

Geological Report. On October the 24th. the boring reached a depth of 1,011 feet and Mr. Fraser reported this year, that he succeeded in getting down to 12,000 feet. He has some difficulties there on account of shale and some other matters, but he hopes during the present month to get to the contract depth, and this money is to enable them to go to 15,000 feet in the event of our not striking oil at 12,000 feet. We have expended the greater portion of the money in material and freight, and it would be lost if we did not get 300 feet below the contract depth. In the event of oil not being struck at Athabasca, Mr. Fraser will remove in July to Pelican Lake where the tar sands are visible to the naked eye, and where according to the report of Mr. McConnell in 1890, it is expected oil will be struck at 700 feet. Dr. Dawson's report says :

It appears to be most important that the investigation of the petroleum fields of Athabasca and Northern Alberta, thus begun during the past summer, should be continued until the main features at least of the character and value of these fields shall have been determined.

We expect to have the boring at Athabasca and Pelican Lake finished before September.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). What explorations are intended for 1895-96? and what parties have been entrusted with the work?

Mr. DALY. The explorations this year will be confined to the fields which have been covered by the ordinary officers of the department during these last few years. Mr. McConnell will continue his work in the Kootenay district, Dr. Bell is going up to the Temiscamingue and Mr. Fletcher and others employed in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, will continue their work. The other officers of the department will be employed in Ontario in completing the sheets of the Geological maps that have been under survey during the last few years. There is no extraordinary work being undertaken, in view of the fact that my estimates have been materially reduced. We are doing only the necessary work in the different provinces to complete the work which the department has undertaken during the last eight or ten years.

Mr. PATERSON (Brant). Will Mr. Tyrrell not be doing anything further in the unexplored territory?

Mr. DALY. No. He is to complete some work which he started several years ago east of Lake Winnipeg. There will be no further exploration outside of the bounds of civilization.

#### Miscellaneous—

To meet balance of expense incurred in connection with the Colonial Conference held in Ottawa in June and July, 1894 .....\$4,443 32

To remunerate the following officers for services in connection with the Colonial Conference, notwithstanding anything in the Civil Service Act to the contrary:—J. L. Payne, joint

secretary, \$200; Douglas Stewart, joint secretary, \$200; John Carleton, messenger, \$100..... 500 00

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. What was the total expense of the conference?

Mr. FOSTER. About \$14,000.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. I think the hon. gentleman must give a little more explanation of this vote.

Mr. FOSTER. The amount asked for here is for travel from Vancouver to Ottawa, sleeping-car accommodation, dining-car accommodation, a slight stop at Glacier House, Mount Stephen House and the Banff Springs Hotel, more dining-car accommodation, the Hotel Manitoba at Winnipeg, tickets from Ottawa to Toronto.

Mr. McMULLEN. I would like to know why the Government asks us to consent to these extra payments to J. L. Payne, Douglas Stewart and John Carleton? I notice that these men are already well paid. Mr. Payne gets \$1,750 a year, and Mr. Stewart \$2,800 a year.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. He did not get that then. At that time he was Sir John Thompson's private secretary.

Mr. McMULLEN. In the Civil Service List he is set down as receiving \$2,200 and \$600 as private secretary.

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. No, he got \$2,400 altogether as private secretary.

Mr. McMULLEN. Well, \$2,400 is a very good salary, without asking the country to vote more. I notice that the names of these two men appear every year as subjects of special votes, in violation of the Civil Service Act, and I would like to know why it is.

Mr. FOSTER. There is no vote in violation of the Civil Service Act. These two gentlemen were secretaries to the Colonial Conference. It was a very important conference, and there was a great deal of work in connection with it. These gentlemen not only kept a record of the proceedings of the conference, and superintended the printing of the report, but for a considerable length of time they were at work night and day and carried on a large correspondence in connection with it. They also made preparations for the different entertainments and festivities which it was thought Canada should give in honour of the visiting delegates, and they had charge of some of the excursions which were taken by the delegates to the different cities of the Dominion. It is usual in cases of this kind to recognize the services of the secretaries in some slight way. As we have not titles to give them, we ask Parliament to vote them this small sum.

Mr. McMULLEN. I wish to correct the Minister of Justice. He said the salary received by Mr. Stewart was \$2,400. I find by the Auditor General's Report that Doug-