

living, due mostly to trade combines, making it a pressing necessity.

Let Mr. Smith, President of our Federation, take the matter in hand and start a movement that will surely bring a satisfactory solution of the question. Let us petition on all sides Parliament and not rest until we have triumphally carried the issue.

ALPHONSE DESJARDINS.

Levis, P.Q., July 4th, 1912.

### GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS.

Members of the Mines Department, as also others in the service, will be interested in the following letter on the subject of the 12th Geological Congress, which is to be Canada's honour this year for the first time.

Editors The Civilian, . .

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Twelfth International Geological Congress to request you to draw the attention of your readers to the meetings of the Congress which are to be held next year for the first time in Canada. The preliminary arrangements are announced in the first circular, a copy of which is enclosed.

Since the first meeting of the Congress in Paris in 1878, meetings have been held in Italy, Germany, England, the United States of America, Switzerland, Russia, Mexico and Sweden. At the last Congress held in Stockholm in 1910 there was an attendance of 850, and it is expected that this number will be exceeded in Canada next year.

You will notice that an extensive series of excursions are being arranged to illustrate the typical geology and mineral resources of Canada. These excursions will take place during August and September, and will extend from Cape Breton and Halifax on the Atlantic to Prince Rupert and Victoria on the Pacific, and from Niagara Falls on the Southern boundary to Dawson City near the Arctic Circle.

Geologists from every quarter of the Globe will attend the Congress, and for many it will be their first visit to Canada. They will include professors from the leading universities and mining schools, officers of the various government geological surveys and mining departments, and geologists and mining engineers in private practice.

The value of the annual mineral output of Canada has steadily increased year by year for the last thirty years, and is now over one hundred million dollars. Considering, however, the known resources and the enormous territory whose resources are unknown, this output is small, and Canada needs more men and more money for prospecting, development and operation. This she can best secure by attracting, not the general public, but those people whose business it is to engage in such industries and who understand their management. Geologists and mining engineers are obviously those best able to influence opinion in their own countries on the subject in which they are recognized authorities, hence the opportunity afforded by the meeting in Canada of so many eminent specialists should not be neglected. Every effort should be made to show to the world that while our known mineral resources are large, we have an immense undeveloped territory awaiting the advent of the trained prospector.

Meetings of various geological and other scientific societies have been held in Canada in the past, but this is the first occasion on which the International Geological Congress has met here and the opportunity will not occur again for many years, since the meetings are held triennially in the different countries of the world.

Canadian geologists are fully alive to the high honour paid them and their country by the selection of Canada for the meeting, and they are being generously assisted in preparing for it by the Dominion and Provincial Governments and by the railway and mining corporations, as well as by individual business and professional men, all of whom are contributing liberally both money and time.

Field Marshall, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, the Governor-General of Canada, has graciously consented to become the Honorary President of the Twelfth Congress.

I shall be glad to send a copy of the circular to any of your readers applying for it and to give any further information about the Congress.

It is hoped that you, Mr. Editor, will be so kind as to use your influence and interest in making the aims, objects, and work of the Congress known to the public.

Yours very truly,

W. S. LECKY.

Secretary to the Executive Committee of the Twelfth International Geological Congress, Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa.

July 2nd, 1912.