

Canada has always maintained a high place among similar institutions. Thirty-five years ago Billings set himself earnestly to the task of deciphering the history of our country as written in its fossil remains. How well he succeeded is evidenced by the fact that the work of E. Billings not only reflected the highest lustre on the Survey in his branch while he remained a member of its staff, but the determinations then made have never ceased to be regarded as authoritative. Since his day the opening of the North West has introduced a new feature into the study of Canadian paleontology by the accession of great collections of fossils from the Cretaceous and other closely associated formations of that area, and less attention has in consequence been directed to the study of the older paleozoic fossils; but this change in policy has only been in accordance with the rapidly growing importance of our western country. The result of the fifty years' collecting in this branch of the Survey work has been to gather together one of the finest and most comprehensive collections, illustrative of the life of past ages in the earth's history, that can anywhere be found; a collection of such value to the scientific world that if by chance it should be destroyed its loss would be regarded as a great calamity by everyone interested in science the world over.

Of the internal economy of the Survey we have as yet spoken but in general terms. Here much work of the highest importance must be carried out. The collecting of facts relative to structure and the making of surveys in the field would not possess one-tenth of their real value, were no provision made by which these surveys and facts could be presented in compact and visible shape to the general as well as the scientific public. Hence the necessity of a topographical corps, whereby not only can the work of the field staff be arranged in map form for publication, but connecting surveys can be made to render these more intelligible. Then there is the careful arrangement of the Museum by which everything deemed worthy of exhibit can be so placed as to show to the best possible advantage the relation between the rock structure and the contained fossils where such exist, and the minerals or ores also which may therein be contained; in order that anyone in quest of information can most readily obtain such to the fullest possible extent and with the least possible delay.