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ARTICLE X.—*Geological Survey of Canada. Reports of Progress for the Years 1853-1856.*

(SECOND ARTICLE.)

In the previous article, the able Report of Mr. Murray, Assistant Geologist, was passed over with a very short notice, the region traversed by him being of comparatively small geological interest. It is however a region of some economical importance. Lying in the route which many Canadian public men have marked out as probably destined to be one of the great lines of communication between the Upper Lakes and the Ocean, the country between Lake Huron and the Upper Ottawa may by its topographical facilities or difficulties, or by its fertility or sterility, aid or oppose the establishment of such communication, while, by its mineral or other productions, it may offer inducements to enterprise that may give it other claims than those of a mere way of transit. Based almost entirely on rocks of the Laurentian system, it presents a rugged though not very elevated surface, and abounds in lakes, streams, and swampy hollows; and its soils, with the exception of those on the bands of limestone and other calcareous rocks, must on the whole be of inferior quality. Its agricultural capabilities alone therefore cannot be regarded as likely to promote its speedy settlement. We must not however follow the practice too common in new countries, of abso-