

employ Canadians, other things being equal. Young Canadians are every bit as good, but not better, and of course if you bring young Englishmen out here they will not be so well posted with regard to the country as Canadians.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, OTTAWA, 1st April, 1884.

The Select Committee on Geological Surveys met this morning, Mr. HALL in the Chair. Alfred R. C. Selwyn, LL.D., F.R.S., of Ottawa, Director of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, re-appeared before the Committee and was again examined.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Since you were before the Committee, Mr. Torrance has completed and submitted to you his work for the last year in the Valley of the Ottawa, has he not?—Yes.

Q. What is your impression about the report, from the little you have been able to examine it?—I received it on the 28th of March. From what I have been able to examine of it, I consider that it is a good and useful report.

Q. It is in reference to the phosphates of the Ottawa Valley?—Yes. It is a report of fifty-nine pages.

*By Mr. Holton :*

Q. How many months' work does this report cover?—The instructions were given to Mr. Torrance on the 17th day of May, 1883, and this report was handed to me on the 28th of March. There is a map referred to, which does not accompany it, Mr. Torrance explaining that it was not quite ready.

Q. It is virtually Mr. Torrance's work of the year?—Yes.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. What action is taken by the Department in reference to a report of this kind, when it is presented?—It is submitted to me; I carefully read it and decide as to its fitness for publication—that is, whether it is fit for publication or desirable to publish *in extenso*. In every case where it is not published, an abstract is made of it, and is published in my preliminary report, the author's name being mentioned.

Q. Has this been the procedure with all the reports that have been submitted to you since your connection with the Survey?—Yes.

Q. Every report that has been submitted to you has been examined and either appears *in extenso* or an abstract made of it in your Report of Progress?—Yes; I go through them all and make corrections and suggestions.

Q. In the natural course of procedure, when would this report of Mr. Torrance's be given to the public?—Owing to the late date at which the reports are sent in, usually, there is not time to publish them—that is, to print them and correct the proofs—the same spring, and therefore they stand over until the following spring.

Q. So that the work, for instance, which was done by Mr. Torrance in the summer of 1883 will not be given to the public until 1885?—The spring of 1885 or the winter of 1884.

Q. Do you not consider that a change ought to be made in that respect, and if these reports are valuable, that the public should get some benefit from them without so long a delay?—I think it is often desirable, and moreover, it has been done in several instances. Dr. George Dawson's report on the coal of the North-West, which was considered of immediate value, and was published at once, is an instance of this. I think in many cases it would be desirable to do so; and in fact it has been the custom, and has been done repeatedly.

Q. You mean that they have been published in anticipation of the regular report of the year?—Yes.

Q. How many instances of that kind have there been?—I could hardly tell, but there have been several. Another report of Dr. George Dawson's, on the mines and minerals of economic value in British Columbia, was also published immediately.