

might see at once that you were wrong, and might correct them, but I do not think he should override the opinions expressed or the deductions arrived at by the subordinates.

Q. Then, it is not so much a matter of what is done as the way in which it is done—I mean, as regards these alterations?—None whatever; that is the point I wish to make.

Q. It is really a matter of fact?—I do not think that reports should relate very much to matters of theory.

*By Mr. Dawson :*

Q. They have run too much in theory hitherto?—Yes; I think so.

Q. With regard to Mr. Richardson, is it not just possible that a man, although he is not very much of a literary man, might he not, at the same time, be a thorough and good geologist?—Mr. Richardson was such; as Sir William Logan states, in his report on the geology of Canada, in 1863, he required assistance to put his observations into proper shape.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. I notice in the reports a few years ago, some reference to the intention of the Director to have a catalogue published of the Library and Museum. Will you state if any such catalogue has been published?—None; year after year the same statement is made that the catalogue is being prepared, of the Library in particular, and the latest reference to it, I think, is in the last report. On page 11 of this report the Director states: In September, Mr. A. B. Perry, graduate of Kingston Military College, was temporarily appointed for three months as acting Librarian, and during that time he arranged, labelled and numbered nearly all the books in the Library, and made very considerable progress in the preparation of the catalogue." A statement, almost precisely the same, is contained in the report of 1873-74, page 5, and ten years elapse and still no catalogue. The same remark applies to the catalogue of the fossils and minerals of the Museum, which is a much more important matter. I think a catalogue has been begun, but I do not know how far it is advanced.

Q. It has not been published?—No; there are a great many complaints; the Library contains 4,500 volumes, and it is very difficult, for even the men in the office, to tell what books are there.

*By Mr. Dawson :*

Q. And do you take the books out of the Library?—Yes; we can take them out, by giving a receipt for them.

*By Mr. Baker :*

Q. Members of the staff?—Yes.

Q. But not outsiders?—I think not.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. I notice a somewhat similar promise, made as long ago as 1870-71, that it was the intention to report upon the mineral statistics of the country. Has that promise been kept?—No; no mineral statistics have been prepared since 1872-73. I assisted Mr. Robb in tabulating them. Of course, in the course of these reports, there are statistics to be found with reference to the industries in certain regions to which the report of the officers refer; for instance, about the coal mines of Cape Breton, in 1874-75.

Q. I would like to ask you a few questions with reference to the administration of the Department, and first, in reference to the vacillation in management or direction; there has been some complaint on that score, that is, of contradictory instructions given, not only to the same man, but to different persons, in reference the same field of work?—When we go out to the field every year, we receive from the Accountant a copy of instructions, printed off by a lithogram—I suppose the same copy of general instructions would be given to every man—but they do not carry much weight, because, I think, they are seldom followed. Instructions this year may differ from those next year, perhaps.

Q. But do they differ in the spirit of being contradictory?—I can give you an instance of that. In Sir William Logan's time, the members of the staff were