of a government, national or local, and filed for preservation by or for the officials or the agencies concerned. They include the records of yesterday as well as those of a hundred years ago, inconsequential items as well as momentous documents, typescript as well as manuscript, films and sound recordings, printed items, and even medals, coins, dies, weapons, and similar objects, if they have been filed for record purposes.

The archives of the United States government have a great practical value, though they vary greatly in importance. At one extreme are such ephemeral records as statistical forms, canceled checks, form letters, and other useless papers, which may safely be destroyed; at the other extreme are such documents as important correspondence, reports, accounts, land patents, court records, laws, treaties, and other documents of vital importance to the nation, the destruction or loss of which would be a national calamity. Upon the preservation of such records depends the orderly procedure of the current business of the government. They constitute the government's chief protection against ill-founded and fraudulent claims. They are necessary to the conduct of its foreign affairs. Upon them depend the rights and liberties of the people. They contain the evidence of the just claims which a citizen may have against his government, and they are the basis of the titles to millions of acres of land and to thousands of patent rights upon
which the industries of the country are dependent for existence.

The practical value of such noncurrent records is shown by the frequency with which they are used by various government agencies for administrative purposes, and by individuals for the establishment of their rights and privileges. Such uses account for more than half of the thousands of calls annually upon The National Archives for data drawn from these records or for the records themselves. Let me cite just two typical examples. The first was a recent request received from the State Department for a file of United States Food Administration papers relating to a claim against the government of the United States made by the government of France for $30,000 growing out of certain activities of the Food Administration. These papers were needed by the State Department to support its contention that the claim had been settled nearly twenty years ago. The other case involved an employee of The National Archives who was required by the Civil Service Commission to furnish proof of the date and place of her birth in order to acquire a civil service status. Both her parents were dead. The doctor who attended at her birth was dead. Everybody else who had personal knowledge of her birth was dead. The minister who baptized her was dead. The record of her baptism had been destroyed when the church in which it was on file was burned. There were no state vital statistical records to which she could turn. Only one possible source remained—the United States census schedules; there the necessary data were found buried in a mass of population statistics.

Besides their practical value, a nation's archives have an estimable cultural value. Such documents as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Kellogg Pact give expression to the highest ideals and sentiments of the American people. Thousands of people annually visit the Exhibition Hall in the National Archives Building to spend hours poring over the originals of such documents as the Treaty of Paris of 1783, the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the Federal Constitution, the log books of "Old Ironsides" and other famous American naval vessels, President Wilson's proclamation of war against Germany in 1917, and President Roosevelt's proclamation of neutrality at the outbreak of the present European war, while tens of thousands annually pour through the doors of the Library of Congress to
gaze reverently at the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Moreover, the archives of the federal government are the largest and richest mine of source material for American history in existence. Yet, as I have already pointed out, American historians in the past have made less use of this material even in writing the history of their own country than they have of the materials at the British Public Record Office in London or in the Spanish archives at Madrid and Seville. Fortunately the conditions that were responsible for this situation no longer exist, and American historians are now beginning to find their way to The National Archives in Washington in steadily increasing numbers.

In the fiscal year 1936-37, cards of admission to the search rooms were issued to 118 persons, in 1937-38 to 381, and in 1938-39 to 671. These 671 searchers made during the year 4,202 visits to the search rooms. They came from 42 states, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Philippine Islands, Canada, Cuba, Mexico, France, and Greece. They worked on projects involving extensive research of an advanced character that may be expected to result in significant contributions to knowledge. The greater number of these projects may be classified as biographical or historical. The biographical projects covered persons of such varied interest and significance as Abraham Lincoln, James Russell Lowell, Meriwether Lewis, Daniel Morgan, Mrs. Andrew Jackson Donelson, Admiral Farragut, and many lesser figures; while the historical studies ran the whole gamut of American history, and spread over into such topics as Madagascar in relation to Anglo-French rivalry; the rubber boom in the Amazon region; early Cuban families; the international status of Korea; treaty ports and foreign concessions in China; Denmark and Napoleon's Continental System; the transition in Jamaica from slavery to freedom; English nonconformist sentiment regarding the American Civil War; and English republicanism.

In many respects the archives of the federal government are quite as important to the states as to the nation. Especially is this the case with those states that were created out of the national domain and administered by Congress and the federal executive as territories before being granted statehood. Just as those states that formerly existed as colonies of England, Holland, or Spain must look chiefly for the records of their early history to the
archives of their mother countries, so those that were formerly territories must look to the archives of the federal government for their early records.

However, the interest of the new states in the federal archives does not cease with their admission into the Union, nor do they have a monopoly of this interest. The federal archives are, indeed, a rich mine of little-used materials for the history of every state in the Union. To the worker in the field of state history the exploitation of these sources will yield valuable returns for biographical studies, and for studies of federal agencies and activities within his state, of his state’s relations with other states as well as with the nation, and of political, economic, and social conditions in his state at various periods of its history.

