

PREFACE

THE Executive Committee of the Eleventh International Congress, desirous of making that session of greater permanent value to the public at large, chose as the main topic of discussion a subject of great economic as well as scientific importance—The Iron Ore Resources of the World. The splendid monograph issued by them on this topic was so successful from every standpoint that the Executive Committee of the Twelfth Congress decided to make the Coal Resources of the World the chief topic for the Twelfth Session, publishing as a basis for the discussions a similar monograph on this subject.

A special committee, appointed by the Executive, after some correspondence with representative coal specialists of different countries, selected a classification to which the returns of the coal resources, for uniformity and comparableness, should conform, and provided a circular to be sent to the various countries, asking for reports on their coal resources. The preparation of the monograph was entrusted to the Geological Survey of Canada, and Mr. McInnes was appointed editor. Later, when the pressure of work became heavy, he was joined by Messrs. D. B. Dowling and W. W. Leach.

The following circular and covering letter were sent to the Directors of Geological Surveys or Mining Bureaus, or in cases where no official sources of information existed, to the most competent authority available.

"INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

12TH SESSION, CANADA, 1913

COAL RESOURCES OF THE WORLD

OTTAWA, May, 1911.

"For some years the attention not only of geologists and mine owners, but also of the general public, has been directed to the question of the coal reserves of the world. The very large increase in the consumption of coal in recent years makes this question of the world's supply of great importance to almost every country. The Eleventh Congress dealt with the iron ore reserves of the world, calling attention to the fact that, along with coal, the iron ore supply is one of the most important factors in industrial development, and to the radical importance of the relation between supply and demand in these materials to the industry of the future.

"The Executive Committee of the Twelfth Session of the International Geological Congress, to be held in Toronto, in 1913, has, therefore, decided to make coal the chief subject for discussion at that session. In order to obtain a sure basis for the discussion and to secure a profitable result, the committee would like to have the co-operation of colleagues in every country, so that they may publish statistics of the amount and distribution of the world's supply of coal. With this end in view, we have decided to address to the proper authority in each country, a respectful request that there be sent us for publication a concise report on the geological occurrence, extent of the coal-areas, and amount of the reserves in that country.