

a woeful state. Dawson found one "in the bush," which had been put up without the use of a nail or a pane of glass, and which was so ill-provided with books that the teacher had to give his reading lessons from old newspapers. Many of the teachers had not received proper training, but Dawson succeeded in establishing a normal school where they could be trained.

12. In 1855 he left Nova Scotia to become principal of McGill University in Montreal. He held this position for thirty-eight years, and saw the number of students grow from eighty to over a thousand. Heart and soul he gave himself to the task of extending the usefulness of the university on every side—to women as well as men—but he did not shut himself up from other interests. He was an earnest worker in the cause of Christian missions and of the Bible Society, and for years he held a Bible class on Sunday afternoons for the students and citizens of Montreal.

13. Besides all this he never ceased to try to increase his own and other people's knowledge of the structure of our earth and of the animals and plants that lived upon it in the ages before the history of man began. He wrote many books and papers, he discovered fossils hitherto unknown, and altogether his work was so valuable that his name became known by those interested in science all over the world.

14. He was the first president of the Royal Society of Canada, which was founded in 1881 by the Marquis of Lorne for the encouragement of literature and science in the Dominion. Two years afterwards Dawson was knighted.