

annually in published volumes fails to reach the general public, being by some curious reasoning apparently regarded as of more importance to scientific bodies and institutions of learning abroad than to those who are most directly interested in the development and growth of our country's mineral wealth—a condition of things which doubtless to a large extent accounts for the oft repeated question: "What is the work of the Geological Survey?" In the present arrangement of publication, however, far greater facilities now exist for obtaining desired information on any particular area.

While it would be folly to assert that the work of the Canadian Survey or of any other similar institution has always been free from mistakes, since that would imply a degree of infallibility and accurate scientific knowledge, not yet enjoyed by mortals, it will, I think, be admitted by anyone conversant with its method of operations that the attainment of the truth, in regard to the geological questions presented, has ever been the chief aim of those associated in the work. That the Geological Survey has ever borne an excellent reputation both at home and abroad is due probably, first of all, to the excellent reputation of its founder, the late Sir William Logan, and secondly to the fact that the great majority of its staff have laboured to their utmost with hearts filled with a love for the profession and with the desire to achieve great results. While we may now be able to say that we have a fairly good general knowledge of the geology of our country, and can depict on the map the lines of the several systems, and in some cases even of the geological formations, yet as settlement and advancement increase, new fields will be constantly opened up which will call for further detailed examinations. The geological study of a country embracing three and a half millions of square miles may be truly said to be a great work. The field certainly is large and the labourers are lamentably few to accomplish it, and many more years must elapse before we can hope to see a complete geological and topographical map of this our great Dominion. The work which as members of the present staff we cannot hope to see successfully accomplished will we trust be handed down to our successors, who, imbued with the true scientific spirit and under more favorable conditions, as the development of this great country progresses, and with accommodations enlarged, and better