

ganized 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, "Mexican welcomes all who have good will in their hearts and science in their brains."

The fourth of these excursions was made in 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.

#### Receptions and Entertainments.

While these have been referred to incidentally in preceding notes it will be well to mention them more systematically in order to show what may be expected

of us in Canada during the coming summer. In many ways Mexico possesses, or did possess in 1906, facilities for entertaining a larger body of people than can be equalled in but few countries. We in Canada cannot hope, I fear, to make the social side of the Twelfth Congress an enjoyable and attractive as was that of the Tenth. However, Canada's newness, a country in the making, will appeal to many.

On the evening of the 5th of September, preceding the opening session, there was a reunion of the congressionists at the restaurant in the historic wood of Chapultepec. As Aguilera says, "the time was spent in a manner very animated," and there was a dinner with music by the artillery band.

On the evening of the following day, the members of the Geological Institute held a reception. The interior of the hall was decorated with the flags of all the nations represented at the Congress. There was band music and a "champagne supper." Three hundred persons were in attendance.

The morning of the 7th was spent in visiting public institutions of the city, carriages being furnished. Visits were made to the National Museum, the National Medical Institute, National Library, the Cathedral, and the Academy of Fine Arts. Small parties visited the National Astronomical Observatory.

In the evening of this day, the Government Council of the Federal District, and the Municipal Council tendered a banquet at the Municipal Palace. Flags of various nations were again in evidence here. Those in attendance at this banquet included representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and members of the Mexican Government. At the head table presided the Vice-President of the Republic. The souvenir of the banquet took the form of a beautifully illustrated volume descriptive of the city.

A concert, with "champagne lunch" was given on the evening of Sept. 8th. On the evening of the 10th a reception was held by one of the members of the government.

President and Madame Diaz on the 12th, offered a "ten" at the beautiful chateau de Chapultepec. The cards of invitation announced a "five o'clock tea," but in reality the presidential residence had been prepared for a snore concert. Arriving at the chateau at five o'clock the congressionists were received by President and Madame Diaz. At the reception were the members of the Diplomatic Corps and high officials of the government.

From the high balcony of the chateau a magnificent view could be had of the distant volcanoes, Popocatepetl and Ixtaccihuatl.

At six o'clock commenced a concert in which principal Mexican artists took part. At seven dinner was served, and at 11.30 the guests departed having been delightfully entertained for over six hours.