

General Notes.

The extent to which insurance against fire is resorted to in Paris is disclosed by some recent statistics relating to fires in the French capital. During last year it appears that there were 982 cases of fire in the city, in 926 of which insurances were effected upon houses. Insurances upon furniture were somewhat less common being had in 751 cases only. The statistics would seem also to indicate a high degree of efficiency on the part of the fire service. The estimate of the losses in 977 cases of fire was 7,729,315 frs. Of this entire loss, 7,500,100 frs. resulted from 274 fires, in which the average loss amounted to 27,701 frs. per fire. In the great majority of cases the loss was trifling, the total for the 703 remaining cases amounting to only 130,215 frs. or an average of 198 frs. per fire.

The cultivation of the olive in California promises to be a great success. The trees begin bearing in three years, and continue to yield for centuries. Some of the olive trees are already eight years old, and produce 250 bushels of fruit to the acre, representing £250 in oil.

There are 74,710,350 spindles in the world, of which Europe has 61,345,000, the United States 11,875,000, and the East Indies, 1,496,300. Great Britain has 40,100,000, against 21,245,000 on the continent. France has 5,000,000, Germany a little less, and Russia, Switzerland and Spain about 1,750,000.

It is said that the United States consume more lemons in a year than all the other countries combined, and the consumption is increasing greatly every year. As shown from statistics, the number of boxes imported in 1850 amounted to 119,000, while in 1882 the number had increased to 1,342,000 boxes.

The silk crop in Italy is both abundant and of good quality; it therefore has the effect of keeping the price of raw silk low in Europe despite the Chinese deficit, this year, the more so as the Japanese, French and Spanish crops are also fair. The sardine catch is described as being something unprecedented on the Italian coast.

The production of crude petroleum in the oil fields of Pennsylvania and New York in 1882 was 30,053,500 barrels of 42 gallons each, worth at an average spot value of 78½ cents per barrel, \$23,704,698. During the first six months of 1883 the yield was 11,291,663 barrels, worth, at an average spot value of \$1.00½ per barrel, \$11,305,778. In addition to the quantity above stated, California produced in 1882 about 70,000 barrels.

Signor Paresi is credited with the discovery of a new method of preserving meat from putrefaction, which, if as efficacious as stated, will be of immense value to society at large. The meat is simply immersed in a bath of water slightly acidulated with nitro-muriatic acid. Thus treated, it will keep good for many months, and when required for use must be dried at a temperature of 60° Fahr. A brown tint is given to the meat by the acid, but this is readily removed by soaking in plain water before the drying process.

The Egyptian census has just been completed. The total population is given as 6,798,230, of whom 3,393,918 are males, and 3,404,312 females. Cairo has 368,108 inhabitants; Alexan-

dria, with its suburbs, 208,775; Port Said, 10,560; Suez, 10,913; Tantah, 33,725; Diamietta, 34,046; Rosetta, 10,871; Mansurah, 26,784; Zagazig, 19,046.

A statistician at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., has published an interesting estimate of the length of time the supply of anthracite coal in that State may be expected to last. The total anthracite area before mining commenced was 320,000 sq. miles. Allowing 1,000 tons to the acre a foot in depth would give 220,000,000 tons. Assuming that the depth averages 30 feet, it gives a grand total of 9,600,000,000 tons. At the present time the consumption averages 30,000,000 a year. So it will be seen that at the commencement of mining operations the supply was sufficient for 320 years. About 508,000 tons, or about seventeen years' supply, have been mined, leaving sufficient to supply the demand for over 300 years to come. The evil day of the exhaustion of the coal supply is yet a long way off.

