

it seems a fitting example to encourage an effort of similar co-operation among the nations of the North American continent.

NOTE.—Since this paper was read, the Government of Mexico has announced, through the Secretary of the Interior, its readiness to undertake its part of the work here proposed.

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*To His Excellency the Governor in Council, etc.:*

The Royal Society of Canada has the honor to bring to the notice of Your Excellency a proposal by Dr. Pritchett, Superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, to measure an arc along the 98th meridian from Acapulco, Mexico, to the shore of the Arctic Sea in Canada. Dr. Pritchett's views are explained in a paper read by him at the last meeting of the Society. A copy of this paper, with explanatory maps, is appended.

The measurement of the 98th meridian has been in progress for some time as part of the general survey of the United States. The object of Dr. Pritchett in urging its extension through Canada and Mexico is to provide data for the determination of the figure and dimensions of the earth and while from this point of view the work would be purely scientific, the Canadian portion of it would also be of great practical utility in forming the basis of a thorough geographical survey for this Dominion.

While it is true that the promotion of science is mainly due to a few of the most advanced and wealthy nations and that these nations have frequently sent expeditions, or established stations abroad when information had to be obtained in semi-civilized or wild and uninhabited countries, it is also a fact that the least favored of the civilized nations have not unfrequently assumed the task of assisting science to the extent of collecting data obtainable within their own borders.

In the present instance the survey is in progress within the limits of the United States and quite recently the Government of Mexico has announced its readiness to undertake its part of the work. The successful execution of the project as a whole, therefore, now entirely depends on the co-operation of Canada. It is respectfully suggested, therefore, that a limited grant for this purpose would be regarded as a contribution to aid in the general researches of the nations of the world, while at the same time it would serve to inaugurate a very much needed work and one of great practical importance to the future of the Dominion.

Extensive triangulations have seldom been undertaken upon