

The British House of Commons *Sessional Papers* Project

THE COMMITTEE on the British *Sessional Papers*, special committee of the Committee on Historical Source Materials of the American Historical Association, has made an agreement with the Readex Microprint Corporation to issue a microprint edition of the nineteenth century volumes of the British House of Commons *Sessional Papers*. This agreement has been officially endorsed by the executive committee of the American Historical Association.

In return for twenty-five pledged full subscriptions, or their equivalent, the Readex company will supply each subscriber with a microprint edition of the nineteenth century volumes at the price of \$5000, which, it is estimated, is about one half that at which the collection could be supplied in microfilm. Upwards of 5800 volumes or about 4,000,000 pages compose the nineteenth century portion of this collection, which, because of its vast size and wide diversity of contents, is the most important collection of documents in existence for purposes of research in the social science and allied fields of learning.

The collating and editing preparatory to the microcopying of the materials will be done by the committee, so as to insure completeness of text and adequacy of arrangement; and sample microprint

specimens of the materials, which are to be approved by the committee, will serve as models which the Readex company will equal in the microprint edition of the *Sessional Papers*.

The Readex company guarantees its microprints for fifty years and emphatically claims that they will be serviceable for more than a hundred years. This guarantee and this claim have been substantiated by the results of tests made of microprint specimens by the National Bureau of Standards.

A large part of the collection is available for microcopying in several different libraries in the United States and Canada; some of the papers will have to be microcopied in England.

It is hoped that the project can be completed in from five to ten years—the shorter period if a foundation will advance funds necessary to enable the libraries with the more limited budgets to purchase the volumes in five years, and the longer if an advance is not obtained. It is hoped to issue the first thirty years, estimated at 536 volumes, by June of 1942.

For information concerning the project, address communications to Dr. Edgar L. Erickson, chairman of the Committee on the British *Sessional Papers*, 317 Lincoln Hall, Urbana, Ill.