

Q. But do you receive any specific instructions as to the work upon which you are going, signed by the Director?—No.

Q. Do you not receive any instructions from the Director himself?—No.

Q. Do you receive them signed by the Accountant?—No; these are signed by the Director, and relate to departmental matters.

Q. But nothing about scientific matters?—No.

Q. Do you mean to say that you never receive any general instructions as to the nature of the work you are going upon, from the Director?—Only verbal instructions.

Q. Did you ever receive any instructions like this: "To leave Ottawa on such and such a date and investigate a certain locality." Do you receive any instructions of that nature?—No.

Q. So that you start out to paddle your own canoe, as it were?—Yes.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. You are practically a Director yourself the moment you leave Ottawa?—Yes; the Director should have an intelligent understanding as to what sort of information you were to get in the field.

*By Mr. Baker :*

Q. Am I to infer that the absence of these instructions is any detriment to the work? In my opinion it is a detriment to the work. I think that most of the men feel the want of some instructions. It is not a case of having too many instructions and not obeying them, but of not having any to obey.

Q. Then, if you had the instructions and were to disobey them, the onus would rest on you?—Yes.

Q. At present the onus cannot be placed anywhere?—No.

"GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY,

" OTTAWA, 20th March 1881.

"DEAR SIR,—A question having been put to me while giving evidence before the Geological Survey Committee, as to whether the Survey had reported against the probability of the occurrence of coal in the Rocky Mountains west of Calgary, where the Cascade River anthracite basin has lately been discovered, I replied that I believed no such statement or report had been made.

"The district particularly referred to, was actually examined for the first time last autumn, and no report on it has yet been printed. Any allusion to the occurrence or otherwise, of coal, must therefore, have been incidental merely. I have, however, searched the published reports of the Survey and can find no mention whatever of the district in question, except one of a general character, in my preliminary report on the Bow and Belly Rivers districts, published in May, 1882, where the following observation occurs :—

"The most interesting feature of these explorations was the discovery that in the region of the Crows' Nest Pass, wide valleys based on cretaceous rocks occur west of the first range, formed of palæozoic limestones, and that, in these cretaceous rocks, an important intercalation of volcanic material appears. *It is possible that in some of these now isolated troughs of cretaceous rocks coal beds may yet be found, in the heart of the range.* The existence of a seam was indeed reported about twenty miles west of the summit of the Crows' Nest Pass, but I was unable to read the locality.' (p. 2).

The words italicised in the above quotation have since been found out by the discovery on Cascade River and by other discoveries of a similiar kind in the southern part of the range.

"I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

" GEORGE M. DAWSON.

" ROBERT N. HALL, Esq., M.P.,

" Chairman Select Committee on Geological Surveys."