

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY EXPEDITIONS.

537. Before reference is made to the expeditions of the year, a short resumé may properly be given of earlier expeditions. The explorations carried on under the management of the Geological Survey in the newer provinces and in the great uncultivated northern and western portions of Canada are of great value to the country.

538. In British Columbia and the North-west Territories an impetus was first given to extended reconnaissance work in connection with the explorations which the Government found it advisable to prosecute in search of the most favourable route for the Canadian Pacific Railway.

539. In 1871, on the admission of British Columbia to the Confederation, Dr. A. R. C. Selwyn, of the Geological Survey, accompanied a railway survey expedition up the valley of the North Thompson, and to the Yellow Head Pass. In 1875 another expedition was made by Dr. Selwyn by way of British Columbia to the Peace River region, of which an interesting account will be found in the Report of Progress for 1875-76. On this occasion he was accompanied by Professor Macoun, whose report on the botany of the route appears in the same volume.

540. In 1875 and 1876 Dr. George M. Dawson made a preliminary examination of the region lying between the Fraser River and the coast ranges of British Columbia in co-operation with the railway surveys at the time in progress. In 1878 he examined the greater part of the Queen Charlotte Islands, and an appendix to his report on this work gives a full description, with many illustrations, of the Haida Indians inhabiting these Islands. Up to that time but little had been known of the highly developed native art of these people, but this has since received much attention as one of the most remarkable phases of Aboriginal art in America.

541. In connection with the exploration of transcontinental railway routes Dr. Dawson, in 1879, examined the country from the mouth of the Skeena River, on the northern part of the British Columbian Coast, to Edmonton on the Saskatchewan River, including the Pine River Pass and the Peace River country.

542. In 1887 the indefatigable Doctor took charge of the Yukon Expedition, Mr. W. Ogilvie of the Dominion Lands Branch and Messrs. R. G. McConnell and J. McEvoy of the Geological Survey being associated with him. The objects of this expedition were to ascertain something definite about the great region alongside of Alaska and to determine the point at which the 141st meridian (which constitutes the boundary line between Canadian and United States territory) crosses the Yukon River.

543. Mr. Ogilvie, who was specially charged with the last mentioned part of the work, carried a measured line from the coast across the mountains and then by way of the Lewis and Yukon Rivers to the boundary. Dr. Dawson ascended the Stikeen River and, after reaching Dease Lake, followed