HIS 1075
Histoire des sciences
au Québec

TRAVAIL NOTÉ 5

(10 points)

Consignes

- Commencez votre travail à la page suivante.
- Sauvegardez votre travail de cette façon : SIGLEDUCOURS_TNX_VOTRENOM.
- Utilisez votre portail étudiant MaTÉLUQ pour transmettre votre travail afin qu'il soit corrigé.

TRAVAIL 5

1. Quand et par qui a été créé le *Canadian Naturalist and Geologist*, principale revue scientifique canadienne au XIX^{e} siècle? (0,5 point)

2. Quelles sont les positions défendues sur la nature de l'*Eozoön Canadense*? (0,5 point)

3. Quelles sont les deux orientations des activités de la Commission géologique? (0,5 point)

4. Quel événement scientifique d'importance marque l'année 1857 à Montréal? (0,5 point)

5. Répondez à la question suivante, en trois pages maximum. (8 points)

En septembre 1854, William Logan paraît devant un comité de la Législature du Canada-Uni afin d'expliquer en quoi consiste le travail des scientifiques de la Commission géologique. En fait, Logan doit justifier l'existence même de la Commission car les parlementaires, peu au fait du travail des géologues, sont enclins à croire que l'argent des contribuables est employé à poursuivre des questions purement scientifiques.

Lisez attentivement l'extrait suivant du témoignage de Logan et **résumez l'argument qu'il utilise pour justifier le travail scientifique de la Commission aux yeux des parlementaires**. À la lumière de ce que vous avez appris, dans *Histoire des sciences au Québec* et dans la cinquième vidéo, **précisez si le témoignage de Logan correspond fidèlement au travail des scientifiques de la Commission géologique**.

Extrait du témoignage de
William Logan,
reproduit dans Bernard J. Harrington,
Life of Sir William Logan, Montréal,
1883, p. 294-295.

The analyses of new mineral species, while they directly regard a scientific result, must always have an economic bearing. You cannot tell whether a new substance is to be profitably available or not until you have ascertained its properties. The analyses of mineral species led to our knowledge of the lime-feld spars, of so much agricultural importance to the Laurentian country.

Thus economics lead to science, and science to economics. The physical structure of the area examined is, of course, espacially attended to, as it is by means of it that the range or distribution of useful materials, both discovered and to be discovered, can be made intelligible. A strict attention to fossils is essential in ascertaining the 47 physical structure. I have been told that some persons, observing how carefully attentive I endeavour to be to this evidence of sequence, have ignorantly supposed the means to be the end, and while erroneously giving me credit as an authority upon fossils, have fancied economics to be sacrificed to them. In their foolish darkness they have mistaken my rush-light for a sun. I am not a naturalist. I do not describe fossils, but use them. They are geological friends who direct me in the way to what is valuable. If you wish information from a friend it is not necessary that you go to him impressed with the idea that he is a collection of bones peculiarly arranged, of muscles, nerves, arteries, and skin, but you merely recognize his face, remember his name, and interrogate him to the necessary end. So it is with fossils. To get the necessary information from them you must be able to recognize their aspect, and in order to state your authority you must give their names. Some tell of coal; they are cosmopolites; while some give local intelligence of gypsum, or salt, or building stone, and so on. One of them whose family name is *Cythere*, but who is not yet specifically baptized, helped us last year to trace out upwards of fifty miles of hydraulic limestone.

My whole connection with geology is of a practical character. I am by profession a miner and a metallurgist, and for many years was one of the active managing partners in an establishment in Wales, where we annually smelted 60,000 tons of cooper ore, and excavated 60,000 tons of coal. It was my constant occupation to superintend and direct the minutest details of every branch of the business. A due regard to my own interests forced me into the practice of geology, and it was more particularly to the economic bearings of the science that my attention was devoted.

SAUVEGARDER