

But before these questions can be intelligently discussed, before deductions can be drawn and advice given regarding consumption, conservation, the future of industry, the commercial development of nations, it is necessary to know just what the coal supply of the world is. The Executive Committee of the Congress, therefore, undertook to prepare an authoritative and comprehensive monograph on the Coal Resources of the World that would supply this information, and that would furnish a basis for the main discussion at the Congress, in which every civilized country of the world will participate.

The preparation of the monograph has been entrusted to officers of the Geological Survey of Canada. Each country of the world was asked to contribute an article covering its coal resources, and with practically no exception each country selected its leading authorities, usually experts connected with the official Government Geological Surveys or Departments of Mines, to secure material for and write its chapter. In many cases new investigations in the field were necessary, unpublished material was drawn upon, and old work revised and brought up to date. The result is a most complete and authoritative statement of the coal resources of the globe. Not only is the quantity of coal discussed, but also the amount of each kind, its mode and conditions of occurrence including depth below ground, and this for practically each coal district in each country and each state. Even the Arctic and Antarctic regions are covered. Fifty-two countries have articles of length, fifteen are covered by short articles, nine report no resources of coal, twenty-five colonies are included in the reports of the mother lands. A chapter of about one hundred pages summarizes the individual reports and totals the resources of the world.

The work is well illustrated with figures, maps, etc., but in addition to these text illustrations there is an atlas of about seventy maps in colour showing the distribution of the coal areas and the geology of the more important fields.

This work is of interest to the economic geologist, mining engineer, colliery owner and coal companies, but its interest is not confined to this limited field. Political economists must familiarize themselves with its contents; naval and military men will find its information valuable; large industrial concerns looking for sites for branch factories or anticipating possible future competition will find it suggestive; transportation companies have a very direct interest in it, and any one who wishes to foretell the places and countries where important future developments are likely to take place will consult the work, for the countries that have large undeveloped resources are destined in the near future to be the scenes of important industrial activity. Every Reference Library and every private library should possess a copy of this work.