

and the value of education. Mrs. Hacker thinks the mystery of Dr. Barry is no great mystery. She was a very intelligent young woman who wanted to be a doctor, and the only possible way she could be one was to pretend to be a man.

Alice Wilson

Alice Wilson was sickly—with pernicious anemia—thin as a fossilized bone and indestructible. Despite the dinosaurian resistance of her male bosses, she became Canada's first woman geologist.

Miss Wilson was born at Cobourg, Ont., into a neatly classified world where the best jobs were for men only. She floundered around in Victoria College of the University of Toronto and was bedfast for two years before she went to work, first as a clerk in the Mineralogy Division of the University of Toronto's Museum, then as a clerk at the Geological Survey. She arrived in Ottawa and "looked at the Precambrian ramparts of the Canadian Shield across the Ottawa River and wondered about the earth we live on." Her boss, Percy Raymond, understood and encouraged her expanding ambitions. He got her official leave to go back to Victoria College, where she got a B.A. in modern languages and history.

She returned to the Survey in 1911 and was made a museum assistant, the first woman to hold professional rank. She was aiming much higher; she wanted to be a geologist, the ranking position in the Survey. Since she wasn't allowed to go on distant field trips, she picked the handy St. Lawrence Lowland for study, ten thousand square

Alice E. Wilson



miles drained by the Ottawa and St. Lawrence Rivers, with the best range of Ordovician fossils in Canada. In 1919 she became an assistant paleontologist, and in 1921 her first major work, *The Range of Certain Lower Ordovician Faunas of the Ottawa Valley with Descriptions of Some New Species*, was published as Survey Bulletin 33.

Her first bosses had been sympathetic, their successors were not. When the Survey issued automobiles to the men professionals for use in field work, Miss Wilson was given a bike. She bought a Model T on her own and threw the bike in the back, and her superiors were astonished at the ground she could cover. She picked her own work clothes, a Cossack costume with boots, and kept on digging. In 1926 the Canadian Federation of University Women awarded her a \$1,000 fellowship, but the Survey would not give her a leave of absence until a systematic campaign by the CFUW forced them into a partial retreat. Her male colleagues were routinely given leaves with full pay to pursue scholarly advancement, but Miss Wilson was given a split leave without pay, with the understanding that she would have to return after the first six months and make up for the lost time by doing extra work before she would be allowed to take the last six months. She was 45 when she went to the University of Chicago, and in 1929 she was awarded a Ph.D.

E. Cora Hind

