

REPORT

ON THE

**Humber Valley and Central Carboniferous Area of the Island,
by James P. Howley, F.G.S., for the years 1891 and 1892.**

Geological Survey of Newfoundland.

March 31st, 1892.

Honourable Surveyor General,—

SIR, —I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Geological Survey during the season of 1891.

Acting upon a suggestion contained in the report for the preceding year, with reference to the possible existence of valuable coal deposits in the central Carboniferous area of the island, the Government were pleased to direct that a more minute investigation of this region be undertaken. Accordingly, as soon as the necessary preparations for the season's work could be completed, our party started for the Bay of Islands, embarked at Humber Arm, and proceeded up the Humber River in a boat and canoes; our objective point being the Grand Lake valley, or southern branch of the Humber River. As a considerable delay had necessarily to be incurred in getting all the season's provisions, boats, camp gear, &c., over the Grand Lake portage to the latter lake—a distance of about eight miles—I availed of the delay to make a flying journey up the main Humber toward White Bay, in order to investigate a rumour relative to the existence of coal in that direction. In the meantime, Mr. Bayly had instructions to proceed to the Grand Lake, and when everything was so arranged, to store our provisions in huts—one at the outlet of the Humber River, and one at the mouth of the inflowing Sand Bay River—so as to have them convenient for use while working around the shores of the lake. This being accomplished, he was further instructed to sink a series of pits along the north shore of the lake, at points indicated, where it was hoped the underlying bed rock might be reached, and a clue to the structure thereby obtained; with that result will appear later. Taking along with me two Indians and a single canoe, I continued up the Main River, investigating the strata as I went, whenever