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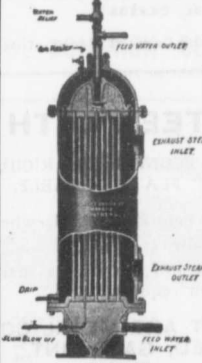
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IRON AND STEEL.

The British Board of Trade have issued a return showing the production and consumption of iron ore, pig iron and steel in the United Kingdom and the principal foreign countries. In 1905 the total output of iron ore in the world was estimated to amount to 114,000,000 tons, the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom and Spain (in the order given) producing 78 per cent. of the whole. The world's output in 1906 is estimated at 125,000,000 tons, or an increase of 11,000,000 tons. The United States produces more iron ore than Germany and the United Kingdom combined. In 1905 the output in the States showed an increase of about 15,000,000 tons on the previous year, and in 1906 there was a further increase of 7,000,000 tons, bringing the total production to nearly 50,000,000 tons. Germany produced 26,000,000 last year, showing an increase of 3,000,000 tons; and the output of the United Kingdom was 15,590,000 tons, being an increase of a million tons. In tons the production of pig iron and steel was as follows in the three countries in 1906: United States, pig iron 25,307,000 tons, steel 23,365,000 tons; Germany, pig iron 12,096,000 tons, steel 10,956,000 tons; United Kingdom, pig iron 10,149,000 tons, steel 6,482,000 tons. The output of steel in the United States shows an increase of nearly 10,000,000 tons compared with 1904, the increases in Germany and the United Kingdom in the same time being 2,120,000 and 1,451,000 tons respectively. Last year the imports of manufactures of iron and steel into the United Kingdom amounted to only 205,766 tons, being a decline of 7,187 tons on the previous year. In the matter of exports from the United Kingdom there was an increase under every head last year except in railroad iron, the decrease in the export of rails amounting to 86,241 tons. There was an increase of 679,944 tons in the export of pig iron from this country last year, mainly due to increased shipments to Germany, the United States and Canada. Germany imported 38,000 tons of tinplate last year, and this it obtained almost wholly from the United Kingdom.