

staff have never hesitated to penetrate into the most forbidding areas, fertile in resources to find or invent means by which unexpected difficulties may be overcome. In canoe, in cart, by boat, or on the trail they have gone forward year after year, "by dint of thought and hammering" they have collected great stores of information and have by their collections and researches made easily accessible to any who may choose to examine, the geology, the mineral resources, and the natural history of the northern half of this continent from ocean to ocean, and have displayed all this information in the most attractive and instructive form in the rooms of the Museum in this city.

But the geological aspect of the work of the Survey department, is at the present day only one of many. Here, stowed away in cases and high presses can be found one of the largest and finest collections of plants, illustrative of the botany of all parts of our Dominion possible to be obtained. Much of the work of this branch of the department is invisible to the ordinary visitor to the Museum, since, unlike rock specimens or masses of ore, dried plants are perishable things and cannot endure exposure to the light and open air. They must be carefully laid away and precautions taken to guard against the ravages of insects and other enemies of the botanist's handiwork. Yet here in the cases of the Museum are stored more than 100,000 specimens illustrating the distribution of our flora from the foggy shores of Anticosti to the green valleys of the Island of Vancouver. The flora of the Peace River district, of the great plains, and of the Rocky Mountain steeps on the west, of the shores and islands of the Atlantic on the east, as well as of the country about the great inland lakes and of distant Labrador, are here rendered available for study to any one interested in the botany of our country, and who may wish, for purposes of comparison or for any other cause, to examine the plant growth of any district whatever. The enormous value of such a collection can scarcely be overestimated, and its practical utility in determining the fitness of certain areas for the growth of wheat or other cereals, as determined by the flora of the district is an admitted fact, not now called in question by anyone at all familiar with this branch of science. To the botanists of the Survey, then, great credit and praise are due for the magnificent collections made and for the careful way in which this