

Q. Then this letter of the 30th January gave you your dismissal?—I understood it so.

Q. And you accepted it?—Yes.

Q. Then how can the Department expect you to make up reports?—I think I am in duty bound to do so, because part of my time was spent in looking for work instead of finishing up the report.

Q. In fact, your work is not complete until your report is in?—No. I may say that this notice of my dismissal took Dr. Geo. Dawson, who, to a certain extent, was interested in my appointment of the previous spring, completely aback, and Dr. Dawson said the result would be that a green hand would have to be sent into the field and have to serve his apprenticeship there, at a loss to the Government.

Q. So, that as far as the geological work which you did there during that season is concerned, it is simply thrown away?—Yes; to a large extent. A great deal of the information which the geologist gets in a region the first season is a general knowledge, and cannot be embodied in the report. It shows him how best to guide his men the next season. That is the reason why the usefulness of a man is valued, to a great extent, by the length of his service. In speaking to Mr. Frank Adams about the Laurentian country, he remarked that it was very unfair to ask any man to make a report after one season's work in a new field, because of there being no fossils there and the strata being disturbed. It is difficult to obtain sufficient data in one season on which to base a report. In fact, men going into the Laurentian field now-a-days, as they cannot depend upon fossils in regard to the structure, they ought to be accustomed to the microscope, and be assisted by chemical analysis and microscopical work as they go on. Otherwise, the work is apt to be misleading and erroneous.

Q. Have you ever made any reports to the Geological Department concerning British Columbia?—No.

Q. So that all the information you obtained out there is your private and personal property?—Quite so, and the same in Nova Scotia and the Province of Quebec.

Q. To what reason do you yourself mainly attribute your so-called dismissal?—I cannot give any definite reason for it. I would like to submit to the Committee a very interesting article by Mr. S. F. Emmons, of the United States Geological Survey, which has been published in the tenth volume of the transactions of the American Institute of Mining Engineers. The title of it is "The Mining Work of the United States Geological Survey." It speaks of the division of the country into areas, with local centres, under the charge of assistant geologists, and then he speaks of the Survey work now in two branches—one general geology, and the other mining geology—which will independently and mutually assist each other and that in each division there should be a distinct corps in each of these branches. Mr. Emmons, in the course of this article speaks as follows: 'In earlier Government surveys, which were topographical reconnaissances in a practically unknown region, geology occupied a secondary and unimportant position. With the Fortieth Parallel Survey, inaugurated in 1867, and its successors, the Hayden Powell, and Wheeler Surveys, geology became an essential object of the work but owing to the want of already existing maps, topography necessarily absorbed a large portion of their labour and funds. Even these, however, were rather of the nature of geological reconnaissances than of surveys properly so called—the conditions of the work demanding that a given superficial area should be covered each year, without allowing time for complete and thorough investigation of any particular class of phenomena, or series of deposits. Their labours had, nevertheless, furnished an adequate knowledge of the general geology of the great Cordilleran system in the United States, as well as general topographical maps of an area sufficient to serve as a basis for more accurate and detailed studies, which might occupy, for a number of years to come, all the force which could be employed with the funds Congress would probably be willing to appropriate. Therefore, instead of continuing the reconnaissance work over the remaining unexplored area, it was decided to make detailed monographs of particular districts in the region thus partially known, for the purpose of illustrating geological phenomena of special interest, and thus giving time for