

altogether eleven Congresses held at intervals of three years. The principal countries of Europe, the United States, and Mexico have been the scenes of action. For the first time Canada is now to be honoured.

The regular attendance has ranged between 140 and 703, and as many as thirty-six countries have been represented. It is estimated that the foreign contingent at the coming Congress will number at least 700, and may exceed this figure considerably. Of course, every local meeting, and every excursion will be attended by many Canadians. Thus it is possible that on such excursions as that to Cobalt and Porcupine the total attendance may run up to almost twice the first estimate.

The transportation companies have been so generous in their attitude towards the Congress, that no insuperable difficulty is expected in handling the excursions.

Fuller particulars of the coming International Geological Congress will be found on another page. The article is a transcript of a speech delivered by Mr. G. G. S. Lindsey before the Toronto Branch of the Canadian Mining Institute.

NEWSPAPER JOURNALESE.

The following is from a Toronto newspaper:

"They have dug up a Souraughulous in Southern Alberta. As the intelligent animal had been buried several thousand years there was every excuse for its having gone sour in the meantime."

As the intelligent humourist of the newspaper in question has taken on himself the duty of revising paleontological orthography, and as he has not the excuse of having been buried "several thousand years," and as his joke is based upon a profound and complete misconception, and as it is quite as archaic as the innocent misspelled monster, we therefore find him guilty of something far removed from humour.

MINE RESCUE WORK IN CANADA

The Commission of Conservation deserves commendation for its latest publication. For some time the subject has been before the public. The Commission has built up a strong system of publicity, and it is well that the vital topic of mine rescue work should be given the benefit.

The pamphlet, "Mine Rescue Work in Canada," has been compiled by Mr. W. J. Dick, the mining engineer of the Commission. It covers, very briefly, a comparison of death rates in Canadian and foreign collieries, a description of apparatus, legal requirements abroad, Canadian establishments, and the general work of organization.

Although in other countries coal mine operators are compelled by law to instal rescue apparatus, in Canada, where authority for such legislation is vested in the

Provincial Governments, the Province of British Columbia alone enforces their use. Nevertheless, owing entirely to private enterprise, Nova Scotian mine owners were first in this humane movement.

In addition to the four small stations equipped by the British Columbia Government, there are four privately-owned stations. Moreover, several companies are supplied with apparatus. In Alberta there are two, with a third under construction; and in Nova Scotia there are three exceedingly well equipped stations. Particulars of all these will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Whilst Canadian operators are following the lead of European mines, it is not out of order here to claim some credit for the Canadian Mining Journal. We were the first publication in Canada to advocate in any way the adoption of rescue apparatus and the subject has been repeatedly and emphatically referred to in these columns.

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The thirty-third annual report of the United States Geological Survey has just been issued. In reviewing therein the work of the department during the past year the director, Mr. George Otis Smith, takes occasion to emphasize a point that is not properly appreciated even by mining men, certainly not by the general public, namely, that scientific investigations are inseparable from economic work. "In any field," he remarks, "economic work of the highest rank is impossible without full knowledge of the scientific laws and principles pertaining to the subject of the work; but as there is no application of geology that does not involve unsolved problems, some of them of the highest importance, the best knowledge available is nevertheless relative. It thus follows that the broad and searching observations which should accompany every piece of good economic work comprehend data that are eventually combined in the construction of new scientific hypotheses, some of which, as more observations accumulate, grow into established laws or principles that are in turn of the greatest practical consequence. Thus the detailed studies of the metalliferous deposits in one region or another bring to light evidence from which to determine the genesis of the ores and the modes or conditions of their occurrence, and the economic inquiry becomes more intelligent and successful when once this new principle regarding the mode of an ore occurrence is understood." Mr. Smith gives as an interesting illustration of the deduction of a principle from data gradually accumulated from investigations in several fields, the conclusions presented in the paper by Mr. W. H. Emmons on the enrichment of sulphide ores; while an illustration of scientific results based on a long period of field studies, is found in the pre-Paleozoic history of Central North America, as described in the monograph by Van Hise and Leith on the geology of the Lake Superior region.