

EUROPE'S COAL SUPPLY.

UNEASINESS OVER INCREASING PRICES—
TALK OF AN EXPORT DUTY.

During the last year or two there has been a slow but steady increase in the price of coal all over Europe. In consequence American consuls in several large cities on the Continent have been pointing out the opportunity afforded to producers in the United States at the present time. A number of causes have contributed to the existing state of things, no doubt, but the chief one is that England, which mines considerably more than half the coal taken out of the ground in Europe, was quietly putting up prices.

The following figures indicate how completely England commands the market: In 1898 she mined, in round numbers, 202,000,000 tons; Germany, but little over 90,000,000 tons; France, about 30,000,000 tons; Belgium, 22,000,000 tons; Austria-Hungary, 11,500,000 tons; Russia, nearly 10,000,000 tons; Australasia, 6,000,000 tons; Japan, 5,000,000 tons, and British India, 4,000,000 tons. Belgium exported almost a fourth of her output, Germany an eighth, France less than a twelfth and Russia practically none. England sold almost a quarter of her output (48,000,000 tons) to foreigners. Hence when for any reason she raised prices she would produce that result all over Europe, to say nothing of Asia. Incidentally it might be remarked that while this country mines almost as much coal as England she exports less than a twelfth as much as that country, and little of it goes across the Atlantic. America has not hitherto been a factor in the European situation, therefore.

The continued rise in prices has caused uneasiness in England as well as on the Continent. But in the former it is possible to discover great differences of opinion. On the one side it is alleged that the exports are increasing, that foreign governments are storing coal to use against England in war, and that foreign manufacturers are accumulating stock in order to fight England industrially. It has been proposed, therefore, to impose an export duty of from one to five shillings a ton, with a view to checking the outflow.

On the other hand, the English and Welsh mining companies, whose sales would thus be restricted, offer vigorous protests against the tax. They declare that it is nonsense to talk about great accumulations on the Continent for naval purposes, because soft coal deteriorates when it is stored. It is admitted that railways and manufacturers are laying in reserves, but these are said to be small and to be meant to provide against such emergencies as strikes. It is further asserted that this practice is resorted to by English corporations as well as by foreigners. The mining companies assert that if an export duty were laid on coal England would lose the Southern European and South American markets, probably forever. A further disturbance to trade would result from the fact that many vessels which bring merchandise of other kinds into English ports take out coal for the return voyage. A cargo each way insures lower freights than would otherwise be possible.

Precisely what has led England to put up prices it is hard to say. The South African and Chinese complications have impelled her to adopt a policy of preparation for increased consumption by her navy. No doubt other causes have exerted an influence also. But from the figures given in English papers it does not appear that there has been any increase in the exportation. It is asserted, for instance, that during the first half of the present year 22,000,000 tons were sold abroad. This is certainly less than half as much as was exported in 1898.

SOME EXTREMES OF PRICES.

From The London Chronicle.
The ram sold at Mr. Dudding's stock sale for 1,000 guineas—the record—compares favorably

with the 5d. a head paid lately in Sydney for sheep and half a crown a dozen at which lambs were quoted. A still larger margin is seen between Flying Fox's price and that of the horses sold in the Transvaal for a box of sardines and two pounds of butter respectively. People who look about them and compare prices can thus save a lot of money. Land in London costs £1,000 a square yard, in Donegal a shilling or so. The millionaire pays £10 for an ordinary dinner; the Chinese soldier gets 4s. a month, and with economy saves 3s. 4d. after paying expenses, and the Indian ryot can buy a meal for himself and his family for half a farthing.

THE INDIANS AS GAMBLERS.

POKER AND MONTE PLAYING AMONG THE CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF RESERVATION BRAVES OF THE SOUTHWEST.

Cowboys have a great many things to answer for, both good and bad, and perhaps it would not be right to blame them with having taught the Indian how to gamble. But not until the cowboys came among them did the Indians on the reservations know the art of throwing the

stakes. If one of the Indians should carry off a big winning he would be so surprised that he might reform.

The reason the Indians are not a success at card playing, say the cow punchers, is that they do not know the art of cheating or catching a cheater. Stacking the cards or under dealing are beyond their comprehension. But gamblers in the tribal ranks are getting thicker. It is a disease that spreads with the influx of white men to their lands.

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN" IN CHINESE.

LOFENGLUH'S RHYMED TRANSLATION IN THE ORIGINAL METRE.

Professor Salmoné, in The London Post.

In 1897 I devised and edited a small publication entitled "The Imperial Souvenir," this being the translation of the third verse of the national anthem, metrically rendered into fifty of the most important languages spoken in the Queen's empire. In the case of Oriental languages the verse was likewise presented in Roman characters, so that every subject of Her Majesty is thereby enabled "to sing with heart and voice"

LIFE SAVERS AT PRACTICE.

AN EXHIBITION DRILL AT SHEEPSHEAD BAY—A SKILFUL DELINEATOR OF DROWNING.

The number of drowning accidents and of heroic rescues reported this summer from beach resorts along the New-York and New-Jersey coasts has been unprecedented, according to figures collected by the officials of the United States Volunteer Life Saving Service. They are at a loss to account for the increase in the number of persons endangered by surf bathing and boating, but say that the increase in rescues is due to a more efficient life saving service, which has been instituted at the various resorts. More than twice as many medals for rescues made at the risk of the rescuer's life will be given this year than ever before.

