

Four maps were completed during the year 1896, and eleven are expected to be finished in the present year. The Director makes a strong appeal for provincial aid to the Geological Survey in the preparation of topographical maps.

The number of visitors to the Museum for the year 1896 was 31,595, as compared with 26,785 in the previous year, a fact which, in itself, speaks very strongly of the interest felt by the public in this department.

This interest, which is rapidly increasing, must soon become too strong to allow the Geological Survey to remain longer in its present insufficient quarters.

The work of the Survey is a great one, whether we consider the actual amount of work done, its value to the country from an economic standpoint or as a contribution to science. Nor should it be appreciated less highly from the fact that all this work, much of it requiring technical skill of a high order, costs the country scarcely one hundred thousand dollars a year.

And when it is remembered, too, that this work is performed under very disadvantageous circumstances, and that the vast collections in the Museum and the records of half a century of work of inestimable importance to the country are in great and constant danger of destruction by fire, the need of better accommodation is strongly felt. It is, indeed, a poor reward to such an admirably conducted department, and betokens little regard for the important work which it performs and the public interests it subserves, that the Geological Survey has not been provided with a fire-proof Museum and offices and laboratories equipped according to modern requirements and to the needs of the country.

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