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CIRCULATION.

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SUMMARY REPORT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BRANCH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR—1908.

The operations of the Geological Survey for the calendar year 1908 were more than ordinarily extensive. All the provinces and territories, with the exception of Manitoba, were given special attention. The Survey itself underwent some changes in organization. New efforts were made to meet the need for more topographical work and, in most respects, the Survey has had a successful year, despite the delay in receiving appropriations.

Amongst the changes noted in the director's report is the formation of two committees. One of these, the Geological Committee, was created for the purpose of supervising carefully all geological reports and the geologic coloring of maps before printing. Whatever delay this may entail will be amply offset by increased clearness and accuracy.

The second committee, an Editing Committee for Maps, was appointed to standardize maps, settle upon scales, and examine critically all maps before they are allowed to go to the engraver.

Quite apart from the elimination of errors, the work of these committees will tend to elevate the professional standards of each number of the Survey. The desire to get a report finished often leads the geologist to hurry his material into the printer's hands before it has been sufficiently pruned. When, however, he knows that a group of his associates is empowered to correct, modify, or to reject his reports and maps, he will be by no means eager to take unnecessary chances.

This is not the only good effect that should result from the establishment of these Committees. A Committee is impersonal. The officer of the Survey, whose work is pronounced imperfect or careless, will be apt to take his medicine more cheerfully than would be possible if on one person alone devolved the task of correction. Moreover, both committees will tend to give each member of the staff a better understanding of the difficulties, discouragements and merits of his colleagues.

The director lays emphasis upon the increasing demand for economic work. "There is . . . a wide demand for the careful study of districts containing economic minerals, and this assistance the mining public can reasonably ask of the Government."

The library of the Survey is to be made more complete. Two distributing lists are to be maintained for the Survey's publications—an exchange list, on which will be placed public libraries and institutions publishing scientific reports; and a notice list of private individuals. All reports and maps issued will be sent to