There has been a large increase in the number of expert swimmers who have joined the ranks of the United States Volunteer Life Saving Corps during the year. There are now 730 crews in New-York State alone. They are scattered from Peconic Bay, at the lower end of Long Island, to Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Hardly a water resort of prominence is without a crew. Interior lakes, including several of the larger bodies of water in the Adirondacks, have well trained crews. In New-York and Pennsylvania 450 stations have been established. They are numerous along the New-Jersey coast, and their aid has been necessary. The total number of volunteers in the service is now about six thousand. Colonel J. Wesley Jones is in charge of the service, with headquarters at No. 63 Park Row, this city. The men in the service receive no pay, and the expense of supplying the stations with life saving appliances is met by private subscriptions. During the year which closed on October 31, 1899, 2,007 rescues were made by members of the service.

The first of a series of exhibition drills which will be given at the stations along the coast during the next

few weeks was held at Sheepshead Bay last Sunday morning, under the direction of Colonel Jones. There are four crews located in that vicinity, and about thirty men were engaged in the drill. Several expert life savers from different points on the coast were present to give instruction to new men, and to show how drowning persons could be brought ashore without particular danger to the rescuer. One of the crew feigned drowning, and the others resuscitated him by the most improved methods.

A delineator of drowning is a new occupation, and so far John H. Dunn, of Brooklyn, is the only man to follow it. He is employed this summer in giving the volunteer crews a chance to practise the method of reviving persons who are nearly drowned. At the Sheepshead Bay exhibition he put out from shore in a small boat, and after rowing a hundred yards into the bay in a clumsy manner, turned the boat over. His cries for help were so natural that women in the crowd upon the shore thought he was really drowning. When he sank beneath the surface with a struggle they were sure of it. A group of life savers stood on Page's Wharf. They were young men for the most part, slender in build, and their muscles stood out like the knots on an oak tree. Their faces and arms and legs were tanned an octoroon brown.

At a given signal from the officer in charge they jumped into the water with hardly a splash. Their dripping heads bobbed up thirty yards from the float, and they were off in a race for the man who was supposed to be drowning. They were swimming for speed, but they slid through the water like young sea lions, with a turning motion of the body and with hardly a splash as their strong arms cut through the water. The drowning delineator



FIRST ACTION OF THE RESUSCITATION PROCESS.

Rolling the subject on a buoy to remove the water from the lungs.

pasteboards. Since then they have become as skilful at it as they are lazy.

One of the chief occupations of the reservation Indians in the Southwest to-day is poker and monte playing. Indeed, it requires so much of their time that they do not care for the festive dance nor the mysterious medicine making, as they once did. They scan the broad fields with a disdainful look, and turn to the scene of gambling with the air of a king. The fields, all their own, are left untilled, while they seat themselves for a quiet game.

For quiet and subtle are their plays. Never cheating and always thinking characterize the Indian poker player. He sits and chews his tobacco, grunts out his bids and bluffs, rakes in the stakes or feeds the jackpot, as the case may be, with silent demeanor. You might think the Indians were playing for lives, instead of a few blankets or a couple of dollars. They seldom look at each other to see if they can read the countenance. It is impossible for any mind reader to tell whether an Indian thinks about killing you or giving you his favorite wife, so inexpressive is his face. That is why the Indians are fond of poker. It taxes their facial power—it makes them excited and tests the nerve. Sometimes it makes them rich, but this is an exception.

All of the reservation Indians in the Southwest have taken to gambling as their chief amusement. Ghost dancing and war dancing are only side issues in the great campaign of sport. As soon as they draw their quarterly donations from the Government the chief gamblers at once take to the open prairie and go in for poker. As the news spreads that a big game is on the other Indians hie to the scene and get in as quickly as possible. Cowboys and professional white gamblers are the guests of honor, and they are expected to take away the

"God Save the Queen" in the fifty languages referred to. It was naturally a huge task to obtain the translations of so many Eastern languages, but I eventually succeeded. Chinese, however, proved almost formidable. None of the Chinese scholars and my colleagues at the various colleges felt capable of undertaking so difficult a task, owing to the great divergence of the Chinese language from anything Western as regards expression, idiom and metre. At last I applied to His Excellency Sir Chihchen Lofengluh, and asked him to be good enough to recommend to me some one at the Legation who would be able to undertake the work. In reply I received the following letter:

"49 Portland Place, August 25, 1897.
"Dear Professor Salmoné: In conformity with the request contained in your note of the 21st inst., I have the pleasure to inclose to you the caligraphic copy of my translation of the third verse of the British National Anthem.
"I beg to call your attention to the fact that the Chinese version is also in rhyme, and in the same metre as the English original, and the caligraphic copy is made in strict accordance with the directions enclosed in your note. I have the honor to be, yours faithfully,
"LOFENGLUH."

To say the least, it was a graceful act on His Excellency's part to undertake the translation of "God Save the Queen." If a few such men as Sir Chihchen had the supreme direction of affairs in China to-day that country could have vied with the best State in Europe.

I subjoin the transliteration of Sir Chihchen's rendering of the verse in question. It has been tested and pronounced accurate by some of the best musicians in Europe, as well as by the leading scholars of Chinese in Europe and America—one and all pronounce it as a most excellent rendering and a masterly performance. It was undoubtedly a courtly and friendly tribute to the good feeling existent between two of the greatest empires of the Eastern and Western hemispheres.

"Chi shan pi yu yü kiang
Shan Ts'ang chiang fu fang chang
Wan Shon wu chiang
Yung shih Shen Jén yü yü
Shon fa pao pang yü wu
Ko kung sung t'eh wei yang
T'iea yü Chun Chu."