

Q. This work would appear to belong to one who followed geology as a profession?—I think so.

Q. There was nothing of that kind which could have influenced Dr. Selwyn while you were engaged in the Geological Survey. I mean your connection with anything of that kind?—Not that I am aware of. There is no regulation in existence in regard to gentlemen securing patents for such inventions. I may say that the staff of the Geological Survey of the United States is bound by the laws of the country to have no interest at all in any mines or minerals, which, I think, is a good regulation. At any rate, a gentleman's sense of honour would suggest it to him. I am not aware of any person connected with the Survey having any interest in any minerals, and if they had had such, I would have been very apt to have heard of it while outside of the Survey, because many of them I have known for several years.

Q. You are not open to any charge of that kind?—No.

*By Mr. Baker :*

Q. Was not your predecessor, Mr. Vennor, discharged from the service for having something to do in connection with a phosphate company?—I am not aware of any such connection.

Q. But was that not the belief?—I am not aware.

Q. Those gentlemen to whom you referred to in Montreal did not treat you any more handsomely than the Geological Department?—They treated me well; it was on this last trip, but none of these gentlemen had anything to do with it. In 1878 every obligation that was undertaken was fully discharged, although the work that I did did not lead to the permanent employment that I had hoped for, although I do not blame any of them for that. With reference to the reports, I would suggest that the method should be followed of making these reports sectional. A man interested in Cape Breton does not want to hear what is going on in the North-West or British Columbia, and they ought to be reported on separately and the volumes sold at a nominal price. I think also that the gentlemen in charge of the different Provinces ought to be promoted to the position of assistant directors, which their long service and training qualifies them for, and which would place them on the same footing in every part of the Dominion, and that gentleman should be held responsible for the work, and that the credit for that work should belong to him instead of to the Director. If this were done, there would be more *esprit de corps*, and a greater sense of responsibility in the department than there is at the present time.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA, 22nd March, 1884.

The Select Committee on Geological Surveys met this morning, Mr. HALL in the Chair.

DR. T. STERRY HUNT, of Montreal, was again called and examined.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. A question was asked Dr. Hunt by Mr. Wood, the other day, as to what he would suggest with regard to the analysis of soils, and what division he would suggest between the functions of the two departments—the agricultural and the geological—in that respect; and, as Dr. Hunt has given some attention to the matter since, I think it would be as well for him to give the Committee his views upon the subject?—I would say that the work of the analyses of soils and sub-soils is one which should especially belong to the Geological Survey, because questions raised with regard to the origin and nature of soils and their classification in geographical areas can only be done by one familiar with the physical geography and geology of the country, inasmuch as it is this that determines the character and the distribution of the soils. There is also the question of the subterranean waters, as to their composition and their fitness for economic and for agricultural purposes, especially in some of the dryer regions of the North-West, where supplies of good water for domestic purposes and perhaps for irrigation are scarce. I think there are regions where irriga-