

his strong intellect had of all problems relating to the economic and natural resources of our vast Dominion, made him master of his Department and a centre of distribution of the most valuable information. With a diminished staff at his disposal, he guided the Department under his care with unsparing as well as inspiring efforts, and was thus producing more results and giving out more information than ever before in any period of the history of the Survey in all its different branches.

With the ever increasing demands for exact information concerning the mineral and other economic resources of Canada, with the increase of labour and attention to official matters, he was kept more than usually busy for the past six years. Through his personal efforts and that of his staff, he did much to disseminate such information regarding Canada's mineral resources, that the mining interests of the Dominion may now be said to be fairly well established upon a firm and non-speculative basis.

Dr. George Mercer Dawson was the eldest son of the late Sir William Dawson who was the honoured Principal of McGill University for upwards of forty-four years, and who preceded the subject of this sketch by a few months only, having died in Montreal, his home, on the 15th day of November, 1899, at the advanced age of 79.

"Doctor George," as he was wont to be called, was born in the town of Pictou, Nova Scotia, Aug. 1st, 1849. His early training was at the Montreal High School, then subsequently, at home under tutors, and in McGill University, where however, he did not graduate, but went to Edinburgh and London. There he carried on studies and researches in Mining and Geology, especially at the Royal School of Mines, London, from 1869 to 1872, carrying off the highest honours of his class and the Duke of Cornwall's prize in his year, also the Edward Forbes gold medal for palæontology, ranking first, and subsequently became an "Associate of the Royal School of Mines," a much coveted title.

On his return to Canada he spent some time investigating the copper and iron deposits of Nova Scotia, his native province, and later lectured in Morrin College. In 1873, he was appointed geologist and botanist to Her Majesty's British North American boundary commission, of which Major D. R. Cameron, R.A., was