

of the great deposits of nickel at Sudbury, of asbestos in Quebec, of coal in Nova Scotia, or the North-West, or the mode of occurrence and geological horizon of apatite or any other mineral of great economic value, in which the welfare of large portions of the country is involved; or on the other hand the conducting of certain lines of assays where the fullest and most reliable tests should be made for the common good, such as the assays of gold bearing rocks or of silver bearing veins from certain areas not yet entirely passed out of the public domain. To those of you who have examined the great collections in the Geological Museum the wonderful variety of our mineral resources from every province of the Dominion must have been matter for astonishment, yet in very many cases these great stores of mineral wealth are even yet lying idle and undeveloped, owing to lack of capital or enterprise on the part of our investors.

Were the immense territorial extent of Canada which has been traversed in the collecting of these representatives of our economic mineral resources, often at large expense and with much labour, as easily accessible as the countries of Great Britain, France or Germany, the work of the geologist, botanist and naturalist would be a comparatively easy matter. I say comparatively easy, for while the intricate problems of structure would yet remain to be solved by the geologist, the facilities presented for their solution would be so great that much of the hardship and uncertainty which now prevail in the examination of a new and unsettled country would be done away with.

In the absence of such aids, however, to geological exploration, and in fact very often without any aids at all in the shape of maps, even over many portions of the older provinces, much of the time of the geologist in charge must now be devoted to deciphering his path through the tangled wilderness, and in getting together sufficient materials as regards topography as will enable him to place on paper and to render intelligible the scientific observations, geological or otherwise, which it is his peculiar province to obtain; for it can be readily understood by anyone, even but slightly conversant with the subject, that to attempt to delineate the geology or structure of any country on a projection, without the topographical features of river, lake or mountain, is almost a hopeless task. Thus it comes about that,