

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON Jan. 21, 1888.

Sir J. W. Dawson.

Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir:—

I was very glad to receive your letter and also especially the proof of the few pages of your forthcoming work. I am glad to learn your views in regard to Cordaites and its relation to your species of Dadoxylon. I was my only inclined to regard some of them as belonging to Cordaites, or Cordaixylon as you prefer we should call it when speaking only of the wood of Cordaites.

You prefer to use the name Dadoxylon of Endlicher to observe, but do you restrict it wholly to Palaeozoic species? Morgenroth, as you probably know, (Die foss. Pflanzwelt im Umgeb. v. Rameis in Sachsen) proposes to deprive the genus *Fraxinaria* of

Dr. J. W. Dawson
of Montreal
Schubert

STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE

January 1, 1900

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

IN ANSWER TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE

APRIL 18, 1899

ALBANY:

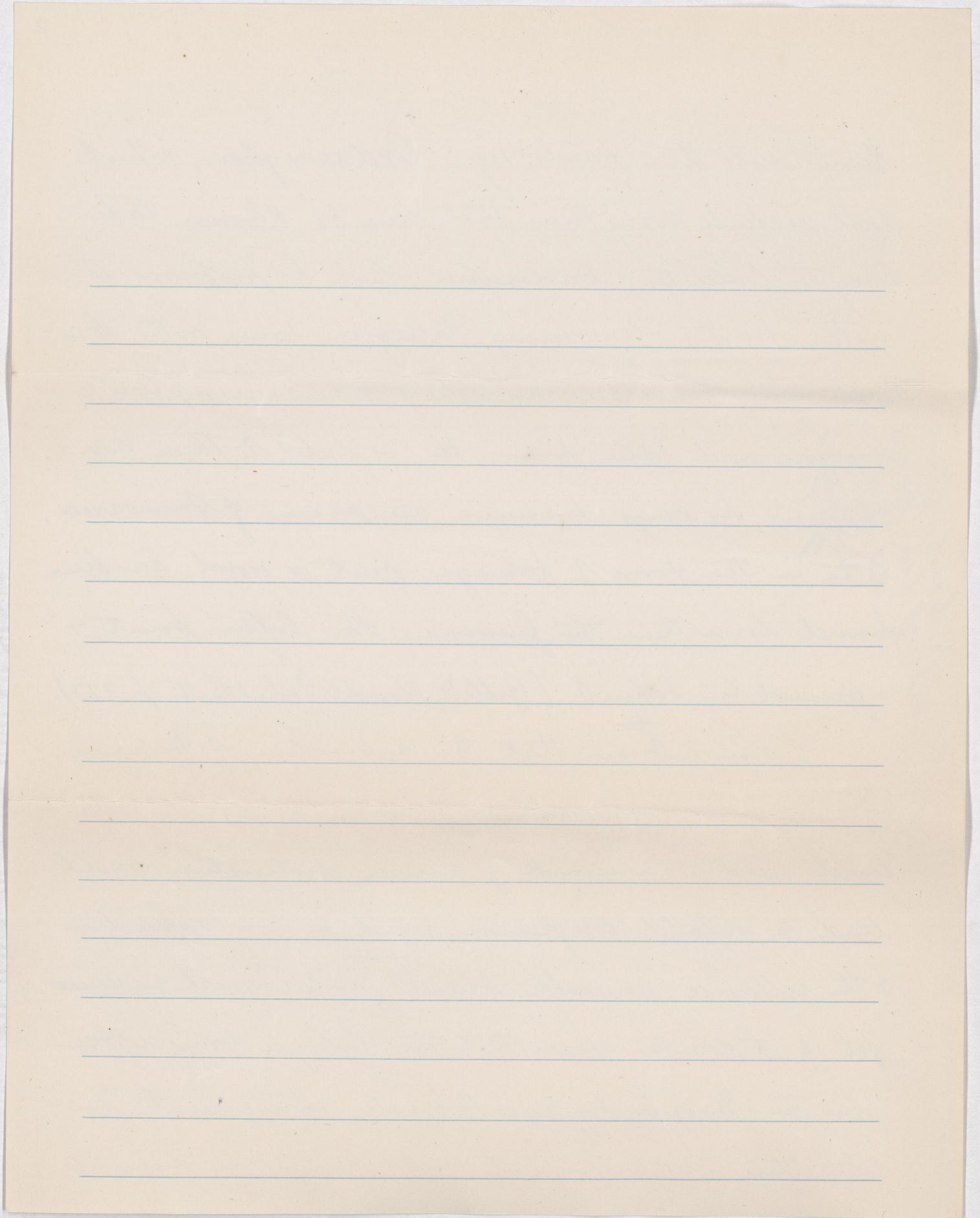
ANDREW DEWEY, STATE PRINTER,

1900.

