

GERMAN PIG IRON.

Official statistics gathered from the iron producing countries of Europe are to the effect that Germany alone has had a steady increase during the ten years past. Though the increase is but 1,500,000 tons in that time, the indications are such as to warrant the belief that the output a few years hence will equal that of England, which is now greater than that of Germany and France combined. But England's product of iron has been for years showing an annual decline, so that there is a fair prospect, unless it is checked, that Germany will pass her and become second in pig iron production to the United States.

This increase is accounted for by the growing demand in Germany for the use of pig iron in the manufacture of machinery, railway, bridge and ship construction and all industries where iron is an important factor. The demand for the raw material is because of the increasing demand for the manufactured article, and this speaks plainly of a market constantly extending for the goods turned out of the factories. The American Consul of Annaberg, in reporting on this subject to the State Department, gives the German production for pig iron for 1893 at 4,953,148 tons, against 6,829,841 for Great Britain and 2,032,567 for France, and comments on the awakening spirit of enterprise in the German Empire as follows:

"Germany is untiring in her search after new markets. The good organization of export associations, the Government aid through its departments of commerce, and above all the intelligence of the mercantile classes, make it possible that the unceasing efforts are crowned with success. The slow, impractical, theoretical German business man is, after all, a keen, practical, experienced, intelligent sort of a fellow, and his methods would be worthy of study and partial imitation."—Cincinnati Price Current.

QUARRYING BY MEANS OF FIRE.

At Bangalore, in Southern India, the quarrying of granite slabs by means of wood fire has been brought to such perfection that on account of the method is given as follows in Nature: The rock forms solid masses uninterrupted by cracks for several hundreds of feet, and when quarried over an area is treated as follows: A narrow line of wood fire, perhaps 7 feet long, is gradually elongated, and at the same time moved forward over the tolerably even surface of solid rock. The line of fire is produced by dry logs of light wood, which have been left burning in their position until strokes with a hammer indicate that the rock in front of the fire has become detached from the main



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mass underneath. The burning wood is then pushed forward a few inches, and left until the hammer again indicates that the slit has extended. Thus the fire is moved on, and at the same time the length of the line of fire is increased and made to be convex on the side of the fresh rock, the maximum length of the arc amounting to about 25 feet. It is only on this advancing line of fire that any heating takes place, the portion which has been traversed being left to itself. This latter portion is covered with the ashes left by the wood, and with thin splinters which have been burst off. These splinters are only of about one-eighth inch thickness, and a few inches across. They are quite independent of the general splitting of the rock, which is all the time going on at a depth of about 5 inches from the surface. The burning lasts eight hours, and the line of fire advances at the average rate of nearly 6 feet an hour. The area actually passed over by the line of fire is 460 square feet, but as the crack extends about 3 feet on either side beyond the fire, the area of the entire slab which is set free measures about 740 square feet. All this is done with, may be, about 15 cwt. of wood. Taking the average thickness of the stone at 5 inches, and its specific gravity as 2.62, the result is 30 pounds of stone quarried with one pound of wood.

The adoption by the Imperial House of Commons and of the German Reichstag of resolutions in favor of co-operation

with other powers in calling an international conference to consider the serious evils arising from the growing divergence between the values of gold and silver is significant. What the people want is not disquisitions upon the technical niceties of financial questions, but that every dollar issued, no matter in what form issued, shall be equal in value to every other dollar. If an international monetary conference can bring about such a result, and thereby secure the coincident use of both metals at a constant parity, it will accomplish something worthy of the effort, and will no doubt do away with much of the opposition with which the bimetallicists of the world have to contend. British Columbia as a great silver producing country is much interested in this subject



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