

about 1,000 Italians, 300 Englishmen and Scotchmen, and a few Irish. We get all our materials from England.

"There is plenty of labour, and the men are very contented and cheerful. Most of them are fellaheen. They work better than the Soudanese and Nubians, who do not settle down to steady employment. We have had not the smallest difficulty with the fellaheen. We engage them from the villages, in bands 200 strong. We advance money to the chiefs to bring up their men, and they have never once failed us.

"A curious instance of the local patriotism of the Egyptians is that they buy everything from their home villages, the goods being sent by camels, no matter how great the distance.

"Yes, we are all very satisfied. It is a grand work."

Labor Notes.

For over a year "Turkev" carpets have been woven in Ireland, and the industry promises to be successful. The carpets are made by Irish girls, and it has been calculated that one girl in the industry will work up in a year the wool of two hundred and twenty five sheep.

Recently numerous reports have come from in and about Paris concerning the automobile mower. There was probably no exhibit in the mechanical department of the Paris Exhibition which created a greater interest than this machine. Early in the summer it was taken out in the country near Paris and given the most thorough tests, and again, later in the season, it was shown at an agricultural exhibition. The machine did its work with far greater ease and rapidity than could the best of the horse mowers. It cut a clean, straight swath five feet wide, and was manipulated in the field with perfect ease.

According to the Daily Mail the penny-in-the-slot boot-blackening machine has now reached London. It is a bulky looking pedestal with a brass rail in front of it, and a projecting base, a footstool's height from the ground, having three good-sized foot-holes in it. The machine is connected up with an electric light wire. Having dropped the penny in the slot you steady yourself by the brass rail, put one foot in the left-hand foot-hole, and pull the lever. Revolving brushes, amid which the foot has been placed, begin

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to work, with a sensation as if a million rats were scampering about in the machine. This first hole is the mud-removing department. As soon as the boot is clean you move to the second hole, where another set of revolving brushes applies the blacking, and then to the third hole, which is the polishing department. Then you repeat the process with the other foot, unless you are eccentric or one-legged, and proceed either to use your boots to walk about in or as mirrors. An indicator shows how long each foot should be kept in each of the three holes.

The cheapness with which steel is made is multiplying its uses to such an extent that estimates made of the possible wants of the world in the future can only be guesses. So says Andrew Carnegie, in a recent issue of the New York Evening Post, in reviewing the developments of steel manufacture in the United States. Indeed, so rapidly is the use of steel extending that it is difficult to see how the world's demands can be filled. At present the mines of ironstone and of coking coal in Great Britain are worked to their fullest capacity, and yet the output is not greatly increased; it is the same with those of Germany, except that in the latter country there remains some inferior fields capable of development if prices rise, as is probable. Russia, so far, has not been much of a factor in steel-making; if she is able to supply her own wants by the middle of the century she will be doing well. Except by the United States, Great Britain, and Germany, little steel is made, nor is any other nation likely to make much. The hopes in regard to China and Japan making steel, Mr. Carnegie believes, are to prove delusive. Great Britain and Germany cannot manufacture much beyond what they do now, so that the increased wants of the world can be met only by the United States. The known supply of suitable ironstone there is sufficient to meet all possible demands of the world for at least half a century; in the case of coke, for the entire century. It is not to be supposed that other deposits will not be discovered before known supplies are exhausted.

A few years hence the export of steel and manufactures of steel from the United States to many parts of the world, which is 1899 were valued at 119,000,000 dollars, promises to be so great as to constitute another chapter in the record-breaking history of steel. The cheapest steel means the cheapest ships, the cheapest machinery, the cheapest thousand and one articles of which steel is the base. The progress of the United States as a steel-producer is told in a few words. In 1873 the United States produced 198,796 tons of steel; Great Britain, her chief competitor, 653,500 tons—more than three times as much. In

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