

Q. Previous to that, had he, or any of his staff, ever inspected the mine?—The mine is only seven or eight miles from Ottawa, and he admitted that he, or any of his staff, had never been there; and he had no report at all worth mentioning in the office in regard to it. However, at my request, he visited the mine, and his report was quite contrary to any report received upon it. I also asked him with regard to a plumbago mine down near Buckingham, and he, or any of his staff, had never been near the mine, and the information he had received was probably by hearsay. The mine was considered a very valuable one, and considerable money was sunk in it.

*By Mr. Holton :*

Q. When you did this, did Dr. Selwyn think it was his duty to get the information, although not possessed of it at the time?—He was very courteous, and deprecated the fact that he did not have it, and laid it down to not having a staff sufficient to prosecute the work in the manner in which it should be prosecuted, and that he had only one man whom he could send into the field, from British Columbia to Cape Breton. However, I went there for information, and did not get it.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. And these enquiries were all made in the interest of capitalists?—Not only in the interest of capital in the country, but in the interest of capital that was waiting to be put into it.

Q. Did your failure to obtain the information you desired operate against the interests of which you have been speaking?—I should think it would most strongly operate against the introduction of capital. If we consider that the Geological Survey of Canada does not possess the information, I do not see where we could go for it.

Q. But did it operate in any way in this case?—I do not know, but other parties who talked about trying to raise capital have repeatedly remarked to me that the information they received from the Geological Survey was so meagre that they did not feel at all satisfied, and they had to use reports obtained for them. I also had occasion to see Dr. Selwyn about asbestos deposits in the Eastern Townships. He showed me a map several years old, which, he said, he could not rely on, and he could not give any information. In one of his reports he had about a page and a-half or two pages about the mines of the country, but the information about it was of a very meagre description.

*By Mr. Holton :*

Q. You spoke about the map as unsatisfactory. Do you know what map?—He said that it was not sufficiently new, and did not show any practical results; it showed the formation of the rocks, but no mineral discoveries.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. No recent discoveries?—None at all.

*By Mr. Holton :*

Q. Do you know what map it was?—No; but I know he said it was an old map, and he could not give it as being reliable.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. But still it was the latest in the Department in relation to that section of country?—Yes. As regards information about mines of practical interest to capitalists or banks, he could give me no information as to the output, or the possible or real value of the property.

*By Mr. Holton :*

Q. Have you had occasion to ask Dr. Selwyn or members of his staff for such statistics?—Yes; on several occasions.

Q. And you received but one reply on all occasions?—Yes. In the case of this iron mine, I think it was a great shame that more information has not been obtained by the Geological Survey regarding it, because there is a very large amount of capital sunk in it, and at present a very large company has been formed in England to work it, which I hope will be started in a few weeks, and in all cases they have had to send their own experts to judge of the value of the mine.