

in Canada as it has been in Australia, there is no reason why equally satisfactory results should not be achieved.

The want of any even approximately correct topographical maps of the gold districts is likewise a serious hindrance to their development. It renders accurate geological observations impossible; and thus the structure of the country cannot be worked out or understood, as it must be before either the probable course, or the extent of the mineral-veins can be ascertained with precision, or the localities determined in which farther developments may be looked for.

CONCLUSIONS.

In conclusion, I may state, that the general impression produced on my mind by what I have seen of the gold-districts of Canada during the past summer is, as regards their natural capabilities, exceedingly favorable, and equally unfavorable as regards the enterprise and intelligence which has hitherto been devoted to their development. At the same time it should not be forgotten that the most favorable indications are not always reliable, and the sanguine prognostications they so frequently give rise to are often not borne out by the result of actual working; wherefore I should, even under the most favorable circumstances, not advise any one to invest in such enterprises to an amount beyond what

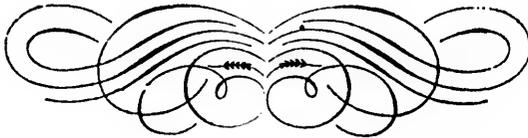
he can afford to lose without serious embarrassment.

WANT OF MAPS.

The need above alluded to, of good topographical maps, is one which cannot be too often pointed out, and is well deserving the serious consideration of the Government. Such maps are not only necessary for geological and mineralogical purposes, but for agricultural, sylvicultural, engineering, military, political, and statistical purposes they are likewise indispensable; and every dollar expended towards their production eventually becomes an annual saving to the country; a fact especially obvious when such periodically recurring works as the census have to be undertaken. The subject is dwelt upon here because it is one which seriously retards the progress of the geological explorations with which I am specially charged; and it seems not out of place to call attention to the fact that hundreds of dollars which are debited to these investigations are really unavoidably expended in making additions to the topography of the country, for which, however valuable, extensive, and important, but little credit accrues to the Geological Survey.

ALFRED R. C. SELWYN.

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