

the exhibition of all the specimens of minerals, rocks, and fossils, necessary for the complete illustration of the mineralogy and the geology of those provinces; and no space whatever now remains to exhibit any of the specimens, from the other provinces, which are annually being added to the collection, in large numbers, but which have to be packed in boxes, and stored away, instead of being utilized to illustrate the published reports of the explorers, and the mineral resources of the country.

SCHOOL OF MINES.

Suggestions for the establishment of a School of Mines, in connection with the Geological Survey, have recently been submitted for the consideration of the Government, which, if carried out, would involve obtaining suitable accommodation. It has been proposed to effect this by erecting a three-story brick building, sixty feet by forty feet, on the ground in rear of the Museum. By such an addition to the premises, a two-fold purpose might probably be achieved at a comparatively small expense, viz: securing the accommodation required for the School of Mines, and likewise additional space for museum purposes, sufficient to exhibit collections illustrating the geology of those parts of the Dominion, which, under existing circumstances, can be only very inadequately represented.

MINERAL STATISTICS.

In view of the importance and usefulness of mining records, and of complete and accurate statistics of mineral produce, it is thought desirable to endeavour, in future, to publish yearly, with the reports of the Geological Survey, a return of the mineral production of the Dominion. With this object in view, the annexed circular and blank form have been issued, and copies of it have been sent to all persons who, it has been ascertained, are actively engaged in mining, or in raising or manufacturing mineral products, and whose addresses were known. In circulating the printed form, either personal or written application has, in most cases, also been made to have the information asked for under the respective heads, given in as complete a form as possible, and the object of the enquiry has, at the same time, been more fully explained. No great success can be expected at first, neither is it likely that the replies received will be of such a nature as to afford the requisite material for the compilation of as complete a statistical return as could be desired. The precise object of the enquiry will have to be familiarized, and its public utility more generally understood and appreciated. On the whole, however, the results already obtained, are very encouraging, and I have no doubt that by degrees a large amount of valuable information relating to the mineral produce of the Dominion, will be collected.

Mr. Edward Hartley has issued ninety-seven circulars, with explanatory letters. Eleven only of these have been returned filled up, in most cases very satisfactorily. He has also received fifteen letters, acknowledging the circular, and promising to return the form filled in with the information asked for. 200 copies of the circulars have been sent to the Honorable Robert Robertson, Commissioner of Mines and Public Works in Nova Scotia, who has kindly promised his assistance in distributing them there, and undertakes to see that they are put in the hands of every person engaged in mining, connected with his department, who would be likely to make any use of them.

Professor R. Bell has sent 169 circulars to eighty-four persons in Ontario and Quebec, some of whom have undertaken to distribute the duplicates sent to them to mine-owners in their respective districts, whose addresses were not known at the Geological Survey Office. Of these only, fifteen have as yet been returned; they are filled up very satisfactorily. Twenty more have been acknowledged, and the information promised. Sectional drawings of two mines have been sent with the returns, shewing the nature of the deposit and the extent of the working.

The scheme, so far, appears to meet with general approval, and no one to whom application has been made, has declined to give the desired information.

(Signed,)

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Director of the Geological Survey.