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The Twelfth International Geological Congress.

By PROFESSOR M. B. BAKER.

IT is an interesting pastime for one to look about and try to select a single object that has not had its origin directly or indirectly in the earth. How truly perfect is the metaphor "Mother Earth." Geology is the science that investigates the history of the earth and its inhabitants, the processes at work modifying its surface, the effects of rain, wind, changes of temperature, and the chemical processes at work within the so-called crust. It is obvious that problems of transportation, whether by land or water, road construction, forestation, agriculture, climatology, sources of raw material and therefore industrial location, and many other enterprises have a very direct relationship to a country geology. The value, therefore, of the International Geological Congress to Canada, can be estimated largely by the impetus and inspiration given to Canadian scientists by a visit for the men who really make the science. One must add to this, however, the value of the impressions, geological and otherwise, that will be carried to all parts of the world by the visitors.

Many of the members were mining engineers and economic geologists, so that the value of their obtaining a knowledge of the agricultural and mining conditions in Canada is direct and obvious. The majority of the visitors, however, were authors, and instructors of various ranks in most of the universities and scientific institutions of the world. These men are constantly lecturing and writing to the public, and will no doubt have occasion to refer frequently to Canada, for they were greatly impressed with the magnitude and variety of geological occurrences in this country.

The Congress visited Canada this year on the invitation of the Federal Government, transmitted through the foreign office and the British Ambassador at Sweden. It was accepted at the session held in Stockholm in 1910, largely through the influence of Dr. W. G. Miller, formerly Professor of Geology at McGill University. The response of the mining men of Canada for aid in entertaining the Congress was splendid, but there is no doubt that the chief credit for the success must go to the Geological Survey of Canada with its director Prof. R. W. Brock; and to the Bureau of Mines of Ontario with its chief, Dr. W. G. Miller. Without the direction of these two gentlemen and the co-operation of their staffs the Congress would have undoubtedly been a failure.