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SALARIES AND THE SURVEY.

Within the memory of the present generation there has been no substantial increase in the salaries of the officers of the Geological Survey of Canada. Meanwhile, no one will dispute the statement that the cost of living is easily 30 per cent greater than it was ten years ago. House rents have crept up amazingly. Provisions bring prices sometimes 100 per cent. higher than those obtaining in the early nineties. And so on through the whole gamut. We could dwell with deep conviction upon the iniquitous tailor, the destructive milliner, the reprehensible plumber, the callous coal man, and the aestival ice man.

These things being so, it is not to be denied that the salaries of yesterday are altogether out of keeping with the conditions of to-day. To expect a competent geologist to exist contentedly upon the pittance offered him by the Government is out of all reason. There may be some degree of justice (we grant it merely for argument's sake) in keeping the salaries of office men and clerks down to the minimum. But between these and the officials of the Survey there is nothing in common. The geologist is a specialist of the highest class. He is a pioneer, an explorer, a scientist, an author and a producer. There is nothing more remote from economy than attempting to retain his services for pay that will not permit of his living in comfort. Already our own survey has lost some of its best and brightest members. In every recent case those who have resigned their billets at Ottawa have been engaged by private corporations and are receiving salaries from three to five times larger than those offered by the Government. Whilst we are still able to point with pride to the men who constitute the staff of the survey, there is no lack of evidence that the growing demand for field geologists will, sooner or later, rob that staff of its best and brainiest.

The geologist is no money-grabber. Possibly his commercial sense is under-developed. But he has an inalienable right to secure as good a living as he can. His efforts are constantly revealing new sources of wealth to the public-wealth in which, if he be an official in Government employ, he cannot participate. If, after some years of miserably underpaid work on our Survey, he accepts a flattering offer from persons who know his value, who can blame him! Yet we are confident that, since for many good reasons there is a certain professional glamour pertaining to the work of Survey officials, but very few members of the staff would hesitate to remain in the employ of the Government for salaries much smaller than they can easily obtain outside. But these salaries must be considerably larger than the meagre allowances of to-day which are