

CANADIAN SURVEYS AND MUSEUMS AND THE NEED OF INCREASED EXPENDITURE THEREON. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS. BY B. E. WALKER, ESQ., F.G.S.

(Read 11th November, 1899.)

We find ourselves possessed in Canada of a country vast in its dimensions, but of which the population is as yet comparatively small. If, therefore, we have good reason to believe that the natural resources of our territory are in any respect commensurate with its area, we may look forward with confidence to a great future. But in order that this may be realized properly and soon, we must devote ourselves to the exploration and definition of our latent wealth, and to the solution of the problems which inevitably arise in the course of its utilization under circumstances which are often more or less entirely novel. For this purpose we are provided at the present day with methods, appliances and an amount of accumulated knowledge not previously thought of, but which we must be prepared to enlist in our service if our purpose is to be achieved.—George M. Dawson, C.M.G., etc., Director Geological Survey of Canada. Presidential Address, Royal Society of Canada, 1894.

It is my intention to confine my address to the subject of national surveys and museums. If a private individual were to become the owner of five or ten thousand acres of diversified virgin territory he would, presuming that he was what we call a practical person, make or have made a careful examination of his estate in order to know its resources and possibilities. He would keenly examine the various soils as to their suitability for agriculture, the timber as to its immediate or prospective value, the clays and sedimentary rocks as to possibilities of building materials; or if his estate lay in a mineral area he would look eagerly for an Eldorado. He would consider the lakes and streams and the water powers and watersheds of his property, and the nature of the drainage or the necessity of artificial drainage. In a word, he would take stock of his purchase just as a merchant or manufacturer would of his goods. Now, a new country is but an enlargement of this diversified five or ten thousand acres, and the people of a new country are but an enlargement of this practical individual. If they are as able to recognize their interest in the national problem as he is in the individual problem, they will wish to know of what the national domain consists, what are its resources and its future possibilities. Clearly, they will wish to know what can in any particular part of the domain be first and most profitably marketed or put to use in manufacture as raw material. Just as clearly they will want to know what raw material they possess which although not marketable now will eventually help to build up the national wealth. Also if they are reasonably intelligent they will desire to know the extent of the so-called waste places which have apparently no present or prospective use or value measured by money. I need not tell you that at this moment I cannot stop to discuss the enormous value to man of the waste places of mother earth, so dear to the artist, the sportsman, the naturalist, and the truly intelligent man of any class. I have purposely begun by making a bald statement in defence of national surveys which will be admitted by all because it is based on economic grounds which are recognized by all, and it will be a surprise to many to be told that clear