

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

The subject upon which I am asked to report is the Military Survey of the Dominion of Canada. The term "military" is, however, here a misnomer, and its employment in this connection is liable to lead to misunderstanding. A survey adequate for military purposes is, at the same time, one that is serviceable for all purposes for which maps are required. There is no essential distinction between the map necessary for the staff of an army in the field and that demanded for land administration or engineering requirements.

The use of the term "military survey" tends, furthermore, to foster the idea of a survey made for a special purpose and of a restricted usefulness, whereas, I hope to show in the course of this report, the only satisfactory and economical procedure is to plan the survey of a country on such comprehensive lines that the resulting maps will be of value for all purposes for which accurate knowledge of the features of the ground is required. I have accordingly erased the word "military" from the title.

The report divides itself into three sections. In the first, the value of good maps of a country and the general nature of such maps are discussed; in the second, the existing survey work in Canada is summarized, and its inadequacy to meet the growing requirements of the country indicated; in the third, the main lines upon which the systematic survey of the Dominion should be undertaken are laid down. To complete the report appendices are added, wherein the technical details of the survey work and estimates of the initial and annual cost of an efficient survey department are given.

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