

staff and of various explorers from the other departments have been carried on for nearly fifty years, as well as of hundreds of private parties, will cease to be matter for astonishment when we consider the enormous extent of our territory and the limited force available to carry on such work. Even in the older provinces of Quebec and Ontario, where these operations have been carried on most continuously, the great succession of mountain country to the north of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa, constituting the height of land between these rivers and those of Hudson and James Bays, is to a large extent comparatively unknown. True, sections have been made across this country here and there along the various water courses but these only afford us a knowledge of our mineral wealth over limited areas. Exploration under such conditions is necessarily slow and great areas must remain practically unknown until greater facilities of transport are presented, an instance of which is presented in the discovery of the mining district of Sudbury, within a short distance of Ottawa, a discovery due to the opening up of the country by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and in Quebec also in the discovery of the asbestos mines of the eastern townships, in a section opened up by the passage of the Quebec Central Railway, the localities in both cases being practically inaccessible prior to the building of these roads. It is not yet twenty years since the importance of the phosphate mines of the Buckingham district was ascertained. When such wonderful stores of mineral wealth at our very doors have so recently been brought to light, who can say what further enormous developments may be looked for in the extension of those mineral bearing rocks which have so enormous a development in our country, and which owing very often to present difficulty of access are entirely unknown. Thus if we contemplate the situation ever so briefly we find before us a problem pertaining to the development of our country and its mineral wealth which requires clear heads for its inception and brave hearts and strong hands for its successful accomplishment. In the elucidation of this problem it is needless to say the staff of the Geological Survey, in making known to the world at large the mineral and agricultural resources of our land, has performed and must continue to perform no unimportant part. With the utmost cheerfulness, in the simple discharge of their duty, the members of that