THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

The troopship Milwaukee has arrived at Halifax.

Several cases of smallpox are reported at Toronto Junction.

Manitoba's oldest pioneer, Elton Vermette, of St. Norbert, is dead, aged 100 years.

The Game and Fish Protectors' Convention opened at Montreal.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Co. has subscribed $1,000 to the Patriotic Fund.

The Canadian Packers' Association have decided to maintain prices on a firm basis this year.

The Might Directory publishers estimate the population of the City of Toronto at 250,209.

The Canadian General Electric Company has subscribed $1,000 to the National Patriotic Fund.

Hon. Wm. Tait, former member of the Northwest Council, is dead at Headingly, aged 73 years.

The Canadian Society of Civil Engineers opened their fourteenth annual meeting at Montreal, and left on a trip to Boston in the evening.

Mr. Charles Burpee, who represented Sunbury from 1867 to 1887 in the Dominion Parliament, has been appointed to the Senate.

A handsome new station is to be built this spring at Sault Ste. Marie by the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Railway.

A movement has been started in Montreal to give Lord Strathcona a public dinner on his arrival, and to present him with the freedom of the city.

The C. P. R. employees all over the system will subscribe half a day's pay to the Patriotic Fund, aggregating about $20,000.

The market building at Three Rivers, Quebec, valued at $20,000, was destroyed by fire, with the contents of the butchers' and hucksters' stalls.

Victoria's proposal to raise 10,000 mounted men for South Africa is being warmly endorsed in all parts of British Columbia.

The case of Joseph Larose against the Crown for $10,000 is being heard by Mr. Justice Burbidge in the Exchequer Court at Montreal. A bullet from the St. Luc ranges found Joseph at his potato patch.

Francis Durant, Kenneth McKenzie, and J. R. Walker, representatives of the English syndicate which will build the Georgian Bay canal, are at Ottawa. Work will be commenced near the Chaudiere about July 1st.

Mr. George Simpson, assistant civil engineer of the Northern Pacific, has resigned his position to accept the position of Chief Engineer of the Province of Manitoba.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. Gerald Balfour, Chief Secretary for Ireland, is dangerously ill.

A Liverpool physician has discovered the bacillus of pink-eye in horses.

Miss Eleanor Cobbet, the daughter of William Cobbett, has just died in England at the age of 94 years.

Queen Victoria has appointed the Prince of Wales' son-in-law, the Duke of Fife, K.G., to be Lord-Lieutenant of the county of London in place of the late Duke of Westminster.

At the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Agriculture in England the outbreak of the foot and mouth disease in Norfolk and Suffolk was announced.

Twenty thousand pounds, the balance of £60,000 stolen from Parr's Bank London, a year ago, was returned yesterday.

The Prince of Wales has sent the collection of bamboo walking sticks, which he made during the Indian tour for the use of invallided and wounded soldiers at the Cape.

Mr. Labouchere, M.P. for Northampton, attempted to address a meeting in the Town Hall at Northampton against the war, but the meeting was broken up, the chairs smashed, and Mr. Labouchere was compelled to make a hurried escape.

Mr. McInnes, of Vancouver, has introduced a bill in the House of Commons to amend the franchise act. He explains that its effect is to entirely prohibit Chinese or Japanese from exercising the Dominion franchise, even when naturalized.

Devonshire's chief "singing man," James Parsons, a hedger by occupation, is dead. The "singing men" of Devonshire preserve and chant the old West Country songs and ballads. Parsons was nicknamed "The Singing Mechine" because one evening he made a bet that he could go on singing till daybreak without repeating any piece and won the bet.

English technical journals, which were very sore over the award to an American firm of the Atbara bridge contract, are now bragging over the performance of a Wednesbury company, in getting the material for the new Tugela bridge ready for shipment, within a month of receiving the contract. The bridge is 105 feet long and required 750 tons of material.

UNITED STATES.

There is talk of a trust in hides at Albany, N. Y.

Judge Taft, of Cincinnati, has been appointed by President McKinley chairman of the Philippine Commission.

Major Graham, at New York from Havana, says Cubans want the Americans out of Cuba, and that while there is a "placid surface," an insurrection is imminent.

Mr. Thomas A. Edison, the inventor, has been ill at Akron, Ohio, but is now improving.

Dr. Ashmead, of New York, states that there are several cases of leprosy in that city.

A. Normandin, of Watertown, N.Y., died at Montreal from carbolic acid poisoning.

The Hay-Pauncefote treaty amending the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, regarding the Nicaraguan Canal, was signed at the State Department at Washington.

Samuel Reeves of New York, who was visiting Toronto, dropped in a fit on Wellington street and died shortly after.

