

Republic whose assistance would be valuable in the conduct of the excursions.

The Executive Committee was composed for the most part of members of the National Geological Institute (or Geological Survey), the president being the director of the Institute. The committee was charged with all the preparations for the Congress, both of a scientific and of a purely administrative character.

The organization committee had over ninety members among whom were the foreign directors of several companies, e.g., Sir Westman D. Pearson and Mr. John Hayes Hammond. The executive committee consisted of twelve members.

Local committees were organized in various states of the Republic to assist with the work of the Congress and to arrange for receptions and other entertainments. In most cases, during the excursions the Governors of the states acted as chief hosts.

Financial Assistance.

In addition to other assistance, the Mexican Government made a grant of \$164,000, or \$82,000 in gold, for the expenses of organization, the arranging of excursions, the publishing of the guide book and for other purposes.

All the railways in Mexico gave important reductions, at least fifty per cent., in the price of transportation. Half fare rates from all points east of Buffalo, Pittsburg and Atlanta to Mexico and return were 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 Bibe, 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 "Compania Transatlantica 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 rural 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 Juchitlan, 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 Coyocan 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" or-