

given by the United States railways. The railways controlled by the Pearsons and by the Copper Queen and other companies, not only gave free transportation but they made the excursionists their guests in all respects.

The Copper Queen Company, and other companies, whose hospitality the writer had the good fortune to receive, sent a splendidly equipped train to El Paso to meet the excursionists at the border. For six days the excursionists were the guests of these companies, visiting the smelters at Douglas and the mines of Bisbee, Cananea and Nacozari.

Steamboat Fares.

European members were encouraged to visit Mexico by the government paying for a reduction of one-half of the steamboat fares on specified lines, viz., Hamburg-American and Ward, either to Vera Cruz or to New York.

The "Compana Translantica Espanola" gave a reduction of thirty-three per cent., and the Mexican Government made the reduction up to fifty per cent. by paying the difference.

The Mexican Government also assisted transportation during the excursions by furnishing saddle horses from detachments of the rural police. Horses were always available when needed. (I am sure it would be most interesting to this audience were one of the Canadian excursionists to relate his experience in riding one of these metalled rurale chargers from the railway station at San Juan to the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon, through roadways lined with stone walls and giant cacti, across the parched Aztec plain even to the slopes of the pyramids themselves. Compared with his ride, that of John Gilpin was merely a canter in a village street, and Mazeppa's steed, so well described by Byron, was not more wild and free. In his account of the excursion, however, President Aguilera speaks of it as forming a "joyous caravan," some on foot, others in carriages, but the greater number "à cheval.")

Excursions.

Preceding and following the sessions which were held in the City of Mexico from Sept. 6th to the 14th, several excursions were given under the patronage of the government. The earlier excursions consisted of one to the south lasting nine days, one to the east, three days, one to Jourallo, thirteen days, and one to San Andres and Colima, twelve days.

After the sessions there was an excursion limited to 250 persons to the north, through the great mining regions, that lasted twenty days. The excursionists occupied two trains, each person being given a section to himself. Connected with this excursion was the complimentary one to mining and smelting centres given by the Copper Queen and other companies in Arizona and Sonora.

After the excursion to the north there was another, essentially for paleontologists, beginning October 6th and lasting eight days, to the southern part of the Republic.

During the sessions four extremely interesting excursions lasting not longer than a day each were given. They were held on alternate days so as not to interfere with the sessions.

One of them was to Coyoteacan to see the great lava flows, which, while recent in a geological sense, are prehistoric. Human remains, fragments of pottery,

cobs of Indian corn and other materials show that the flow took place after the area was occupied by man.

The second excursion, to the historic City of Cuernavaca, was organized by the Geological Society of Mexico, and the excursionists were welcomed by the Governor of the State of Morelos and a reception committee. The park, the botanic garden, and especially the palace of Cortez, which still stands little impaired by time, are all of historic interest. At the banquet, given on this as on all other excursions, one of our Mexican hosts cheered us with the words: "Ladies and gentlemen, I drink to the glory of your countries; friends of Mexico I drink to your health."

The Minister of Public Instruction "desiring to show his profound regard for the congressionists" organized the third excursion, to visit the Pyramids of the Sun and Moon. The excursion was under the direction of the Inspector of Archeological Monuments. The pyramids proved to be most interesting, resembling those of Egypt, and the banquet of the afternoon in the grotto or huge cave was in all respects unique. It is much larger than the historic one described by Virgil, in which Dido and Aeneas sought refuge from the elements. In fact the Porfirio Diaz cave is large enough to have accommodated the entire retinue of these famed personages, so that one pair need not have been left in lonely isolation.

In his memoirs, my friend Aguilera has not tarried long in describing this cave banquet, but we recall that the Director of Public Works received us with the words, "Mexico welcomes all who have good will in their hearts and science in their brains."

The fourth of these excursions was made to the famous silver mines of Pachuca where a welcome was extended and a banquet provided by the Governor and other high officials of the State of Hidalgo and of the City of Pachuca.

Sessions.

The opening session was held at 11 o'clock on the morning of September 6th, in the great reception hall of the National School of Engineers, under the presidency of his Excellency, the President of the Republic, General of Division Don Porfirio Diaz, high protector of the Congress. There were also present the Diplomatic Corps and the Ministers of State.

I shall not say much concerning the sessions, except that like the excursions, receptions and entertainments they were a credit to the Mexican geologists, who had devoted much care and attention to securing papers on important subjects and arranging for discussions on leading themes. Most of us do not attend geological congresses in order merely to listen to the reading of papers and to discussions. While at such a gathering these are valuable and necessary, persons visiting a country as attractive as Mexico desire to learn something of its geology at first hand, and to become acquainted with fellow students of geology from other parts of the world.

Four major subjects were selected by the executive committee for discussion, and the promises of several men to lead in each subject were secured some months before the sessions began. The subjects were: Conditions of Climate in Geological Epochs, Relations Between Tectonics and Igneous Masses, Genesis of Metaliferous Deposits, and Classification and Nomenclature of Rocks. Papers were read and discussions took place on various other subjects during the session.