

this occasion made the passage in a sailing ship, he and another young man being the only passengers. During the voyage he amused himself making observations on the surface life of the ocean, and the phenomena of phosphorescence. He also studied navigation under the captain, and the knowledge then acquired afterwards stood him in good stead when he had to navigate a schooner along the dangerous coasts of British Columbia and the Queen Charlotte Islands.

At the School of Mines he took the full course of study, extending over three years, and passed as an associate. At the end of his second year, he carried off the Duke of Cornwall's scholarship, given by the Prince of Wales, and on graduation stood first in his class, obtaining the Edward Forbes Medal and Prize in Paleontology and Natural History, and the Murchison Medal in Geology. During his course he paid special attention to the study of geology under Ramsay, Huxley and Richerdt, but also devoted much time to chemistry and metallurgy, under Frankland and Percy respectively, and to mining under Warrington Smyth. Even in his holidays he was never altogether idle, and during most of the summer of 1871 he was attached to the British Geological Survey, and worked with the late J. Clifton Ward in the Cumberland Lake District. While in England he made many warm friends, with some of whom he corresponded regularly for years afterwards.

On returning to Canada in 1872, he was engaged for some months examining and reporting upon mineral properties in Nova Scotia, and subsequently went to Quebec, where he delivered a course of lectures on chemistry at Morrin College, which was attended by a large and appreciative class. In 1873 he was appointed Geologist and Botanist to Her Majesty's North American Boundary Commission, which had been constituted to fix the boundary line between British North America and the United States, from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains, and which had been carrying on its labours for about a year. From early boyhood Dawson had been keenly interested in travel and exploration, and in the Canadian Northwest he saw a region ready to yield up a rich harvest of discovery. There was the charm of novelty afforded by a well-nigh untrodden field, and the many hardships to be encountered only seemed to lend attractions to the expedition. In those days no Canadian Pacific trains rolled across the continent. Fort Garry, now the fast-growing city of Winnipeg, with more than 10,000 inhabitants, was then practically the last outpost of civilization, and the great prairies had to be traversed on horseback or on foot, provisions and equipment of every kind being carried in Red River carts, drawn by oxen or ponies with shaggy harness. The two years of Dawson's connection with the Boundary Commission were for