

the Cretaceous, with the finest opportunities for the study of the more recent geological phenomena, such as pertain to the glacial and post glacial times. Here we have the broad areas of the Silurian lying against the buttresses of the old Laurentian hills in as horizontal a position as when first deposited, and there we have the same series of rocks, folded and twisted, overturned and faulted, and metamorphosed to such an extent that all traces of their early and original character have apparently departed. Wonderful displays of the enormous foldings to which the earth's crust has been subjected are visible in the Rocky Mountain uplift on the west, and in the fractured and crumpled character of the rocks in the sections east of the St. Lawrence with their tangled complex of strata of widely separated horizons.

To attempt to give even an outline of the work of the Survey during the past twenty years would require a far longer time than we have at our disposal this evening, and we can but point out some of the most prominent points in the policy of exploration which have been pursued. Prior to the admission of the North-West Territory into the Dominion we were practically destitute of any knowledge of that great country. What information we possessed was derived from the travels and explorations, principally, of the Palliser-Hector expedition of thirty-five years ago, from the Hind Saskatchewan expedition of the same date, as well as from the journals of Hudson Bay Factors and the story of search parties in the quest after Franklin. At best it was sufficiently meagre. Its great wealth of soil and minerals was almost entirely unknown, and the general consensus of opinion appeared to be that the greater part of the immense plain country, bounded by a sea of mountains on the west, and with its great inland seas and streams, navigable for many hundreds of miles, as fitted only for the support of the Indian, the buffalo and the fur bearing animals, and likely to be of but little prospective importance to the white settler. Directly following its incorporation into the Dominion, exploratory parties were fitted out by the Geological Survey which traversed the great plains, the passes of the Rockies, the country of the Peace River, and the Saskatchewan. Year after year has this policy been carried on till now these scientific explorations, geological and botanical, have explored a very large area indeed, reaching northward nearly to the mouth of the