The foreign trade of France for the first six months of 1883 shows a slight increase over that for the corresponding period of 1882. The total value of the imports for six months of 1883 was 2,418,211,000 frs., as against 2,354,001,000 frs. for six months of 1882. The increase here observable was mainly due to a gain in the imports of raw materials (which were valued at 1,172,955,000 frs. in 1883, as against 1,131,279,000 fr. in 1882), and of articles of food which were valued at 771,899,000 fr. in 1883, as against 748,710,000 fr. in 1882. A slight falling off is noticeable in the imports of manufactures. The exports show a decrease, being valued at 1,659,646,000 fr. in 1883, as against 1,721,336,000 fr. in 1882. The decrease is principally owing to a decline in the exports of manufactures (which were valued at 858,450,000 fr. in 1883, as against 907,950,000 fr. in 1882), and of raw materials (which were valued at 326,016,000 fr. in 1883, as against 330,763,000 fr. in 1882). A slight increase is noticeable in the exports of articles of food.

In the six months ended with June, the entries of shipping with cargoes belonging to foreign trade, at ports in the United Kingdom, were 12,267,000 tons, as against 11,267,000 tons in the corresponding six months of 1882, and 10,617,000 tons in the same six months of 1881. The clearances with cargo aggregated 14,102,000 tons, as against 13,355,000 tons in the first half of 1882, and 12,242,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1881.

Upon reference to British official returns, we find the following statistics concerning the imports of beef cattle, fresh beef and canned beef into the United Kingdom in a single year—the total imports of beef cattle numbered 251,635, valued at about \$27,000,000, of which 102,200, valued at \$11,700,000, were imported from the United States. The total imports of fresh beef amounted to 817,295 cwts., valued at \$10,540,000, of which 747,785 cwts., valued at \$9,611,000 were imported from the United States. Preserved or canned meats—which were principally beef—were imported to the value of \$10,458,000, of which \$,092,000 came from the United States. Besides these imports, salted beef, to the value of \$2,400,000—nearly all from the United States—was imported.

In the year 1881, the estimated production in

Great Britain of coal was 150,000,000 tons; in 1880, it was 140,000,000; and in 1877, the annual output was 125,000,000. We have here an average yearly increase of 6,500,000 tons. The yearly production of Germany and Austria is put at 73,600,000 tons; that of Germany and Belgium 32,000,000, and for other countries of Europe the aggregate is figured at 6,500,000. Adding these quantities together, we have a yearly production of 272,000,000 tons.

There have been frequent reports of big gold discoveries on the Yukon river, in Alaska, this summer, but owing to the distant and isolated position of the alleged gold fields, nothing conclusive as to the truthfulness or untruthfulness of the reports has been learned. Another report came down to San Francisco lately by mail, on the steamer St. Paul from Onon, Alaska, confirming the previous reports of the discovery of gold on the Yukon river—at least the letter is said to "confirm." The discovery, according to this latest information, is reported to be a very large one; but owing to exceedingly cold weather—28° below zero—little prospecting can be done. The miners who made the discovery were a party fitted out by E. Schieffelin, who made the discovery in Arizona and who cleared \$1,000,000 in that section.

A Word to Clerks.

Very many young men employed as clerks are possessed of a laudable desire to start in business for themselves. In one respect they are worthy of all praise for their ambition.

If, by long and close application to all the details of their duties as clerks, they have acquired a clear and thorough insight into their business then let them try and start out on their own account. Only he who has learned the rudiments of his business thoroughly is likely to make a success when he tries to go it alone.

Many clerks chafe under the necessary restraint placed upon them by their employers. Some deem their hours of work too long or their pay too small. Others are possessed of a deluded belief that they know their business as well as "the boss," and fail to see why the measure of their reward should be so much smaller than his.

Still others, and this is the most deluded class of all, lay the flattering unction to their souls that their services are indispensable to "the boss." Don't you ever believe that young man. You may be a highly useful individual know your business thoroughly and attend to your duties conscientiously. We will admit all that. But nobody ever left such a big hole after him in this world but that some other person was found to fill it. History will tell you that. Cæsar, Napoleon & Co. were wise and great men, no doubt, but they all joined the silent majority, and still the world has managed to drag along somehow without them.

Never become possessed of the idea that you are a mercantile Cæsar or Napoleon, young man. No, not even if anyone is idiot enough to tell you so. If you once get that crank in your head you will make yourself a bore to all your friends. This poor, paltry little world will not be big enough to hold your high mightiness. You will suffer from lack of appreciation. You