

The Vine Crop in France.

A few weeks ago very favorable reports were received from France regarding the vine crop, and the fears which were entertained in the early part of the season for the safety of the vineyards were supposed to have been without foundation. We are now told, however, that the vineyards there are in danger of being completely destroyed, and that our supply obtained thence may be cut off at any moment. This intelligence will no doubt arouse the deepest anxiety in the minds of those who believe that "wine maketh glad the heart of man," and that it is good to "use a little for the stomach's sake." It appears that the vines have been attacked by a most destructive insect, known as the phylloxera, and supposed to have been introduced with some stocks brought from America. This insect is infinitely, almost invisibly small, and perforates the roots of the vines on which it lives, so that the whole plant gradually withers and dies. Its prolific powers are said to be something fearful. One insect from April to October, we are told, is capable of swelling by successive generations to several millions. This scourge has been at work since 1865, and it is easy to understand how numerous these insects have become since, and how great the damage done by them. The Department of Vaucluse, which was the first to become its prey, is now almost entirely overrun. Of 30,000 hectares, [a hectare is about 2½ acres] which were covered with vines nine years ago, there now remains scarcely 3,000 upon which the plant can grow. The following districts also suffer more or less from its ravages: Gard, Hérault, Ardèche, Bouches du Rhone, the Arrondissements of Toulon and Brignoles, Daguin, the Basses Pyrenees, Isere, Rhone, the Charente Inferieure, and the neighborhood of Cognac. It is feared that the rich vineyards of the Gironde and the Charentes, hitherto untouched, will also be overrun. Except in Champagne, Touraine and Burgundy everything is in a very unsatisfactory condition. The last district, however, is unfortunately reported to have been attacked, and the Beaujolais is also said to be in danger. Various attempts have been made to stop the ravages of the insects, but no satisfactory remedy has yet been discovered. The subject has become so important that it now occupies the attention of the French Government, and they have offered a prize of about \$60,000 to the discoverer of an effectual remedy.

—The capital prize of \$100,000 in the last drawing of the Havana lottery was drawn in the small town of Pinar del Rio, Cuba, between two priests, a lady, a billiard-marker and a negro, who had purchased the different pieces of the ticket. What a commentary on luck!

The Southern Timber Supply.

Quite recently an elaborate calculation of the amount of timber remaining in America was published, and attracted notice because, coming from an individual interested in the trade and affirmed by some organs of the lumber interest and introduced to Congress as a motive for legislation, it left the whole amount of standing timber in the United States and Canada only 248,440,000,000 feet, of which Canada has 73,000,000,000. The statement left the U. States but 5,040,000,000 feet of yellow pine, of which Virginia was credited with 150,000,000; North Carolina, 1,600,000,000; South Carolina, 90,000,000; Georgia, 1,500,000,000; and Florida, 1,700,000,000. We find in the Georgetown (S. C.) *Times* a very able criticism on so much of this paper as relates to timber supply of the Southern States, contributed by David Risley, who claims experience and absolute knowledge that enable him to contradict the former estimates. He says that Virginia has been greatly overestimated, and so far from having 150,000,000 feet of yellow pine, could not produce 5,000,000. North Carolina cannot furnish 50,000,000 cubic feet; but South Carolina possesses 2,543,765,000 of good merchantable yellow pine, squaring ten inches and upwards, clear of sap, and 700,000 acres covered with oak, ash, cypress, and similar woods. Georgia is credited with 3,500,000,000 feet, notwithstanding the great amounts exported, and Florida with 3,000,000,000, to which Alabama and Mississippi add 2,500,000,000. Mr. Risley thus locates 11,593,765,000 feet of yellow pine where it was alleged there were but 5,040,000,000, or more than double the amount. He adds that it is contained on about 12,000,000 acres, scattered over a large territory; and that although the supply near watercourses has been thinned out, new forests have been made accessible by railroad, and the price has diminished from \$35 per M during the war and \$60 and \$75 for the following year, towards the \$24 to \$28 it commanded previously. Quoting his remarks: "There is enough to supply the world's demands for years to come." The importance of this publication to the lumber trade need not be dwelt upon. Its accuracy is another matter. The writer claims long and complete acquaintance with the whole subject, and his assertions demand that. But the original statement, on which so great lamentations were based and from which so many plans for forest plantations were proposed, proceeded from a Montreal authority, who certainly has no patent claim to be considered better posted on the facts of Southern yellow pine than Mr. Risley. He adds that turpentine hackers are destroying more than 10 per cent. per annum, and large amounts are cut for lumber and clearings; and the lumber is as formerly sent to the Middle and Eastern States for shipbuilding and other purposes.

Trade Between Japan and Europe.

The British Consul of Yokohama has prepared a report upon the trade between Japan and Europe in 1873, concerning which the *Pall Mall Gazette* says:—

"Many features of interest are presented in this report, which space will not allow us to touch upon. From us the Japanese take some \$19,000,000 worth of goods—cotton and woolen, and mixed fabrics chiefly—and a considerable amount of miscellaneous foreign 'notions,' as the Americans style various articles not easily classed, from clocks and watches to gold lace and champagne, or something by that name. We, on our part, take from them some \$15,005,218 worth of silk, silkworms, eggs and tea, with a considerable miscellaneous collection of Japanese productions, from porcelain and bronzes, often exquisitely artistic, to lacquer articles and paper fans. Nor is it unworthy of remark that some few years ago, when disease was so prevalent as nearly to destroy in the west all the silkworms, Europe was in no small degree dependent on the newly opened commerce of Japan for the supply of healthy eggs which enabled the stock to be renewed, and saved from extinction one of the largest industries. Thus after a thousand years we returned to the source whence the silk was originally imported. In 1873, it appears, we imported from Japan 11,879 reals (or bales) worth \$7,050,656. The report gives a very careful and graphic account of the minute and innumerable processes necessary to rear the worms and reel the silk for the market. The eggs are annually shipped for Europe to the number of 1,280,525, valued at \$3,032,300. At first the Japanese Government resolutely set its face against the export of eggs, fearing possibly, not competition and loss of foreign trade, but some dearth for themselves. Some of the earliest diplomatic struggles had these minute commodities for their object. Many of these first obtained as contraband were found to have been tampered with, and their vitality destroyed or otherwise damaged; just as the Chinese, when first the demand arose for tea seed so stock the Assam hills, reconciled their patriotic instincts with their personal interests by parboiling the seed before they sold it. The Japanese, more progressive than the Chinese, are accepting machinery for reeling, although many contend that the hand-reel is the best. The price in the market tells another tale, however."

A London financial writer says:—"Where, ten years ago a thousand pounds (in England) returned £50 a year, it now yields but £40; and the difference is rendered still more conspicuous by bearing in mind that in the meantime the increased cost of living has greatly reduced the purchasing power of income."