

My hearers may be surprised, but I am correct in stating that we made a far better exhibition of our Natural History in England than we do in any part of Canada, and it is a standing reproach to us that we have never yet had anything approaching to a complete representation, and more still, we have never had a place to put such a collection in if we had made it. It is altogether different in the United States. As that country has developed museums have been established, specialists appointed to take charge of the various branches, and to-day they have a staff of specialists second to none in the world, ready to tackle any subject of importance to the country.

A few years since the report got abroad that the fisheries along the American coast of the Atlantic were giving out. At once a commission was appointed and in the course of a few years reports were published giving every detail of the work, and not only reporting on the various species of fish but on their food likewise. The results of these investigations are placed in the National Museum at Washington. The raising of cattle on the "great plains" becomes a business of national importance, and a specialist to study the pasture grasses and a chemist are appointed and attached to the Bureau of Agriculture at Washington. Various diseases attack the growing crops, insects commit ravages, and in every case men are set to work to investigate, collect and classify; bulky volumes are published and the knowledge spread broadcast over the land, while the objects themselves are placed in museums for the instruction of the people. My work has caused me to come in contact with these specialists, and through them I have learned the value of these stores of Natural History and other objects which are being gathered together at Washington. It is painful to confess that all our best specimens, whether mineral, animal or archaeological, are going to Washington, and the apathy of our people is such that I see no help for it.

I have learned the value of these collections, and my English visit has been so convincing that I consider silence concerning our position a virtue no longer, and take the present occasion of laying our case before an Ottawa audience in the hope that we may arouse attention to a question that is truly a national one. After much opposition the headquarters of the Geological Survey were removed from Montreal