

"Dear Sir,—

OTTAWA, June 16th, 1911.

"The Twelfth International Geological Congress has decided to make The Coal Resources of the World the chief subject for discussion at its meeting in Toronto, Canada, in 1913. For the volume on Coal, which will form the basis of the discussion, it is necessary to have the latest and most reliable information on the subject. I have therefore been requested by the Executive Committee of the Congress, and by the Honourable Minister of Mines of Canada, who is taking a keen interest in the matter, to respectfully request you to co-operate in this important undertaking, and to become responsible for supplying this information concerning . . . . . If you cannot undertake the task personally please put it in the hands of the most competent authority available.

"Thanks to the interest taken in the matter by those who were asked to contribute information, the similar work done on The Iron Resources of the World by the Eleventh Congress has been so successful from every standpoint, including the economic, that we are confident of your enthusiastic and hearty co-operation in the present undertaking, which in itself has such an important bearing on the progress of civilization and which will supplement in such a useful way the monumental work on the iron resources.

"Please inform me of the disposition you are making of this request, and the date at which we may expect to receive the report on your section, which must not be later than January 1st, 1912. It has been found necessary to extend the time for the reception of some of the reports to July 1st, 1912.

"Thanking you for your interest and co-operation, I am,

Yours very respectfully,

(Sgd.) R. W. BROCK,

*Secretary-Treasurer, Twelfth International Congress."*

As will be seen from the reports contained in these volumes, the response has been general and generous. In three instances only, Greenland, Peru and Brazil, has it been necessary for the editors to compile from published literature. Consequently, the reports here presented may be accepted as the latest and most authoritative pronouncements upon the coal resources of the individual countries; in many cases they represent the first complete statement yet made, and in other cases much new field work has been undertaken for these special reports.

The Executive Committee is deeply grateful to the contributors, one and all, to whose whole-hearted assistance the success of the undertaking is due. In most cases the extent of this indebtedness is apparent from the text. Special mention, however, must be made of colliery companies that have furnished private information unattainable from other sources; of Japan for its reports on China, Manchuria and Korea; of the British Consular Service for most courteously securing information concerning countries that could not be reached