

that I had been engaged upon during the past season. I spoke to Dr. Selwyn about it, who even went so far as to nominate the assistant who should carry out the scheme, who was to be Mr. Coste. Dr. Geo. Dawson was also present at the conversation and seemed to agree with the scheme. This correspondence shows that the views of some people have changed considerably. I told Dr. Selwyn, at that time, that I did not think I was well qualified for work as a field geologist, that I had not the necessary training, and that it was not very congenial to me. He said that he did not want me to work as a field geologist, but for me to go into the field and collect the facts, and he would attend to the field geology in the office.

Q. An impression prevails that there is a meagre result from the large expenditure of over \$90,000 per annum, in connection with the Geological Survey, and the object of this Committee is to ascertain if that impression is correct, and if it be correct, whether or not the defects in the Survey result from the system under which it is managed or its administration under that system?—The expenditure is certainly very large for the results accomplished, if they are shown by the published volume of the last few years, but a great deal of very valuable work has been done on the Survey which does not appear in the volume at all. There has been a great deal of work done by Mr. Webster in the Eastern Townships, and there are maps in the office showing the careful way in which he has made his surveys. Dr. Selwyn, in the preface to the report of 1880-81-82, devotes a considerable amount of space, which he reserved in quoting from Mr. Webster's report. From the quotations he furnishes, it is very evident that the whole of the report has been of great value. In the notice of the geology of the south-eastern portion of the Province of Quebec (A and following pages), he refers to some remarks of Mr. Webster's, and he goes on with that quotation of Mr. Webster's for two or three pages, as to the gold of that region. The economic portion of it was entirely furnished by Mr. Webster. The work of Mr. Fletcher has been entirely overlooked in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton, although that region is rapidly growing in importance, as to its mining resources. Large quantities of American capital, I am informed, are constantly going into that country.

Q. When was the work done there by Mr. Fletcher?—He has been engaged in that region for a number of years. Of course, all this work has been paid for out of that appropriation, and if it were known to the public, they might consider that the appropriation was not wasted. Mr. Vennor's work, for four years, has never been published; in fact, I do not think the report was handed in to the Director.

Q. Was that the fault of the system, or of Mr. Vennor himself?—I am not aware. I merely refer to the fact that no report is available for four years.

Q. So that it is actually lost to the public?—Yes.

Q. Are there defects in the system under which the Survey is managed?—I cannot speak on that point, because I am not aware of any system. No rules are laid down by Dr. Selwyn for his own guidance, or for that of his assistants.

Q. Lack of system, rather than anything else?—Yes. I know that the instructions he has issued to me and others, have been absolutely contradictory to instructions given previously, so that it does not seem to me that there is any system in the matter. It is a government of caprice.

Q. Is the administration satisfactory. By that, of course, I refer to the personal supervision by the Director; the instructions that he gives, and his personal relations with the staff?—The administration appears to me to be very unsatisfactory. Dr. Selwyn will, for a week, appear to devote his entire energies to watching the work of one particular member of the staff, and then perhaps let months pass without saying a word to him, and concentrate his attention upon somebody else. The results are very unfortunate. I am aware that Dr. Selwyn has a difficulty in distinguishing between the junior members of the staff, although they have been there for several years. He does not know whether they are working with Dr. Bell, Dr. Dawson, Mr. Ellis or Mr. Fletcher, so that it is not easy to supervise the work, when he is not aware of the work they are supposed to be doing.