

years of his life, he added little or nothing to geological literature. In this connection it may be stated that although he had a wonderful command of the English language, being a rapid and accurate writer, he continually affirmed his dislike of "rushing into print." Indeed, in the address above referred to he says: "being conscious of my lack of oratorical or scriptorial qualifications, I have rarely been induced either to talk or to write for publication, or I may have been like Werner, who we are told had an antipathy to the mechanical labour of writing. However this may be, the result was, that I had more time for observation by which I certainly gained, and probably no one lost anything; because whenever I made out, or thought I had made out a fact having a practical bearing, it was at once communicated to the persons who were immediately and directly interested, and could practically test the correctness or otherwise of the observation." This excuse however can scarcely be considered sufficient in itself to account for the fact that there are not more publications credited to him, while director of the Canadian Geological Survey. It must nevertheless be perfectly obvious to anyone who has the slightest acquaintance with the work of the Geological Survey, that the man who undertakes the very arduous duties incident to the administration of a department with functions necessarily so varied, and territory to be covered so vast, must be cheerfully content to live as a geologist through the labours of his staff. Notwithstanding these administrative duties, however, Selwyn generally found time each year to make some special investigation or by travel through wide stretches of territory to gain such an insight into the general geology of the country, as would enable him to supervise more intelligently the work of the other geologists under him. In Canada his influence was perhaps most directly felt in the fresh impulse he imparted to the recognition of the importance of stratigraphical geology. The emphasis he laid on the value of this, to him the most valuable criterion for the determination of the age of the various sedimentaries, may be gathered from his oft-repeated assertion: "If the fossils do not agree with the stratigraphy so much the worse for the fossils." Another point on which still greater insistence was made, was the certainty of the frequent and