

A. R. C. SELWYN, F.G.S.

OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY No. 284.

Alfred Richard Cecil Selwyn, F.G.S. and Director of the Canadian Geological Survey, is one of the best known and most eminent of our scientific men. He is the youngest son of the Reverend Townshend Selwyn, Canon of Gloucester Cathedral, by Charlotte Sophia, daughter of Lord George Murray, Bishop of St. Davids, and grand-daughter of John, fourth Duke of Athol. Mr. Selwyn was born in 1824 and educated in Switzerland. In 1845, he was appointed Assistant Geologist on the Geological Survey of Great Britain, and in 1852, on the recommendation of Sir T. De la Beche, undertook the Geological Survey of the Colony of Victoria, Australia. In 1854 and 1859, respectively, by special request of the Governments of Tasmania and Australia, Mr. Selwyn examined and reported upon the coal-field and gold-fields of those colonies. He was appointed one of the Victorian Commissioners of Mines in 1856; member of the Board of Science and of the Prospecting Board in 1858; and Commissioner for the Victorian International Exhibition in 1861. He was also a member of the Government Tender Board, and member of the Council of the Board of Agriculture, of the Royal Society, and of the Acclimatization Society. In 1869, he left Australia for Canada to succeed the late Sir Wm. E. Logan in the Superintendence of the Geological Survey of the Dominion. In that post his industry has been unremitting, and the labors undertaken by the Survey under his direction have been both continuous and of the highest scientific value to the country. His late journey of exploration over the line of the Pacific Railway and in British Columbia have led him to report most forcibly in favor of that great national work. It is mainly owing to his exertions that Canada has made so brilliant a show of mineral resources at Philadelphia, as the sketch which we publish to-day, in connection with Mr. Selwyn's portrait, will prove at a glance. We cannot go into the particulars of this exhibition, but all agree in testifying that, by means of it, Canada holds her own in that branch, as in all other lines of natural resource and industrial production.

CANADIAN BILLIARDS.

One of our illustrations this week is the billiard exhibit of Riley and May in the Canadian Court of the Philadelphia Exhibition, the taste and good workmanship of which have been much admired, and judging by the favourable notices from several of the press correspondents, the Canadian billiard table compares favourably with



A. R. C. SELWYN, F. G. S., DIRECTOR OF THE CANADIAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.  
From a Photograph by Notman.

the tables of numerous other makers there exhibited from different parts of the world. Riley and May have been a long time established at Toronto as manufacturers of Billiard tables, also importers and dealers in everything appertaining to the noble game of billiards, and are celebrated for the first class quality of everything they send out, also for introducing novelties and improvements in the billiard line, the latest of which is their patent leveling attachment for billiard tables, and a new style of dining and billiard table which is giving great satisfaction, being arranged to present the correct height either for dining or playing on. When placed in position it can be altered to either purpose in one minute. To those who would have billiard rooms in their dwellings, could they spare the space which the ordinary billiard table requires, the combined dining and billiard table is recommended. Many who heretofore have been denied the pleasure, can now play billiards. Without taking more space than the ordinary dining table, it may be used as a dining table, a library table, or a billiard table.

