

Q. Speaking generally, are the relations between the Director and his staff friendly or otherwise?—At the present time they are decidedly otherwise than friendly; in fact, bitter feeling exists between him and almost every member of the staff.

*By Mr. Baker :*

Q. When were you first appointed?—My appointment dates from the 21st of May, 1883.

Q. And at that time were you given to understand that your employment was distinctly of a temporary nature?—Not at all. Dr. Selwyn spoke, at that time, of continuing my explorations four or five years, before any definite results could be expected.

Q. Did you receive from the Government or from the Department your regular appointment?—Not at all; I was paid out of the general field exploration fund.

Q. Did you receive your instructions in writing, previous to going on this exploration?—No; everything has been verbal and also contradictory.

Q. Were you paid the same rate of remuneration as gentlemen of your training and position usually demand, or in keeping, at all events, with what other officers received when doing similar work?—Yes, Sir; not quite to be compared with the American pay, but it was the same as the others on the Survey.

Q. Were you regularly dismissed by Dr. Selwyn by letter?—Oh, no; the season was getting too much broken, and I came to report myself at the office.

Q. Was it at that time that Dr. Selwyn led you to believe that your usefulness was gone?—Oh, no; it was not until the middle of December. On my return from the field he received me very friendly, but before many months it was a sort of chaff with those around me that I was to be the next victim, but it was some time before it dawned upon me that he wanted me to leave.

Q. You were, so to speak, his pet aversion for a time?—Yes; when I first joined the staff I was looked upon as a favourite of his, and much to be envied by every gentleman who had been on the staff for a long term of years, but when I came back they did not envy me so much.

Q. At the present moment, are you supposed to be receiving pay?—No; my pay ceased at the end of February.

Q. Then you had a formal notice?—At the end of January. I accepted the notice and proceeded to look for work elsewhere, and on the 31st January I wrote the following letter:—

“OTTAWA, 31st January, 1884.

“Dr. A. R. C. SELWYN, LL.D., F.R.S.,

“Director of the Survey.

“Sir,—Your letter of yesterday's date only reached me this afternoon. Its contents are duly noted. Accept my thanks for leaving me no longer in uncertainty as to your intentions towards me. As I am engaged by the month, I must leave the service by the end of February, but perhaps you will kindly grant me leave of absence after my report is finished, to enable me the better to seek for other employment.

“I am grateful to you for the friendly intentions with which you invited me to join your staff last spring. As events have transpired, I am sorry I did not absolutely decline your kind offer. The results have realized my worst anticipations.

“I went into the field without much experience and no suitable assistant. Since my return, the worst construction has been put upon my every action. Whenever I write a letter it is supposed (without enquiry) to be on private business, &c., &c., but I am not going to try to justify myself.

“And I would be very sorry to write anything to still farther embitter our relationship. It really pains me to think that we cannot, when our official relations are abandoned, resume the former friendly relations, which I value very much.

“Again thanking you for your prompt reply,

“I am, yours obediently,

“J. FRASER TORRANCE.”