

PREFACE

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through any other source; of the Imperial Institute for information concerning some of the British Colonies; of the Pan-American Union for information concerning Central and South America; of the United States Geological Survey for placing its good offices at the disposal of the committee, when, at the last moment, Mexico was unable to furnish a report; also of the following private individuals who generously contributed articles:—Dr. Noah Drake, on China; R. T. Hill, late of the United States Geological Survey, on Mexico; Leon Dominian, M.E., on Turkey; Dr. T. W. Edgeworth David, University of Sydney, on the Antarctic; and Bertil Högbom, Upsala University, on Spitzbergen.

In order to secure the publication of the monograph in time for the Congress, it was asked that reports be sent in by January 1st, 1912. The approximate length of the report from each country, to make a well-balanced work, was also indicated. Many countries were unable to comply with the former request and reports have been received as late as the middle of May, 1913. This has made it impossible for the editors to do justice to their work, but on the other hand, it has enabled much new material to be secured and presented, thus adding greatly to the value of the monograph. But publication had to be contracted for, necessitating the fixing of an arbitrary limit to the size of the work and the number of the illustrations, and printing started while many important reports were still outstanding. Thus it was that the latest reports received, being longer than anticipated, had to be hurriedly condensed by the editors and many illustrations and maps, not adapted for direct reproduction in the form in which they were received, had to be omitted. It is hoped, however, that nothing essential has been left out. The late date at which the last reports have come to hand, has made it a difficult task to adequately summarize The Coal Resources of the World in the introductory chapter.

The Executive Committee of the Twelfth Geological Congress extends its heartiest thanks to the various collaborators who have given so freely of time and information toward the production of this monograph. Their reward lies in knowing they have applied their knowledge for the general good.

The result of their work in taking stock of this most important natural resource will be of lasting benefit, not alone to geologists and miners who have a technical interest in the subject, but also and in a larger measure, to the industrial world and the public at large, who have a vital interest in the undeveloped fields and the probable life of the world's supply of coal, a commodity which has become to such a surprising extent, fundamental to our present-day civilization.

For the Executive Committee of the Twelfth International Geological Congress.

R. W. BROCK,

General Secretary.

OTTAWA, June 14th, 1913.