Schuchert has
devised in Palaeogeography

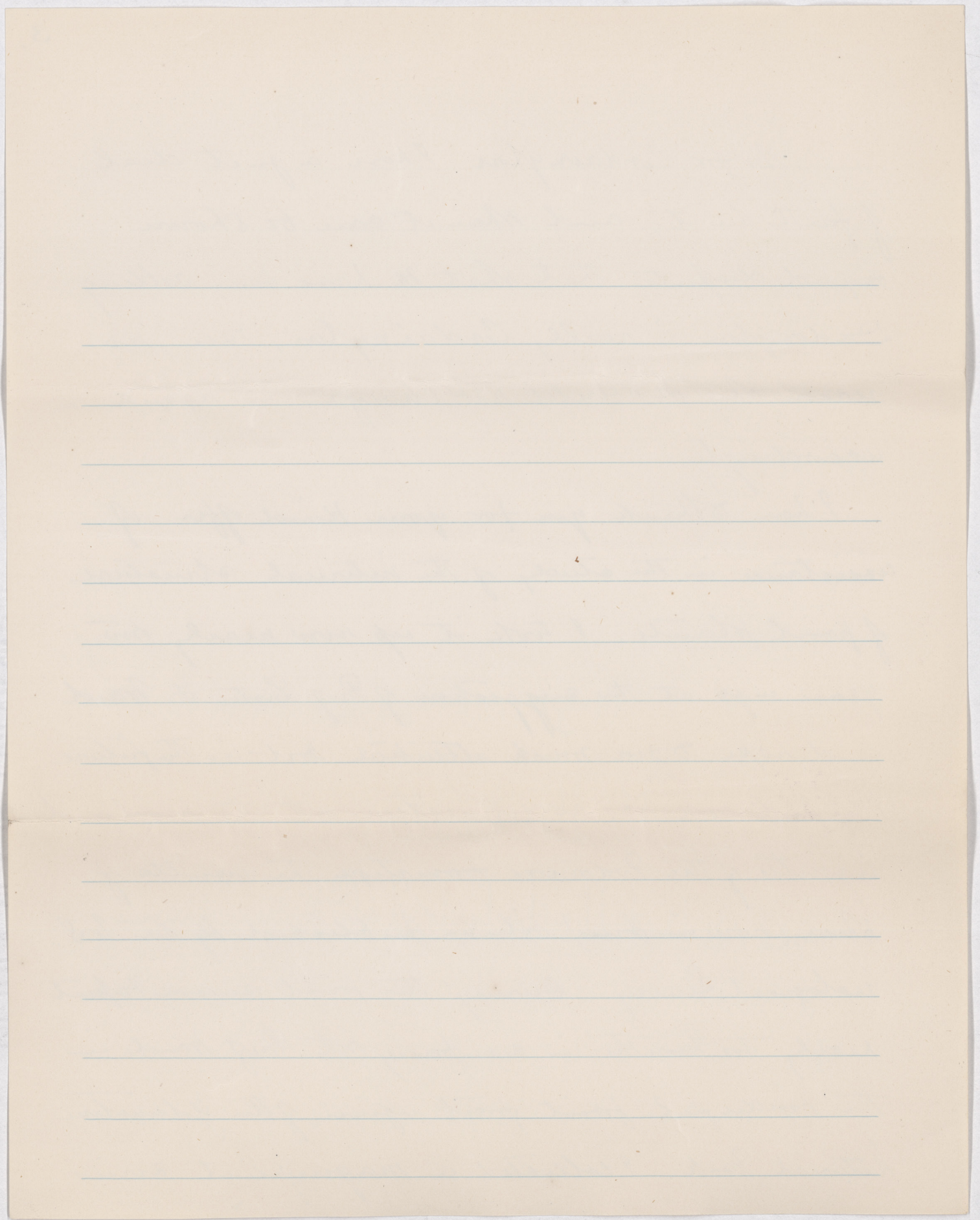
trans into three parts viz: Cordaixylon, which shall include every thing that can be shown to belong to Cordaites; Dadoxylon, which he proposes to reserve for the remaining Paleozoic forms with Araucaria-like structure; restricting Araucariexylon to Mesozoic and later forms. He is led to these conclusions, he says, because no species of Araucaria, either in the form of foliage, fruit or wood, has been found lower than the Jurassic. This latter point is affirmed by Schuchert (Gittell Handb. Pal. vol. II. p. 277).

I can not see that this separation of Paleozoic from Mesozoic forms would be of much value, for a time-limit used as a mark of generic distinction would lead to untold confusion and be in opposition to the reliance generally placed ^{upon} histological evidence. Yet if it can be shown that the Paleozoic forms differ from the Mesozoic by any tangible structural peculiarities, this arrangement would become deniable.



As for Cordaixylon I have a great deal of faith in it, and when it can be shown beyond dispute that what we have been calling Dadoxylon is really Cordaixylon, I see no reason why we should not change the name accordingly.

I have to thank you for your kind offer of assistance in the study of the internal structure of fossil plants. I took it up now nearly two years ago at the suggestion of Prof. Lester F. Ward and hope to give much attention to it in the future. My first work was in connection with the wood and lignites of the Potomac Formation the results of which (now in press) will be published by the U.S. Geological Survey. During the fossil season I spent nearly two months in company with Prof. Ward in the wonderful fossil forest region of the Yellowstone National Park. I collected a magnificent series



I nearly three hundred specimens mostly from
the trees in situ, and shall soon begin their
study,

I have also to thank you for the copy of your
recent paper, so kindly sent me. I regret that
you did not think it advisable to give specific
names, accompanied by illustrations and descrip-
tions, of the forms detected. I could then have made
more systematic use of your results in determining
some woods that I have from that formation.

Very respectfully yours,

F. H. Knowlton,

Assist. Curator.

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