

Mackenzie River and traversing the hitherto unknown area between that river and the Pacific Ocean. As the result we know very accurately the botany, the natural history and to a large extent the general distribution of the several geological formations which there occur. We now have ascertained the welcome fact that in acquiring the North-West Territories we have become possessors of millions of acres of the choicest soil, adapted to the raising of the finest cereals, while its mineral wealth is widely distributed and practically inexhaustible, as we can witness in the great coal seams of the eastern Rocky Mountain slopes in which larger and even more important seams have recently been discovered, which will furnish a supply of the most excellent fuel, sufficient for the wants of the country for thousands of years. Consider also the wonderful extent of the great petroleum basin of the Athabasca River district where, for many miles the sands and gravel are cemented by thickened oil, and present a succession of black cliffs along the course of that stream, with indications which point to this area as probably, in the near future, likely to become one of the greatest oil producing districts in the world. Consider also the rich silver mines in the western section of the Rocky Mountain chain, along the McCallawa, and more recently the great developments of the Kootenay district and vicinity which bid fair to rival the great Comstock deposits south of the boundary, with the great deposits of salt, the rich areas of placer gold, and the great masses of iron ore, concerning the existence and importance of all which but little was known prior to the labours of the Geological Survey fifteen years ago, and in some cases even at a much later date.

You will remember two years ago, in a lecture before this club by Dr. G. M. Dawson on "the unexplored areas of Canada," the fact was pointed out that there yet existed in our Dominion, at least one million of square miles of which it may be said we know practically nothing. While this is true, it may also be said of many other hundreds of thousands of square miles, that our information has been obtained only by traverses along river courses or lakes, and that the great resources of these portions must as yet of necessity be practically unknown. But such a lack of information about so much of our Dominion in spite of the fact that the labours of the Geological Survey