

a general feeling throughout the country, and I believe it is shared in this House, that the practical, useful result of the Geological Survey is not proportionate to the expenditure, and it was in order to get evidence upon that point that the Committee was appointed. Now, the appropriation for 1881-82—I select those years because they are the years to which the last report applies—was \$110,000. The application of that money was as follows: removal from Montreal, \$10,000; the purchase of Indian curiosities, \$1,232; the purchase of natural history collection, \$2,719, and the purchase of books and instruments, from Sir William Logan's estate, \$4,500. These items make, in all, \$18,451, leaving a balance of \$91,549 as the amount which is supposed to have been devoted to the practical work of the Survey. Now, as to that work, I think it is a proper statement to make that the public have derived no return from it, except in the addition to the Museum, and the volume of reports which has lately been furnished to the House. I cannot speak as to the value or extent of the additions which have been made to the Museum; I have no doubt that valuable improvements have been made, but the expense cannot have been very large. But so far as the report is concerned, the result is that it contains merely the report of Dr. Dawson's explorations in the Bow and Belly River district, to which 23 pages are devoted; Dr. Ell's explorations in the Hudson Bay district, 29 pages; Dr. Bell's explorations in New Brunswick, 56 pages, and Mr. Wilmot's examination of the mines in Quebec, 14 pages. Then we have Dr. Selwyn's essay on the change of nomenclature, three pages—a change which, I may say, has been much criticised by scientific men, as an unwise change; Dr. Selwyn's notes on the geology of south-eastern Quebec, and his Report of Progress for the two years. This Report of Progress makes reference to the work of other members of the staff; to Mr. Webster's work in the Province of Quebec; Mr. Broad's, in New Brunswick; to Mr. Fletcher's, in Cape Breton, and others. These references to the actual work of the staff are very brief, most of them occupying only eight or ten lines space, and none of them being over a page or a page and a-half. Now, what strikes the Committee is (although there may have been useful work done by the Survey—and we believe there has been useful work done, and that the staff is a valuable one) but the complaint is that the public are not getting the benefit of that work. It certainly is, we believe, a just ground of complaint that of the work which was done in 1881 by these gentlemen there is not more to show for it now, for the use of the public, than six, or eight, or ten lines in the volume of the published reports. The facts would seem to show either that the work was not worth what it has cost, or else that the country should have got the benefit of it before the information became too old to be of any practical use. A striking example of that fact is Mr. Vennor's work in the phosphate region of this vicinity, to which great attention has been called, and to which American and other capital has been directed. There was a great demand for practical information as to the extent, location and value of these deposits, and Mr. Vennor was employed. His work, in 1877, 1878, 1879 and 1880 was carried on exclusively in that region, and though his work may have been very valuable, as I believe it was, there is not a published line as to all that work during these four years. He has left the Survey and there is nothing left behind him to show what his work has been. It has been said that the fault was Mr. Vennor's, that he should have made a report, and that he should not have left the Department without leaving his report. The Committee do not feel disposed to make references to any particular member of the staff, but they simply wish to call attention to the fact that the practical results of the work are not commensurate with the expense involved. They consider for instance that Mr. Vennor should not have been paid a large salary and travelling expenses during these four years without

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making any report at all, or else he should not have been employed. I could give a number of illustrations in the same direction, but I will not trouble the House with them. I think these facts are pertinent, and I think the attention of the Government should be called to the conviction of the Committee that while we believe that the appropriation is not too large, still there is a lack of practical usefulness in the work of the Department. There has been very great delay in bringing out the reports of the Survey, and one of the suggestions of the Committee will be that instead of waiting for these reports until the end of two years, the results of the operations of the staff should be brought out separately, as they may be applicable to particular districts. It seems very unnecessary, for instance, that a person who wishes to know about the coal regions of British Columbia, should have to wait for two years for a volume of reports which he finds gives him a great deal of useful information, information which is interesting enough, but not interesting to him, about the coal regions of Cape Breton. It would be more satisfactory if the work in particular districts were reported upon, and the reports promptly published and circulated at their actual cost. We have had before us the result of the work of the Geological Survey in the United States. There the Report is a very valuable volume of 700 or 800 pages, which can be purchased for 50 cents, and is replete with a vast amount of practical information respecting the mineral resources of that country. Our Reports seem to be very defective in that respect; they seem to lack in practical usefulness, so far as actual mining operations are concerned. These practical operations are very extensive in the Lower Provinces as well as in the Province of Quebec, but the references to them in the Reports are very meagre, embracing only two or three pages in some cases, while in others the most important mines are not even reported on at all. I call the attention of the House, and the Government especially, to these facts, in anticipation of the report of the Committee, because the report will be presented at so late a period that the matter could not in any other way have received the attention of the House.

Mr. MILLS. This Committee was appointed before I came into the House, and I have not seen the order of reference; but it seemed to me to be in some respects a rather extraordinary enquiry. I do not say that it is at all an improper one; but there are certain matters being disclosed before the Committee which, in my opinion, ought to have been disclosed before the Minister, and ought to have been known to him. In fact, it is very important that every Minister should know precisely how his own Department is organized, and what is the condition and discipline of his staff. These facts are being disclosed before the Committee, and, to a certain extent, the enquiry has become a species of departmental scandal. With regard to the matter suggested by the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Hall), there is no doubt that the geological investigation carried on by the Government, with the limited amount of money hitherto placed at its disposal, has been necessarily theoretical, and for the purpose of ascertaining the geological features of the country. An enquiry, with the view of ascertaining its mining resources is, of course, of very great importance; but my impression is, that if the Department turns the attention of those upon the staff to those particular features of geology to which the hon. gentleman has referred, it will be found necessary to vote a larger amount of money than has hitherto been placed at the disposal of the Department. Investigations, with the view of ascertaining the practicability of mining operations at any particular point, will necessitate boring, as the hon. member for South Huron has stated, and that of course means a considerable addition to the expenditure. I do not see any reason why the Reports should not be got out at an earlier