

INTRODUCTION.

Dr. W. Bell Dawson, F.R.S.C., found amongst the papers of his late father, a manuscript letter, dated 1872, from Rev. Dr. Silas T. Rand, who spent over forty years, from 1849 till his death in 1890 as a Baptist missionary amongst the Micmacs of the Maritime Provinces.

His letter to Dr. (later Sir J.W.) Dawson, principal of McGill University, enclosed two lists, including together about 500 Micmac place names, with their meanings, which Dr. Rand had recorded in the course of his work.

This find was handed to the undersigned as a member of the Geographic Board of Canada, who, in submitting the manuscript to the Board, volunteered to arrange the lists alphabetically and index them for readier reference, especially as they bore marks of hurried work, including some repetitions.

After beginning the work it was found that many of the names had already appeared in the English-Micmac and Micmac-English dictionaries of Dr. Rand, but these, scattered through the two books, were absolutely buried so as to be practically unavailable for geographic purposes. It was ultimately considered best to consolidate all of Dr. Rand's place names in one list for comparison and ready reference, and to provide an index to the Indian meanings as well as to the English names. After the first compilation had been made, a very good list was found in Rand's "First Reading Book in the Micmac language" published in 1875, and the substance of this list, specially rich in meanings, has also been embodied in the completed work. It agrees closely with the English portion of the dictionary, which, however, gives no meanings.

This compilation is now submitted to the Geographic Board: the names show endless variations of form, which the compiler has not attempted to reconcile; indeed Dr. Rand and Mr. Clark, the editor of his Micmac-English dictionary, have both referred to the impossibility of securing uniformity in a language of many dialectic variations, with