

Prof. James Hall, of Albany, N. Y. State Museum; Prof. J. K. Ward, Rochester; C. D. Cope, Philadelphia; C. D. Walcott, and many others in Washington; Dr. F. Schmidt, of St. Petersburg, Russia; and Dr. Woodward, of the British Museum, and scores of others in Germany, France, Sweden, including Baron de Geer, Herr Lundbohm, Barois de Lille, Count Marazzi, and many others who have written on this subject.

It is a matter for our politicians to tackle and at no distant date. **THE SOONER THE BETTER.** The present accommodations are not only too dangerous, but likewise too small and inadequate to meet the growing requirements of Canada. Hundreds, nay thousands, of specimens are added which help to make the series of Canadian ores and useful natural resources more complete. Explorations in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, as well as those in northern Manitoba, in British Columbia and in the remote portions of the Territories, such as the Yukon, Peace, MacKenzie, Reindeer and other river districts, have contributed, and are still contributing, a vast amount of material which give a good practical idea of the nature of the earth's crust at those points.

Canada has still vast regions of unexplored territory. The great North-West on one side of Hudson Bay; the great North-East on the other side of the same great Sea, count hundreds and thousands of square miles of unexplored country, and who can fortell what these regions may produce?

The gold of the Yukon, the tar of the Peace River, the coals of the great North-West, the iron ores of the Labrador peninsula, and in fact all the resources of remote districts are still in their infancy. The timber and agricultural capabilities of Canada are vast. They vary according to the soil and rocks from which these are derived. Canada has the **BEST WHEAT GROWING MATERIALS** in its soil of any country in the world, and that in enormous quantity.

The Geological Museum contains, besides the rocks and mineral specimens of the Dominion, a very valuable collection of Indian remains which serve to write up and illustrate the history, manners and customs of the tribes in Canada. These are unique in many respects, and additions are constantly made by the staff on the different explorations. Then the collection of plants and woods; these are very valuable indeed. It is the most perfect herbarium of Canada, and represents its flora very strikingly—from the boundary line to places within the Arctic circle. All these together with the Library of the Survey, which is fast becoming a source of valuable information for the study and development of our natural resources, the Chemical Laboratory, also the fossil specimens which illustrate the past life—both animal and vegetable on earth—the fur-bearing and other animals, birds, reptiles, etc.—all from Canada. These all, indeed, form a collection of which our young country can feel proud.

Not too much stress can be laid on the fact that specimens from **HUNDREDS OF LOCALITIES**

cannot be exhibited for want of space, and all that is exhibited runs the risk of being burned up. "The Museum is on fire," and the "building is destroyed" may any day be the cry whilst the unique collections which it has taken the staff fifty years to gather together will be forever obliterated and could not be replaced. There are type specimens of incalculable value to science. No intrinsic value can be placed on certain specimens. They serve to show the resources and history of our country, and should be placed in a commodious fire-proof building where there would be good light and offices for the staff, in which the officers would not be in danger or dread for their lives by the tumbling or caving in of the floors or walls.

The time has come for the Government of Canada to house these valuable collections properly, place them advantageously and in a fire-proof building in some spot where the general public and citizens can easily reach it. The money could not be better spent, seeing that Canada already possesses these collections, and if they are kept from destruction the annual increase and additions to them will soon make it a complete and most useful storehouse for Canada's products of the forest, land, stream, seas and rocks. A national collection would tend to increase the country's interest and cement the bond of union between the provinces, and at a glance the products of one district could be seen to be specially adapted to the products of the other, and in an harmonious whole all would tend to the upbuilding of a bright and prosperous Dominion, whose territory can safely support some 50,000,000 people. The mineral wealth of Canada is scarcely known as yet. Everything is in its infancy. We earnestly hope that this suggestion, which our mining men assembled are going to discuss, will become a reality.

### The Cape Breton Coal Syndicate.

Idleness, or very intermittent work, has prevailed at the Cape Breton mines since the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The "Old Sydney" mines have done a fair amount of shipping to Halifax and Newfoundland, but with this one exception, the mining done has been insignificant. Some of the collieries are now starting, or preparing to start, banking out coal, and in a short time this kind of work will be general. A feeling of uncertainty and speculation pervades all classes dependent on the coal trade just now, and much anxiety is expressed to know what the present situation is going to hatch out. The much talked-of syndicate has taken shape and developed with great rapidity of late, and is now accepted as a *fait accompli* in mining circles. Naturally enough it is the topic of the day, and many and various are the opinions advanced as to the good or evil that is likely to accrue from it to the general and individual interests. We think it may be truthfully stated that the impending change is viewed with complacency, and perhaps with hopeful feelings, by the laboring classes. They expect to see

things "hum" around our collieries and shipping ports, and if modern and labor-saving appliances are used to an extent hitherto unknown, the great increase that is confidently looked for in the amount of work to be done, will more than compensate for this from their point of view, and cause a considerable if not a corresponding increase in the demand for labor. A wail is raised on behalf of the poor "coaster," which, it is feared, will be "wiped out" by the introduction of barges, but the season of 1892 must have demonstrated to the owners of small schooners that coasting, as far as coal is concerned, is now a business flat, stale and unprofitable, and it will be hardly fair to lay the blame for the destruction of this as a money-making business at the doors of the new corporation.

Among the outside public the question seems to have been viewed with tolerable equanimity, and in many cases with feelings of lively satisfaction. The opposition that has been offered locally has taken a political complexion. It would be altogether unfair to say that the Conservatives as a party are opposed to it, but it is nevertheless a fact that the strongest opposition in Nova Scotia has come from two of the leading Conservative organs in the province, while *vice versa*, the syndicate has found its strongest adherent in the Halifax *Chronicle*. The reason for this is not hard to seek. Premier Fielding has got hold of a very good thing, and his friends are jubilant over it. Mr. would-be-Premier Cahan and his friends are a little envious and cross about it. The consolidation of the mines in Cape Breton (which is the only mining district in Nova Scotia affected or likely to be affected by the change) will mean a large increase in the provincial revenue. The new corporation is prepared to pay handsomely for a form of lease of longer duration and more definite in its terms than those that have hitherto been granted. Mr. Fielding, in fact, has struck a "pay streak," which should mean for him a long continuance of the power he has wielded for some years past in Nova Scotia. However this may result, there can be no doubt that this form of raising money will be far more legitimate and by far less demoralizing for all concerned, than the methods recently in vogue. A good deal has been written by the Halifax and North Sydney *Heralds* lately on the subject of this American-Canadian combine, and it appears to us that these papers have indulged to a very large extent in what is known as "begging the question," in their opposition. For instance, they have advanced as an objection, the existence of an understanding between the Boston capitalists, who are the most deeply interested parties in the new concern, and Pennsylvania coal operators. This is all pure guess-work, and is, we are given to understand, utterly untrue. It would look to us as if, so far from being a combination of New England and Pennsylvania to stifle Nova Scotian competition, it is rather a combination of New England and Nova Scotia against Pennsylvania. At least, anyone who studies for a few minutes the position of Boston and New England in regard to the coal question, would favor this conclusion.