

was to decline. I had not been a professional teacher, and, in my pursuit of science, had naturally allowed much of my elementary education to fall into desuetude, at least in so far as technical education was concerned. I was also busy in working up the local geology, and in preparing papers thereon, for the Geological Society of London; and I was beginning, by work at Arisaig and in the southern part of Pictou county, to extend my observations to the formations older than the carboniferous. The office also was likely to be very laborious, and might meet with many of the difficulties incident to the introduction of new and untried methods.

Howe, however, would take no refusal, and among other things suggested that, as the office was in the first instance to be one of visitation and inquiry, it would give unusual opportunities for becoming acquainted with all parts of the province, as well as with local collectors and students. It was proposed by the new law to introduce the teaching of agriculture into the higher schools, and it would therefore be proper for the superintendent to interest himself in all questions relating to soils and other matters of importance in scientific agricul-