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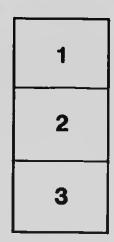
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CONGRÈS GÉOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONAL

XII" SESSION, CANADA, 1918

SECOND CIRCULAR-CANADIAN EDITION

REPRINT OF PREFACE ONLY.

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PREFACE TO CANADIAN EDITION OF SECOND CIRCULAR

VICTORIA MEMORIAL MUSEUM,

OTTAWA, CANADA,

MARCH 1st, 1913.

Introduction.

The Twelfth Session of the International Geological Congress is to be held in Canada this yenr, (1913), this being the first session in this country and the third on the western side of the Atlantic. The session is being held here on the invitation of the Dominion and Ontario Governments, the Canadian Mining Institute and the Royal Society of Canada.

It is felt by the Executive Committee that n few notes outlining the object, work nnd history of the Congress in general will be appreciated.

Geology is defined as the science treating of the earth's history and it includes the study of its mineral deposits and the floras and faunas which have successively clothed and peopled the earth's surface. The direct value of geological work is now fully recognized, especially by those connected with mining, civil, and hydraulic engineering, it being daily applied not only to mining problems, but to many others, such as water supplies; foundations for bridges and large buildings; dams; road construction, etc. In fact, in the recognition of the commercial importance of geology there is danger that some branches of the science may be overlooked or slighted. It is well, therefore, to point out that in many cases the application of geology to engineering and commercial work has been made possible only by the study of problems which appear to be solely of scientific interest. The International Geological Congress takes care that all aspects of geology receive adequate consideration in its sessions.

Object and Work.

The object of the International Geological Congress is, briefly, the advancement of knowledge concerning the earth both in the field of pure geological science and in its application to the arts and industries, through the association and cooperation of leading geologists and engineers of all nations.

The more important methods by which it endcavors to accomplish its aim are as follows:---

- 1. Mcetings.
- 2. Publications.
- 3. International Committees.
- 4. Excursions.
- 5. Prizes.

1. Meetings.

The meetings are held every three years in different countries, and each session lasts from seven to ten days. The meetings are attended by members from every civilized country. The leading countries, societies and universities are represented by specially appointed delegates. Papers bearing on questions of general interest are read and discussed. As main topics for discussion subjects of scientific or economic importance are selected in advance so that every member who can contribute knowledge on the subject may be prepared to do so. In this way, the exact state of present knowledge on these topics is put forth and made known.

2. Publications.

The transactions of the congress are published as soon after the session as possible. They contain the more important papers and discussions, and a general report on the business and work of the congress. The transactions of the Eleventh Congress form two volumes totaling 1413 pages. In addition, a quarto volume of papers on "Changes of Climate since the Maximum of the Last Period of Glaciation," and two quarto volumes and a large atlas on "The Iron Ore Resources of the World " stand to the credit of the Eleventh Congress.

3. International Committees.

Committees are formed to deal with questions requiring international or concerted action.

Such subjects as the standardization of geological colours and signs employed on maps, the standardization of geological nomenclature, and the planning of general geological maps covering an entire continent have been dealt with by these committees.

4. Excursions.

Excursions have become an outstanding feature of the sessions, special facilities being provided in the country in which the meeting is held to enable the delegates coming from every portion of the world to make, at small expense and under expert guidance, a personal study of its geological structure and mineral resources.

The value of the excursions is not confined to what is seen and learned. They afford the best opportunity for the members to fraternize and to become acquainted with each other and with each others' work and ideas. The informal discussions of the geological problems presented in the field and the information that is thus brought out concerning the methods employed in the various parts of the world in attacking and solving similar problems: and the use that has been found for neglected or little known substances; these and similar discussions are perhaps the most instructive and valuable features of the Congress.

5. Prizes.

The Congress affords the necessary machinery for awarding prizes for special achievement in the science or application of geology. The Spendiarow prize founded by a Mr. Spendiarow, of St. Petersburg, Russia, in memory of his son, is awarded at each session for the most important work accomplished by an individual since the preceding session. Special prizes have been awarded at various sections.

Value of the Congress.

From even such a brief recital of the objec. and work of the Congress, its importance is evident, but a fe other points may be touched upon. It has secured the co-operation of the governments of various countries as well as of men of science that has resulted in the magnificent geological map of Europe now approaching completion. A similar geological map of the whole world will be undertaken. As nu example of valuable international studies may be mentioned the very careful investigation into the iron ore resources of the world, the results of which are embodied in a series of magnificent volumes, in which the extent, quality and mode of occurrence of the iron ore resources of every country of the world are set forth, and illustrated by means of maps and plans. A similar plan of study is now in progress to determine the coal resources of the world, a full report of which will be issued in 1913 before the meeting of the Congress in Canada. The Congress serves, in a sense, as an international clearing house for geology. These great gatherings of distinguished scholars of all nationalities have aroused greater interest in geology on the part of private individuals, corporations, and governments, given it a higher standing as a science, and rendered possible its increased economic application.

