

OBITUARY.

On May 23rd, 1911, Dr. Robert Wheelock Ells passed away at his home in this city, after a week's illness. In his death Canada loses one of her best known and ablest scientists, and the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club one of its most prominent members. Although failing health prevented his taking an active part in the Club's work for the past few years, he formerly gave it hearty support both in the lecture course and in the field excursions.

"The late Dr. Ells was descended from U.E.L. ancestors who came to Nova Scotia in 1761. He was born at Cornwallis, N.S., in 1845 and was educated at Horten Academy, at Acadia University and at McGill University from which he graduated in 1872 with first class honors and Logan gold medal in Geology and Natural History. He married in 1873, Miss Harriet N. Stevens, of Onslow, N.S. Joining the staff of the Canadian Geological Survey in 1872, he has since been constantly engaged in geological work in that branch of the service."

Dr. Ells was a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a fellow of the Geological Society of America, and a member of the Canadian Mining Institute. He was president of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club for three successive years, beginning in 1898, and also president of the Literary and Scientific Society. Dr. Ells had also been president of the Ottawa Valley Graduates' Society of McGill University, and for a number of years past had held the position of representative fellow for the Province of Ontario on the corporation of McGill University. He has written many official reports on the geology and mineral resources of Canada, embracing almost every province from Nova Scotia to British Columbia. These reports were published by the Geological Survey of Canada, and were usually accompanied by illustrative maps, the surveys and data for their compilation being largely made and collected by himself.

In addition, he has written various papers on geology and kindred subjects which have appeared in THE OTTAWA NATURALIST, the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada and other scientific publications. "He was perhaps best known in recent years for his work in connection with the problem of the utilization of the Oil Shales of Eastern Canada. It was indeed largely through his efforts that attention was first called to the great value of these deposits and his memoir published in 1910 is the standard work on this subject."

Personally, Dr. Ells was highly esteemed by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance; he was a true friend and his kindly genial presence will be much missed by all his associates.

W. J. W.