

Miners' Journal

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SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1860.

THE COAL FIELDS OF NORTH AMERICA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

The January number of the Edinburgh Review contains an interesting article by Henry Darwin Rogers on the Coal formation of various countries, which we will endeavor to present at some future period, in extracts, to our readers. The Review justly paid a marked compliment to the magnificent and elaborate work of Mr. Rogers, given to the world under his State's liberal patronage, and remarks that the official concerned survey of their mineral fuels, the Americans have surpassed their brethren of Great Britain.

Although our limited space precludes the possibility of giving the mass of interesting and important facts in relation to known coal fields contained in the article under notice, we will give a few of the more prominent.

After advertising to the fact that the history of Coal-fields in the highest degree, the entire social condition of our species, the Review quotes comparatively, in the following paragraphs, the prodigious services which that inert element has to civilization:

"Taking one car-avant of pure coal, it requires

a reserve of about 5000 tons, and, presumably, of giving the mass of interesting and important facts in relation to known coal fields contained in the article under notice, we will give a few of the more prominent.

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positive View of American and European Coal Fields.

The aggregate space occupied by the vast coal fields of North America is about 100,000 square miles, and the total area of all the known coal deposits of Europe, or indeed of the whole Northern continent.

Comparing the coal fields of North America with those of other countries with those of North America, we have the following results:

I. Estimated Areas of Coal Principal Countries.

States of Total Area.

United States 2,000,000

British Provinces of N. America 1,000,000

Great Britain 500,000

Belgium 200,000

France, Prussia, Spain, Portugal, & Ireland 100,000

Scandinavia 50,000

Austria-Hungary 20,000

Russia 10,000

Other Countries 10,000

Total 3,000,000

II. Estimated Quantities of Coal in Principal Countries.

States of Total.

Belgium (average thickness, 60 feet of coal) 30,000,000,000

France (about the same thickness) 50,000,000,000

British Islands (average thickness, 20 feet) 100,000,000,000

Prussia, Austria, &c. (average thickness, 20 feet) 100,000,000,000

Portugal, Spain, &c. (average thickness, 20 feet) 100,000,000,000

Scandinavia (average thickness, 20 feet) 100,000,000,000

Austria-Hungary (average thickness, 20 feet) 100,000,000,000

Russia (average thickness, 20 feet) 100,000,000,000

Other Countries (average thickness, 20 feet) 100,000,000,000

Total 1,000,000,000,000

III. Estimated Quantities of Coal in Principal Countries.

States of Total.

Belgium (average thickness, 60 feet of coal) 1,000,000,000,000

France (about the same thickness) 1,000,000,000,000

British Islands (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Prussia, Austria, &c. (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Portugal, Spain, &c. (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Scandinavia (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Austria-Hungary (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Russia (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Other Countries (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Total 5,000,000,000,000

IV. Estimated Quantities of Coal in Principal Countries.

States of Total.

Belgium (average thickness, 60 feet of coal) 1,000,000,000,000

France (about the same thickness) 1,000,000,000,000

British Islands (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Prussia, Austria, &c. (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Portugal, Spain, &c. (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Scandinavia (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Austria-Hungary (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Russia (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Other Countries (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Total 5,000,000,000,000

V. Estimated Quantities of Coal in Principal Countries.

States of Total.

Belgium (average thickness, 60 feet of coal) 1,000,000,000,000

France (about the same thickness) 1,000,000,000,000

British Islands (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000

Prussia, Austria, &c. (average thickness, 20 feet) 1,000,000,000,000