



RESULTS OF A KERMESSE—SUNRISE.

the ocean, leaving 42,000 acres of dry, fertile land upon which 17,000 people now dwell in peace and comfort.

When the Dutch go at a thing they do not lack in thoroughness. They overlook nothing. They carefully weigh all things. The first thing they did was characteristic: they appointed a commission to inquire carefully into every phase of the problem—engineering, economic, agricultural, governmental, hygienic, hydraulic, financial. They reckoned with every foot of material, every gallon of water, every hectare of land, every gulden of outlay and probable income.

This is the most stupendous engineering work of the kind ever attempted. The pumping dry of Haarlem Lake was at the time pronounced by many engineers to be impossible; yet it was successfully performed. Zuyder Zee is many times the area of Haarlem Lake, and presents from its depth and character many more difficulties. Indeed, the lowest estimate of the fertile lands to be reclaimed makes it two and a half times that of the former undertaking, while if the plan of the States Commission is followed it will be at least eight times as large, and capable of supporting, according to the density of population in Holland, from 20,000 to 50,000 persons in comfort and plenty. At present 3,500 fishermen pursue their precarious calling on these waters.

The fiat of doom of the Zuyder Zee has gone forth. In a very few years many thousands of acres of smiling Dutch pastures, of prosperous Dutch villages, of poplar-bordered roads, will characterize what is now merely the bottom of the sea.

Science in the twentieth century will have hardly any tale to tell more astonishing than this.

The Zuyder Zee is the gulf which forms the mouth of the Yssel and other rivers. Through the waters of this gulf flow the fresh waters of the rivers on their way to the open sea beyond. It is an integral part of the present design, instead of simply dyking the rivers within their narrow channels, to allow them to flow into a central reservoir or lake in the central part of what is now the Zuyder Zee. Shutting out the sea by a great dyke, with sluices connecting this lake with the ocean, makes it practicable to control the water-level.

The total land and water area of the Netherlands is 12,582 square miles, so that more than a tenth of it is covered by the waters of the Zuyder Zee. If the whole of this sea were to be reclaimed, the actual area of the kingdom would be increased ten per cent. A territorial addition which to a people more numerous than those who inhabit the great continent of Australia and nearly as numerous as the population of Canada, would be in those countries represented by a province