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## INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

Most impressive are the preparations being made for the Canadian meeting of the International Geological Congress. A large amount of money has already been carefully and judiciously expended, and much more will have to be disbursed before the delegates reach Canada. Private citizens are giving their time, energy and money for the cause. Strong and representative committees have been organized. The Provinces of Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia have contributed handsomely to the general fund. So, also, has the Dominion Government. And it is not to be believed that New Brunswick, Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan will allow this rare opportunity to pass without giving tangible evidence of their appreciation of its importance.

Let us for a moment glance over the history of the Congress, first, however, touching upon its character and objects. To quote from a pamphlet recently written by Mr. H. Mortimer-Lamb, "the objects of the Congress may be briefly summarized in the general statement that by means of the periodical meetings the results of knowledge acquired in any one country are given a universal application and significance. The Congress endeavours to provide, for example, for the adopting of uniform systems of mapping, nomenclature, and classification of rocks, fossils and minerals; and in other directions broadens the boundaries and extends the usefulness of geological science." Such tremendous undertakings as the completion of a geological map of Europe have been successfully carried through, and it is possible that a geological map of the world may be forthcoming within a few years. These, however, while they are the most striking, are not the most beneficent results that flow from the Congress. The intercourse of trained thinkers, the contact with new types, the personal comparison of notes, and the unexampled facilities for seeing extensive tracts of country that most of the delegates have not seen before, are profitable alike to the members of the Congress and to the country visited.

The membership of the Congress comprises professional geologists and persons engaged in other allied professions. There is, however, no hard and fast line drawn, although the official delegates are always representatives of corporate bodies. Nevertheless, many foreign visitors will, no doubt, come in their private capacities.

The first meeting of the Congress was held in France in 1878. Including this gathering there have been