

The first meeting of the Congress was held in Paris in 1876, and similar meetings have been held every three years since, and in the following countries: Italy, Germany, England, United States, Switzerland, Russia, France, Austria, Mexico, Sweden, and Canada. The next meeting takes place in Belgium in 1816. The international character of the Congress is therefore well established.

By means of these periodical meetings, the results of research in any one country are given a universal application and significance. The Congress is now endeavouring to bring about uniform system of mapping, nomenclature, rock and mineral classification, and a more perfect paleontological correlation. At the meeting in Mexico in 1906 a geological map of North America was exhibited, and made a great impression. A similar map of Europe is now nearing completion and it is proposed to issue a geological map of the world.

When it was learned that the invitation of the Dominion Government had been accepted, and that the Congress would meet in Canada, the task of entertaining the scientists was appreciated by very few. The first meeting for organization was called as early as December, 1910. Committees were struck to undertake the various duties of preparation. It is safe to say that the chief work was the preparation of guide-books and maps for geological excursions, which had become the most important feature of the Congress. These excursions serve to illustrate the topics discussed and afford opportunity to study the chief features of geological interest peculiar to the country in which the Congress is meeting.

The excursions in Canada served to show the country to the visitors in a way that has never been attempted before. One series was arranged to take place before the meetings, and covered Eastern Ontario, Qubec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Another series after the meetings, which were held in Toronto, covered Northern Ontario, the Northwestern Provinces, British Columbia, and the Yukon. All were conducted by Canadian geologists familiar with the district under examination. Annotated time-tables and local maps were prepared for each excursion with a guide-book in more detail.

One of the excursions in Eastern Ontario was confined to the district about Kingston and was in charge of Prof. Nicol and the writer. It included distinguished visitors from nine different countries. It occupied three days and was voted by those present, one of the most interesting and instructive excursions they have made. They were particularly impressed with the variety and abundance of minerals they collected, and with the interesting geological sections exposed in this vicinity. The first excursion was planned to visit a few of the economic deposits found in the Pre-Cambrian rocks of this district. Some of these, for example, the mica deposits, are amongst the largest producers in the world. Others, like the phosphate mines, were formerly large producers, but are no longer worked on account of the more easily accessible deposits of Guano in the Southern States. The lead mines at Frontenac were also visited and many excellent specimens collected. This excursion also afforded an excellent opportunity for studying the general character and topography of a typically Pre-Cambrian area.