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THE SIXTEENTH INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

By Dr. W. C. MENDENHALL

DIRECTOR OF THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CONGRESS

THE Sixteenth International Geological Congress met in Washington, D. C., the week of July 22 to 29. A total of 1,181 geologists and organizations enrolled as members of the congress, and of these about 165 foreign and 500 American geologists attended the session in Washington. Thirty-four foreign countries were represented by official delegates.

The Geological Congress meets every three or four years. Each congress includes council meetings and general meetings for the transaction of business, reports of international commissions and sectional meetings at which scientific papers are presented. In connection with the congress a series of excursions designed to show visitors the major features of the geology of the host country is arranged.

The Sixteenth Congress was opened on July 22 with an address by A. L. Hall, general secretary of the Fifteenth Congress, held in South Africa in 1929.

The Honorable Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior of the United States, welcomed the members on behalf of the government. Waldemar Lindgren, president of the Sixteenth Congress, C. K. Leith, president of the Geological Society of America, which generously financed the congress, and W. C. Mendenhall, general secretary of the Sixteenth Congress, made brief addresses.

A number of topics were selected by the organization committee as especially important at this time, and papers and discussions on these topics were invited.

(1) *Fossil man and contemporary faunas.* Sir Arthur Smith Woodward,¹ in the opening paper of the section, reviewed the distribution of early man in the Old World and presented the thesis that human remains found in Tanganyika Territory, indistinguish-

¹ SCIENCE, vol. 78, pp. 89-92, Aug. 4, 1933.

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