

him years of incessant activity, but the results of his work were of great scientific value. They were embodied in a report addressed to the head of the Commission, Major (now General) D. R. Cameron, R.A., and published in Montreal in 1875.¹ The volume, which is now looked upon as "one of the classics of Canadian geology," is a model of what such reports should be—scientific facts being clearly and succinctly stated and the conclusions logically drawn. The main geological result arrived at was the examination and description of a section over 800 miles in length across the central region of the continent, which had been previously touched upon at a few points only, and in the vicinity of which a space of over 200 miles in longitude had remained even geographically unknown. The report discussed not merely the physical and general geology of the region, and the more detailed characteristics of the various geological formations, but also the capabilities of the country with reference to settlement. The whole edition was long ago distributed, and the volume is now exceedingly scarce and difficult to obtain. While attached to the Boundary Commission, Dawson made large collections of natural history specimens, which were forwarded to England and found a home in the British Museum, as well as at Kew and elsewhere. The British Museum obtained no less than seventeen species of mammals not previously represented in its collections.

More or less in connection with the above work were published papers on the "Lignite Formations of the West," the "Occurrence of Foraminifera, Coccoliths, etc., in the Cretaceous Rocks of Manitoba," on "Some Canadian Species of Spongillæ," on the "Superficial Geology of the Central Region of North America," on the "Locust Invasion of 1874 in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories," etc.

When the work of the Boundary Commission was brought to a close, Dawson received an appointment on the staff of the Geological Survey of Canada and began in that connection the long series of explorations of the Northwest and British Columbia, which brought such great credit to himself and his country. In 1883 he was made an Assistant Director of the Survey, and later, on the retirement of Dr. Selwyn, in 1895, became head of the department, a position which he occupied until the time of his death on the 2nd of March, 1901. Throughout his connection with the Survey his reports were always of a high order, bearing evidence of his striking powers of observation and deduction. Though thoroughly scientific, they always took account of the practical and economic side of geology, and accordingly com-

¹ Report on the Geology and Resources of the Region in the vicinity of the Forty-ninth Parallel, from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains, with Lists of Plants and Animals collected and Notes on the Fossils.