

be counted as more or less completely *surveyed*, it was in consequence assumed that along each reasonably accurate line of exploration, a belt of country about fifty miles in width was removed from the unexplored category. This was a very liberal assumption, for no explorer, however competent, could know much about the country twenty-five miles away from his route on either side. Still he would have obtained a general idea of the character of the land—there could scarcely be any prominent mountains which he would not see, nor very large lakes or rivers of which he would not hear from the natives. Drawing broad belts of this kind across the map, some very large and very many small areas remained, but of such areas none under 7,500 square miles were considered. Neither were the Arctic islands, to the north of the continental land, taken into account.

Proceeding on the plan above mentioned, sixteen unexplored areas of large dimensions were outlined,* of which the aggregate area was computed to be about 954,000 square miles, an area between one-third and one-fourth that of the entire Dominion.

Since the date of the address to which I have been alluding—partly perhaps in consequence of the facts made known—a great deal of good exploratory work has been done, and the map then drawn to represent these facts, now requires to be largely modified. Most of the work has been done by officers of the Geological Survey, and it has thus been possible to combine geographical exploration with geological work and the scientific inspection of the resources of the regions traversed. Detailed reports and maps have been made or are in course of preparation. You are all, no doubt, already familiar with some of these, but it has been urged by the gentlemen engaged in arranging the programme of evening meetings for this season, that some short account at first hand of the results achieved would be acceptable and interesting.

I will not now occupy more of your time, except to say that in the near future it devolves upon us to remove what remains of the unexplored dark tracts upon our map, and further

* See map Vol. 4, No. 2, May, 1890.