The country entertaining the Congress is repaid in many ways. The excursions are participated in by the more eminent geologists and mining engineers of the world, giving them a knowledge of its resources and possibilities. which they spreed abroad, for they are the advisers of capital; the writers of text books and authoritative articles; and the instructors in universities and schools. Their eriticisms and suggestions based upon their experience with similar problems and conditions in other parts of the world are helpful and stimulating to the home geologists and mining engineers. After leaving any country, they have learned where to obtain reliable information concerning it and they follow its developments and discoveries as announced in the press and technical papers.

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Character of Attendance.

Geologists from every quarter of the globe attend the Congress. The word "International" in the title was well chosen and the character of the attendance at each Congress has been remarkable for the number of different nationalities represented. As to the personel of the members, they may be broadly elassed in three divisions.

Ist. Professors and teachers from the leading colleges and universities as well as the technical and mining schools.

2nd. Officers of government geological surveys or equivalent organizations.

3rd. Geologists and mining engineers in private practice.

History.

The foundation of the Congress was inspired by the collections of geological maps and sections from various regions of North and South America as well as from many countries of Europe which were shown at the International Exhibitionin Philadelphia, in 1876. The advantage of such comparative study so deeply impressed visiting geologists that at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in Buffalo, August, 1876, a committee was appointed to arrange for an international congress of geologists at the 1878 Paris Exhibition.

It is interesting to note that Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, who from 1847 to 1872 was chemist and mineralogist to the Geological Survey of C. hada, was Secretary of this first Committee—the Comité Fondateur of 1876, and at the first session of the Congress held in Paris in 1878, Messrs. A. R. C. Selwyn, T. Sterry Hunt, and Paul de Cazé were the Canadian delegates, twenty-three countries being represented.

Previous Sessions.

The following table gives particulars of previous sessions including the attendance and number of countries represented at each:—

Session		Country	Members		Delogates	Vice Presidenta	Countries Represented
Ň	×	ට	Enrolled	Attending	Ped	Vic	Rep
lst 1878 2nd 1881		France	310		7	18	23
3rd	1881 1885	Italy Germany	420	224	23	19	23
4th	1888	England	455	258	15	20	22
5th	1891	U.S.A.	546	140 251	68	22	25
6th	1894	Switzerland	401	273	39 18	31	24
7th	1897	Russia	1037	704	139	15 40	20
8th	1900	France	1016	461	80	46	$\frac{27}{31}$
9th 10th	1903	Austria	664	393	39	25	30
llth	1906 1910	Mexico	707	321	83	27	33
	1010	Sweden	879	625	262	74	36

Number of Members, Delegates, Vice-Presidents and Countries Represented at each Session.

Members are usually professional geologists or persons occupied in an allied profession, though amateurs are welcome merabers and much important geological work has heen accomplished by amateurs whose love for the science has been their only inducement to work. At each Congress more members are enrolled than actually attend and those who do not attend derive benefit from the Transactions which are sent to all members and contain the more important papers and discussions.

Delegates are members of the Congress who have been specially appointed to represent a government, university, or society.

Vice-Presidents are members of the Congress, usually delegates, elected at the first meeting of each Session to represent their country on the Council of the Congress.

Organization and Government.

Council.

The Congress is governed by a Council constituted as follows:---

(a) Members of the Organization Committee of the Session of the Congress being held.

(b) Presidents in office of Geological Societies.

(c) Directors of important Geological Surveys.

(d) Members of the "Burcau" (Vice-Presidents and other office holders elected by the members at their first meeting.)

(e) Members of the Congress whom the Council may add to its number.

Bureau.

A list of names for the "Bureau" is submitted by the Council for the approval of the members at the first meeting of the Session. The "Bureau" is charged with the arrangements of the orders of the day for the meetings.

The General Secretary and Officers (Bureau) of a Session are responsible for the general management of the Congress affairs until the next Session has met and their successors have been appointed. (See Transactions, 1st Session, Paris, 1878, page 274).

Organization Committee.

An Organization Committee or an Executive Committee or both are appointed for each Session by the Government or institutions whose invitation for the ensuing Session has been accepted by the previous Session, and local arrangements are left to it. The names of members of these Committees in Canada are given in the Second Circular.

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Honorary Counciliors and Members of the Finance Committee.

In addition to the Executive and Organization Committees the following gentlemen are giving their assistance in Canada as Honorary Councillors and members of the Finance Committee:--

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- E. R. WOOD, President, Dominion Securities Company, Limited, Toronto.

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