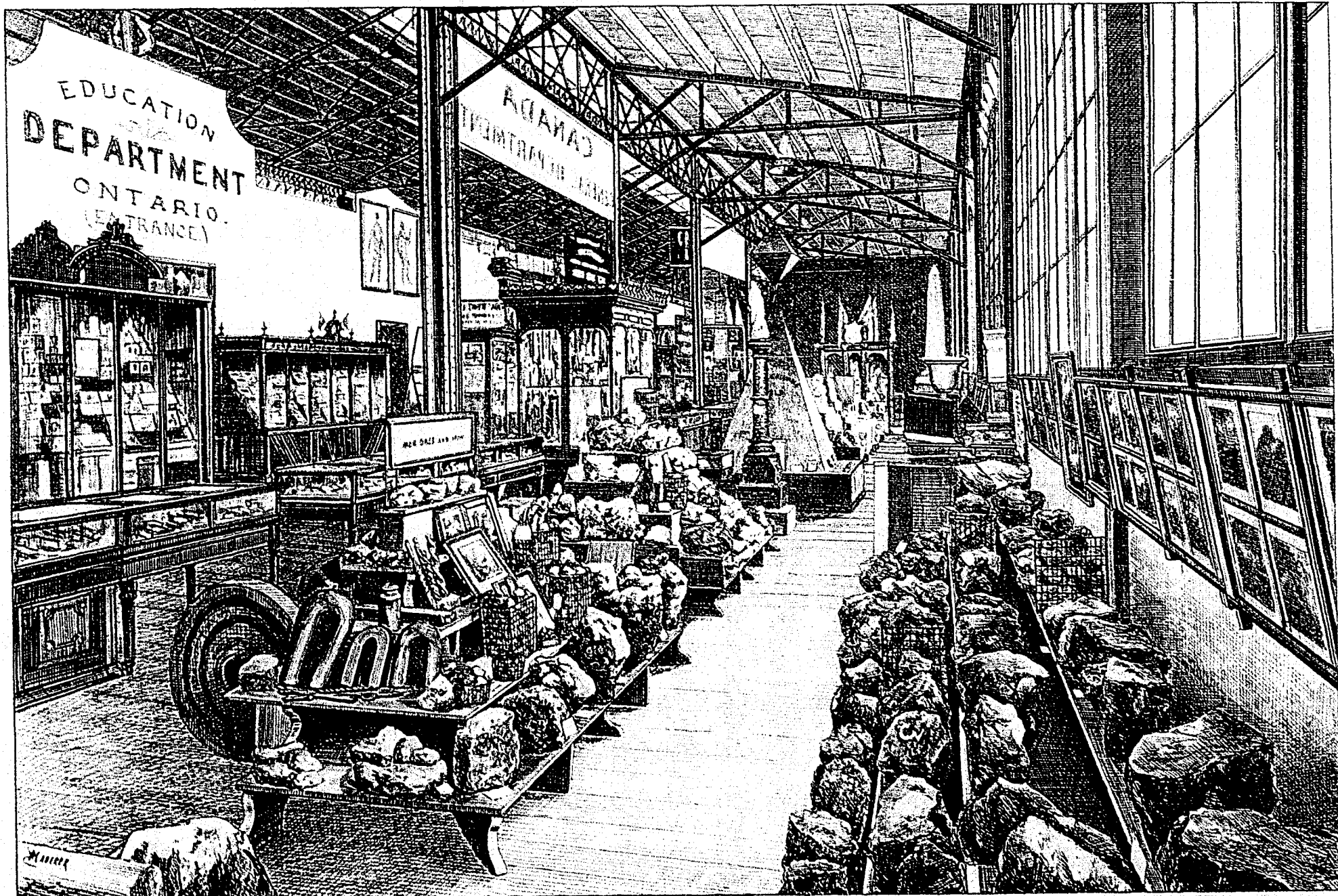
NAMES OF SCOTTISH GAMES.

The names of some of the Scottish games puzzle me not a little. I dare say these names are full of meaning to those who know their origin and have studied the peculiar phraseology in which they are couched. To me they are riddles. For example, the game upon the ice with curling stones or irons is called a *bonspiel*. This word I venture to interpret to mean *smooth* play, or possibly *bean* play. Then in the late list of the Caledonian games I notice another foreign-looking word, *dam-brod*. I know the game as that of draughts, or chequers. But I am curious to know the occult meaning of this compound title. With the few books I have at hand, and with such research as I have had time to bestow upon it, I would diffidently suggest that *dam-brod* is a corruption of *dom-bret*. I fail to see any meaning attachable to *dam* in this connection. *Brod* I consider to be simply a Scottish substitute for board. *Dom* means a church or a monastery, and *bret* is teutonic for board. I have often heard uneducated Scotch boys call the boards of a book, the breds. Can it be that *dam-brod*, or *dom-bret*, is a game originating with and played at leisure hours by the clergy of the middle ages? It looks like chess made easy.

Not to weary you I pause, and beg some one of your many scholarly contributors to give me the precise meaning and etymon of *bonspiel* and *dam-brod*.

Montreal.

A. B.



THE CANADIAN GEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT AT THE CENTENNIAL.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY THE CENTENNIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPANY.