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MCGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

June 9th, 1887.

DEAR PROF. STOKES.

In reply to your communication of May 27th, I hope to send with this or by the mail immediately succeeding, copies of a Report adopted by the Royal Society of Canada at its recent meeting, and which contains some suggestions as to the manner of effecting the Imperial Geological Union proposed. In addition to these I may refer to the following points :

The proposed Geological Union might form a part of a General Scientific Federation of the Empire, if any plan of this nature is entertained by the Royal Society.

Either in this connection or alone, it would be best promoted by convening a conference, under the auspices of the Royal Society, to which representatives of the Geological Survey and of Societies prosecuting geological work might be invited. In the first instance, to save time, such conference might be confined to Great Britain, except that it might include official representatives of the Colonies and India resident in London or happening to be there.

The conference might appoint a central committee in London, with authority to convene at a suitable time a more extended conference, representing all parts of the Empire, to adopt formally a constitution for the Union.

This constitution might include the following provisions :—

(1.) The establishment in London of a central council, consisting of representatives *ex officio* or otherwise, of Surveys and Societies, under the presidency of the President of the Royal Society.

(2.) The affiliation of local branches of similar character in each colony or dependency. In Canada the Branch Association might be under the auspices of the Royal Society of Canada.

(3.) Each local Association would be empowered to hold local conferences and to appoint delegates to attend such general conferences as might be held in England, and to communicate reports or other information respecting geological work in the colony or dependency represented, and suggestions as to combination of action for particular objects.

(4.) General conferences would be convened from time to time, if possible annually, and would receive papers and reports relating to the progress of geological work, the methods of observing and recording observations, uniformity of classification and nomenclature, concentration of effort in particular departments of inquiry, and other matters affecting the progress and unity of work throughout the Empire, and the opening up of new fields of investigation.

(5.) The Reports of such conferences should contain a Geological Directory for the Empire, so as to facilitate inter-communication, reports and notices of the work in progress in all parts of the Empire, references to all publications of general interest, and in general such information as would enable any working Geologist to know what was being done in his department, and by whom.

(6.) The General Council should be empowered to open communication with bodies in foreign countries, as for example in the United States of America with the National Academy, the U. S. Geological Survey and the American Association, and to invite them to send delegates to conferences or in other ways to co-operate in the advancement of science.

(7.) The expenses of secretariat and publication might be provided for by a small membership fee, entitling to attend conferences and receive copies of publications ; and as the work would be of value and would tend to economy of expenditure, grants in aid might be secured from scientific funds or from the Governments of the various parts of the Empire. It is not improbable that the contemplated Imperial Institute, if established, might give substantial aid in rooms or otherwise. The expenses of the Union need not in the first instance be large.

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