

*By Mr. Dawson :*

Q. You say you have examined the country about Lake Huron and Lake Superior?—Yes.

Q. And that country is very rich in minerals, and from the character of the rock you would think that it would be a very important region as regards minerals, would you not?—I think so.

Q. You have seen the silver mines of Lake Superior?—Yes.

Q. The Silver Islet mine turned out remarkably well, and from the character of the country, I suppose you would imagine that it would be safe to predict that it would become a very important silver-bearing region in time?—I think so; although many people may burn their fingers by opening them; but, of course, these experiments have to be tried.

Q. Then there are also very valuable copper deposits on Lake Superior and Lake Huron; if utilized, they will become valuable?—Yes.

Q. As they have done already at the Bruce mines?—The Bruce and Wellington mines are practically pretty well played out.

Q. But they yielded large and handsome returns at one time, and a great deal of money was made there?—Yes.

Q. And there are similar ores along Lake Huron, at Echo Lake for instance?—Yes; some fifteen miles back from the lake in Echo River.

Q. There are also abundant indications of copper along Lake Superior, are there not?—Yes; but they have not yet been opened out.

Q. Except at Michipicton Island and Maimause?—Yes; but not successfully.

Q. At Maimause they say they are successful now?—It is hoped so, but it has been taken up and dropped several times.

Q. I think you have explained yourself pretty fully as to the greater value our Geological Survey would be if there was some office or Mining Bureau attached to it, where people could get information as to the prospective value of the mines being found?—Yes; I think that would be an important addition to the work of the Survey.

Q. And such an office as that might very well be connected with the Geological Survey?—Yes; indeed some years ago, when I was consulted by the Hon. Sandfield Macdonald, on the subject of establishing a School of Mines in Ontario, I said to him that there was scarcely the necessity of going to that expense, but that I thought a Bureau of Mines, where trustworthy information could be obtained, might be very legitimately established. Doubts might naturally be cast on reports made by private individuals, on the supposition that they were not strictly impartial, although no doubt would be cast upon the honesty and ability of the gentleman giving the report.

Q. You have expressed the opinion that capabilities of the members of the staff of the Geological Survey are fair and good, but that it seems to be in the administration of the Department that the failure to give general satisfaction exists?—No; I could hardly say that. I know nothing of the internal working of the Survey. I should hardly like to say that the Director is at fault; I believe him to be a thoroughly good geologist.

Q. And all his staff are good men?—Yes. I think they seek to enter into too many scientific details, by which practical matters are lost sight of.

*By Mr. Baker :*

Q. I understood you to say that, in a large extent of territory like that of British Columbia, it was not necessary to prosecute the work of the Geological Survey with the same degree of minuteness as in other Provinces?—What I meant was, that in the Rocky Mountain district of British Columbia and the North-West Territories it was not possible, at present, to enter into very minute details or a lengthened examination. What we want there is careful exploration.

Q. You are of opinion that it is valuable to expeditiously publish these small reports, with maps, according to sections of country?—Yes; even if they were only rough sketches or index maps.