Governor Taylor of Kentucky offers to submit the merits of his claim to the gubernatorial chair of Kentucky to any three fair-minded men in the world, to be selected by the United States Supreme Court.

Antoine Roberts and Auguste Morrell, who are wanted in Scranton, Pa., on a charge of shooting two policemen and attempting to blow up a coal mine, have been arrested in Montreal.

GENERAL.

General Correa, formerly Spanish Minister of War, is dead.

A relic of mediaeval times has been swept away by a decree of President Loubet abolishing the use of fetters in the French navy.

Riccotti Garibaldi, one of the sons of the famous Italiian patriot, has offered to command a corps of Italiian volunteers in South Africa or the British side.

Prince Albrecht of Prussia, the Regent of Brunswick, has bought a lot of land in the "Markobrunnen" Rhine wine district at the rate of $16,000 an acre.

France intends to improve French syntax by legislation. M. Gaston Paris of the Academie Francaise has been made President of a commission to prepare a reform iin syntax.

Luccheni, the murderer of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria, having spent a year in solitary confinement, is now, according to the Swiss law, treated like all other prisoners.

Lark Harbor, Newfoundland, was devastated by a tornado and twenty houses were blown down, including the customs station and the residence of the customs officers. Three schooners were wrecked.

Italy proposes that Italian shall be recognized as an international language on the same footing as English, French and German. Dr. Baccelli, the Minister of Education, has directed delegates to international congresses to demand that papers shall be read in Italian, and that Italian delegates shall employ their own language in the discussions, instead of using one of the three languages now usually admitted.

Tampico, Mexico, had a million dollar fire last night. The loss is partially covered by insurance in English companies.

It is generally believed at Pekin that the Dowager Empress will not attempt the formal deposition of the Emperor at the present.

Dr. Leyds has announced that the Transvaal Government is not engaging volunteers for the war, and will refuse to transport any to South Africa.

Dr. Leyds spent yesterday at Weimar, where he tendered his congratulations to the Grand Duke upon the sixtieth anniversary of his joining the Prussian army.

ROYALTY'S DRESS ALLOWANCE.

An enterprising fashion writer tells us that before her marriage, the Duchess of Fife had a very small dress allowance—about $1,500 a year. Besides yachting and everyday dresses and all the usual costumes required by a girl of the upper classes, royal princesses have also to wear the costly and elaborate dresses which their rank demands at the weddings of near relatives. They are, however, fortunate in having stores of beautiful laces, priceless furs and marvellous jewels, all of which can be used again and again.

On the whole, it may be asserted that a frugal princess may spend as little as $5,000 a year, on her dress, while her more wealthy and extravagant sister may find her dress bills amount to ten times that sum. Age has nothing to do with the matter, for the Queen of Italy spends far more than does her beautiful young daughter-in-law, the crown princess of Naples. The empress of Russia, who, more than any other European princess, is able to indulge her wildest fancies, dresses with the greatest simplicity. In the daytime she wears mostly tailor-made coats and skirts and in the evening favors the purest white materials.

The leader of the Universal Brotherhood Organization, which is the latter form of the Theosophical Society in America, is Mrs. Katherine Tingley. She is most energetic in work of a philanthropic kind; and through one department of her organization provided nearly 10,000 American soldiers with much-needed food and medical aid on their return from the Cuban War. Another of her humanitarian, works is the establishment of "Lotus Homes" for destitute children.

Agricultural

A FEEDING EXPERIMENT AT THE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Mangels v.s. Sugar Beets for Milk Production.

Chemical analyses show that sugar beets contain a lower percentage of nutritive material than mangels. The main difference in nutritive material, however, is in connection with the fat and heat producing substances, sugar beets containing more of such substances than mangels. In order to test the comparative value of these two kinds of roots for milk production, two experiments, each with different cows, have been completed, and the results of the two experiments correspond so closely that they are of interest.

In each experiment four cows were used. They were selected from the herd in the dairy department, care being taken to select cows as nearly as possible in the same stage of lactation. After a week's preparatory feeding, during which all the cows were fed the same ration, the rations were changed. Two of the cows were fed sixty pounds of sugar beets per cow per day for two weeks, then they were fed sixty pounds of mangels per cow day for two weeks. The other two cows were fed sixty pounds of mangels per cow per day during the first two weeks, and then changed to sixty pounds of sugar beets per cow per day during the next two weeks. Thus each experiment lasted four weeks, and each cow was fed two weeks on sugar beets. In addition to the roots, the cows received a meal ration and what clover hay they would eat, each cow receiving like quantities of hay and meal. In the first experiment, the meal ration consisted of equal parts by weight of peas, barley, and oats, and each cow was fed seven pounds of this mixture per day. During the second experiment, each cow was fed six pounds of bran and two pounds of pea meal per day.

