

The herring-sardine packers of Maine will cure and pack 350,000,000 herring this season.

Indian competition with British cotton goods is becoming keener every year. A recently published article on this subject says that in 1865 there were only thirteen spinning mills in the Presidency of Bombay, while at present there are seventy, and the number of spindles increased during the period in question from about 285,000 to nearly 1,750,000. The number of looms now at work is about 15,000, against 3,570 in 1865. The annual consumption of raw cotton now amounts to about 486,000 bales. In all India there are at present 95 cotton spinning mills and weaving establishments, containing 2,250,000 spindles, 17,500 looms, and affording employment to nearly 75,000 hands, and it is stated that about 100,000 fresh spindles are run every year. Indian cotton goods are largely exported to China and Japan, in competition with British and German manufactures of the same description. The total quantity of raw cotton consumed in Indian manufactories is not less than 650,000 bales, and the capital employed is estimated at 80,000,000 rupees.

LEOPARDS IN INDIA.

In an Indian bungalow, says a lady writer, every bedroom has a small ante-room attached, in which the important function of bathing is performed. The floor is of cement and uncarpeted, to allow of splashing, and round the tub are placed the ghurras, or earthen pots of water which are required for the bath. The little room had always two doors, one opening on the outer air to admit the breeze with his supply of water, the other opening into the bedroom. On the evening in question, just as dusk was falling, I had finished the unpacking of a box in my bedroom and was moving away, when I fancied I heard a slight sound in the bathroom. It was an unusual hour for the breeze's visit, so I opened the door, and, to my horror, saw just in front of me the beautiful sleek back of a large leopard, which was crouched on the floor and drinking out of one of the ghurras. The room was so small that I found myself quite close to the leopard, and could indeed have touched the spots on its glossy coat from where I stood. I was too frightened to move, and stood perfectly still, and fortunately for me, the outer door by which the creature had entered still stood wide open, and with a single bound it cleared the threshold and disappeared up the hillside. Had the door been shut, or been closed from the outside by a servant, the animal would have had no resource but to seek an exit by the doorway in which I was standing, and the knowledge of my narrow escape made us very careful over after about shutting up early in the afternoon.

A few nights later we were awakened by hearing the watchman call out loudly that there was a leopard in the veranda, and we ran to the window in time to see the waving of the branches where the beast had sprung out among the trees. The bearer, who was lying rolled up in his blankets in the same veranda, slept soundly on, meanwhile, unconscious of his proximity to the stealthy-footed creature. These leopards are cowardly creatures, and will never attack a human being if they can avoid it, their special fancy is for little dogs, and they will so haunt the neighborhood of any house where dogs are kept that the greatest care is necessary to prevent the little quadrupeds falling victims to the big ones.

As the weather became better they grew less bold, and it was only towards the end of the season that we saw them again. When snow fell on the farther hills they were driven to seek food lower down, and then again they began to infest the station. Often in the month of October, when coming home late at night, I have heard the hoarse sort of purring noise they make as they rub their sides, like huge cats, against the trunks of the trees. The men carrying my dandi (light palanquin) would then step out, and talk very loud, to keep up their courage, while the mate would flourish his lantern and shout. No leopard would come near so noisy a party, and the only danger on such occasions is of the men taking a panic and dropping the dandi, when the situation would be awkward. This however, never happened to me, and I was equally fortunate when riding.

COMMERCIAL.

Business affairs have remained substantially as last reported as regards condition, but trade has made fair progress. Although not active, it has been of a healthy and steady character. While there has been no new feature to note, still payments have been better provided for than was anticipated a few weeks since. The outlook appears to favor an even distribution of goods on a fairly profitable basis.

The closing of navigation on the St. Lawrence for the season will occur in a few weeks. After it does, a large quantity of freight will, as usual, come to this port by steamer and otherwise from Europe, and a large volume of out-going merchandise might also be handled if railway facilities proportionate to the demands of business were furnished. Still we do not learn that the railway authorities are taking any steps to accommodate the prospectively certain requirements of traffic. It has been repeatedly pointed out to them that their rolling stock is lamentably deficient, and that at least twice the number of snow-ploughs and other appliances for keeping the road in working order are necessary. All admonitions and all efforts of persons and journals interested in benefiting the I. C. R. and the trade of Halifax are, however, "listened to with deaf ears," and it seems that they are likely to continue to be so until a radical change in the management is effected.

The wet weather that has prevailed during the summer has been disastrous not only to farmers, but also to dwellers in towns and cities. The

operations of builders and city improvements have been seriously retarded. It has been practically impossible to obtain material for the erection of new buildings, or for the laying of sidewalks, etc., because it was impossible to dry them, and we know of instances where the clay has had to be molded five or six times in as many weeks in the effort to produce marketable bricks. Quarrymen, masons, and others in kindred lines have also been similarly hampered and the result of the season has been far from satisfactory all around.

Prices of all commodities have advanced steadily for several weeks. Every advance has been well held, and the indications all favor stiffer figures as time advances.

Bradstreet's Report of the week's failures:—

	Week Oct. 5 1888	Prev. week 1888	Weeks corresponding to (- Oct. 5 -)			Failures for this year to date.			
	1888	1888	1887	1886	1885	1888	1887	1886	1885
United States..	146	150	134	201	172	7,476	7,120	7,749	8,881
Canada.....	43	28	21	21	23	1,317	968	935	1,001