By virtue of distinguished services to the nation, Pennsylvania has a vested interest in The National Archives. She has been a prolific mother and a kind foster mother of federal officeholders. Her sons have held federal offices of every rank from president to laborer. They have been cabinet ministers, ambassadors, and judges, leaders in both houses of Congress, generals and “dough-boys,” admirals and “tars,” messengers, janitors, and scrubwomen. Whether they served their country in high positions or in humble jobs, whether they served her well or ill, the stories of their official careers are to be found in the records of the federal government. To the records of the State Department now at The National Archives you who would write the biography of Benjamin Franklin, of James Buchanan, or of Jeremiah S. Black must go; in the records of the State Department, the Department of Justice, and the United States Senate you will find material for a life of Philander C. Knox; those of both the State and the Treasury Departments will throw light on the careers of Albert Gallatin and Andrew W. Mellon; those of the War Department tell the story of the services of the two Pennsylvanians who directed the affairs of that department throughout the critical years, 1861-1868; and those of the Post Office Department during the administration of John Wanamaker will enable you to make a study of the “Business Man in Politics.” How can one tell the story of the careers of Thad Stevens and Boise Penrose without exploring the files of the House and the Senate, or of Gifford Pinchot without using the records of the Forest Service now at The National Archives? At The National Archives will be found also
materials for the biographies of such non-political figures as Bayard Taylor, the poet in diplomacy, Thomas A. Scott, president of one of America's greatest railroads, and the late Charles M. Schwab, Bethlehem's distinguished industrialist who gave his services to his country as director of the Emergency Fleet Corporation during the World War.

During the past year, several searchers came to The National Archives to work on subjects related to Pennsylvania and Pennsylvanians. One was writing a biography of John Randolph Clay of Pennsylvania, American minister to Peru, 1853-1860, and another a life of Thomas A. Scott, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Three others made extensive use of the records of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company. "Pennsylvania and the War Department, 1861-1865" was the topic chosen by another, while still another was interested in checking all the military records of Pennsylvania in the custody of The National Archives. One searcher was studying the use of coal in the Colonial period, another the scientific work of Mason and Dixon.

The importance of the records of federal agencies and offices located within a particular state for the history of that state was so fully and clearly covered by Mr. James L. Whitehead in his article entitled "The Survey of Federal Archives in Philadelphia," published in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography in April 1938, that I can add nothing to that phase of the subject. The agencies, he tells us, in which the most important records were found were: the Mint, the Philadelphia office of the Bureau of Customs, the District Court, the Navy Yard, the Naval Home, the Schuylkill and Frankfort arsenals, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Although all of them, except the last, are federal agencies or offices engaged primarily in federal activities, Mr. Whitehead makes it perfectly clear that their records are indispensable source materials for important phases of Pennsylvania history. It only remains for me to add that these records are supplemented by others that have been transferred to The National Archives in Washington.

One other group of federal records should be mentioned. I believe that it would be well within bounds if I were to say that the greatest mass of source material for economic and social history ever concentrated in a single repository consists of the records of the emergency agencies set up by the federal govern-
ment during the World War and the post-war depression that are now at The National Archives. I am confident that these records are destined to become—if, indeed, they have not already become—the happy hunting-ground of the economic and social historian. Already they have a creditable bibliography. There has just come from the press a book by James R. Mock and Cedric Larson entitled *Words that Won the War*, which is based on the records of the Committee on Public Information, popularly known as the Creel Committee. A scholarly study of war propaganda and psychology, it has been widely and favorably received by the critics, one of whom writes that it is "a true story, fascinating both as history and as a civic lesson, doubly absorbing to the present time." The World War records that seem to have made the strongest appeal to scholars, especially as sources for state history, are those of the Food Administration. Recent articles have been published descriptive of the records of the State Food Administrations in nine states. George Knox McCain's *War Rations for Pennsylvania*, published in 1920, deals primarily with the organization and work of the state administration; it remains for some other Pennsylvania scholar to dig out of the 150 series of Pennsylvania Food Administration records now at The National Archives a comprehensive account of the economic and social conditions in his state during the World War.

Places, events, and persons of importance in Pennsylvania history are depicted for posterity in motion pictures in the collections of The National Archives. Among the places represented may be mentioned the William Penn house, Independence Hall, the battlefield of Gettysburg, Harrisburg as seen from the air, and the Pittsburgh airport. What historian can hope to pen word pictures of the ravages in Pennsylvania of the great flood of 1936, or of the strategy of modern football, as vividly as the photographer has done in films at The National Archives which show the raging floods at Philipsburg, Johnstown, and other Pennsylvania cities, and football as formerly practiced at Pittsburgh's "Cathedral of Learning?" There, too, future Pennsylvania historians may learn from motion pictures what manner of men Andrew W. Mellon, Gifford Pinchot, and James J. Davis were.

One thing more remains to be said. The National Archives is a service agency; it was not created and does not exist for its own sake; nor does it keep the records in its custody in hermet-
ically sealed stack areas. Its fundamental functions are to pre-
serve the records of the government and to administer them so
as to facilitate their use by any person who has a legitimate interest
in them. Three types of service are rendered to private searchers:
(1) making the records and the facilities of The National Archives
available to searchers in the search rooms; (2) furnishing data
drawn from the records that may be requested by mail or tele-
phone when such requests require only a reasonable amount of time
and labor; and (3) supplying typed or photographic copies of
records upon request. The first two types of service are furnished
free, the third at actual cost to the government. There is now
in press a Guide to the Materials in The National Archives
which, we trust, will give to American scholars some conception
of the opportunities for research in the history of American
life and civilization awaiting them at this great repository of our
national archives.