

REPORT

ON THE

Geological Exploration along the Northern and Western Railway, by James P Howley, F.G.S., for the Year 1894.

St. John's,
March 20th, 1895.

The Hon. Surveyor General,—

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Government, the following report of last season's operations of the Geological Survey.

As you are no doubt aware, owing to the delay in passing the necessary appropriations for the public service, consequent upon the political events which took place last spring, the season was far advanced before anything definite could be arranged as to the field-work of the survey.

The continuation of the coal-boring operations of the previous season in the central carboniferous area would have been advisable, had not the time now at our disposal been so restricted as to preclude the possibility of effecting much work of a valuable character. Under these circumstances it was deemed advisable to allow the coal-boring to remain over till another year. A suggestion was made to the Government that the staff of the survey be utilized for the short time remaining in an exploration along the route of the Northern and Western Railroad. It was urged that, owing to the facilities afforded by the railway for moving about, much more ground could be covered in the short space of time still available than otherwise. The numerous rock-cuts along the route would furnish valuable clues to the geological formations intersected thereby, and, in fact, form a key to the structure of a great portion of the island.

Should any of these formations in the vicinity of the railroad afford indications of possessing minerals of value, the mapping out of such area as a guide to the prospector was deemed a matter of no small importance to the future success of that enterprise.

The locating of lands suitable for agricultural settlement,