

paring each particular geological formation with its nearest representative. On the grounds alone, therefore, of geological knowledge, and of the discovery and definition of the reserves of the country in timber and minerals, the exploration of all these unknown or little-known regions may be amply justified.

The exploration of the great unknown districts of the Northern and Western Canada has in the past been carried out chiefly by the Dominion Geological Survey, which most useful Department of the public service, in addition to the very numerous calls made upon it by the more settled portions of the country, with their many and fast developing mining industries, has continued from time to time to send properly equipped exploratory parties into the northern forests and moors and thus gradually building up an accurate knowledge of the character and resources of many of these remoter parts of the Dominion, and these explorations, often very difficult and dangerous, have attached to the staff of the Survey several of the most intrepid and successful young explorers on the continent.

Since Dr. Dawson's paper was read, parties have traversed and carefully examined some of the largest and most desolated of these unexplored portions of the Dominion. Thus in the summer of 1893, Mr. J. B. Tyrell, of the Geological Survey, carried a survey over the Barren Grounds from Lake Athabaska to the west coast of Hudson Bay, crossing an unknown region much larger than Great Britain and Ireland combined, and somewhat larger than Sweden, while Mr. Albert Low, of the same Department, has just returned from an exploration extending over nearly two years, in the largest unknown tract of the Dominion, the interior of the Labrador Peninsula or North-East Territory, comprising some 289,000 square miles, an area equal to twice that of Great Britain and Ireland, with the addition of an area equal to that of Newfoundland. Mr. Low has crossed this area from south to north, and from east to west, and his detailed report when published will contain the first trustworthy account of this great region.