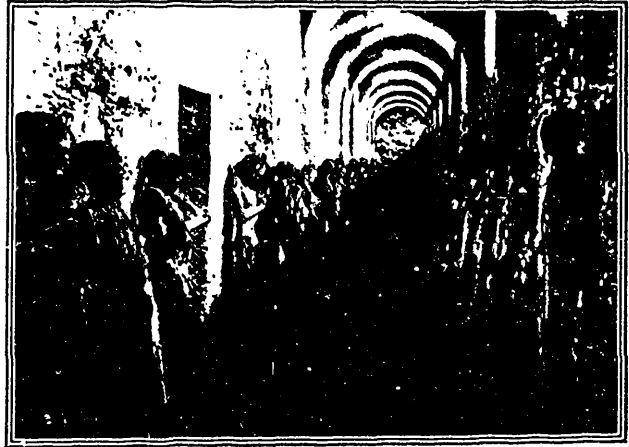


resources is to make the tour over this great road. It makes immediate connection with the Santa Fe Route at El Paso, on the Rio Grande. The first day's journey southward is spent almost entirely in the state of Chihuahua, the largest state in the republic.



CATACOMBS OF GUANAJUATO.

Zacatecas, a city with a population of seventy thousand people, capital of the state of the same name, is one of the leading silver mining camps of the world. Mining has been carried on there since 1546, and the aggregate production has reached the amount of \$700,000,000. For hundreds of years the peons brought up the ore on their shoulders from the depths of the mine by climbing an endless series of ladders. Only comparatively recently have modern methods of raising the precious metal to the surface been employed. It is a very steep climb up to this ancient city, the railway doubling

on its track in great curves. The engine pants and labours, and sometimes comes to a standstill in its effort to draw the heavy trains up the mountain. The town is wonderfully picturesque, with its narrow streets, its winding tramways, its donkeys laden with silver ore, its men wrapped to the eyes in grey serapes, and wearing sombreros with high conical peaks and immensely broad brims. These are typical figures one meets at every railway station in Mexico. The town is like most others in the republic, with its flat-roofed houses,

smiling patios, or interior courts, filled with shrubs and flowers, and fronts frescoed in brilliant colours.

After passing through several ranges, the road descends into the valley of Aguascalientes. The name means "hot waters," and is derived from the hot springs in the near vicinity



CATHEDRAL AND PLAZA, GUADALAJARA.