It might have been a better test of the relative nutritive value of these two foods, had no meal been fed; but the object of these experiments was to test the influence of these foods upon the milk flow when fed as they most likely would be in ordinary practice, namely, in conjunction with a meal ration. This seems to be the main practical point at issue, and the question in which practical men are most interested.

Comments.

1. In each experiment there is a slight difference in the total milk yield in favor of the mangels, amounting to 7.50 lbs. in one case and 8.25 lbs. in the other, in the milk produced by four cows in two weeks.

2. In each experiment, cows 1 and 2 started on sugar beets and finished on mangels, while cows 3 and 4 started on mangels and finished on sugar beets. Therefore in the first trial cow No. 1 decreased in milk flow, and cow No. 2 increased in milk flow after being changed from sugar beets to mangels; and both cows 3 and 4 decreased in milk flow after being changed from mangels to sugar beets. In the second trial, however, all the cows gave more milk during the second two weeks than during the first two, but the cows which were changed from sugar beets to mangels made a greater increase, on the whole, than those which were changed from mangels to sugar beets.

3. Everything considered, these experiments indicate that there is very little, if any, difference between mangels and sugar beets as foods for stimulating the flow of milk. It must be remembered, however, that these trials have no bearing upon the relative values of these foods for maintaining life or producing fat.

4. On the College farm mangels have given much larger yields per acre than sugar beets.

POULTRY EXPERIMENTS.

People are generally interested to know which breed lays the most eggs, but comparatively few people know or think of the fact that some breed may yield more food value in weight contained in fewer eggs, than another breed puts into a considerable larger number.

The number of eggs is only a part of what we should know of the egg production, therefore, in order to be able to judge of the relative merit of breeds, the weight as well as the number of eggs, should be known. Then, if the amount of food consumed, is known, the data is at hand to determine which of the breeds have returned the most for food consumed and which one has therefore been the most profitable food producer.

In order to collect some data on this point, the North Carolina experiment station made careful weights of the egs from different yards, for the first six months of last year, and found that the heaviest eggs are from ducks. These weigh nearly two and a quarter pounds to the dozen. The light Brahma lay the largest hen's eggs, and these are one and three-quarters pounds per dozen. The lightest eggs are from Leghorn pullets, a little under one and one-eighth pounds per dozen. On what other article of food will people be content to pay the same price for what may vary over 50 per cent in value? Or what producer or merchantable produce of any other kind will consent to supply all the way up to fifty-five per cent. more than market value and not think to add to the standard price for additional value?

The same bulletin says it is perhaps an open question whether the flavor of articles of food ever reappears in the eggs produced by hens.

The facts will not be denied for milk after a cow has been regaled on a fresh pasture containing wild onions. Neither will it, if the cow is fed turnips or cabbage, within a few hours before milking. The flesh is also probably tainted, and we have heard reports of fried chicken flavored with onion from the recent feeding of the birds.

In March, 1899, an experiment was begun to find if a small proportion of chopped onion salad with the poultry food would flavor the eggs sufficiently to be noticeable, and if so, how long a time would be required to make the flavor noticeable; and, third, how long can the flavor be detected after the onions are left out of food.

The conclusions are that it is probable that no eggs after a week's abstinence are ill-flavored with onions; that flavors can be fed into onions and that to insure fine-flavored eggs it is necessary to restrict runs enough so no considerable amount of the food can be of such a character as to yield ill-flavored eggs.

SEED DEVELOPMENT.

Improvement of seed for all crops is a great demand. When no greater care is given to growing seed than is bestowed upon the general crop, no improvement in seed can be had, and consequently no improvement in the yield and quality of the general crop can be realized.

To conform to the natural demands of the several crops of grains and vegetables produced on the farm in the production of seed, is to insure great improvement in the seed and a necessary improvement to the yield and quality of the general crop grown from such improved seed.

Take corn, and what are the demands made in order to improve the seed? Does not "nature itself teach" that one stalk growing in a place will produce a better growth than if one or two more stalks are grown together with the one stalk? What then are the imperative demands of natural law, in order to the improvement of seed of this great staple?

The rule then to be observed is to grow each stalk by itself, with sufficient distance to insure the most perfect growth and permit perfect fertilization.

Potatoes are capable of like improvement by planting the very best for seed purposes with wide space between hills and when the plants are three or four inches high thin out to one stalk in a hill; this will give the greatest opportunity to grow to perfection, and but one stalk in a place gives a larger and better growth to the tubers and consequently finer and more productive seed will be produced in this line.

REASON FOR WINTER FLAVOR.

The cause of "winter flavor," I think is poor ventilation and filth in cow stables, and is influenced by feeds. Less "winter flavor" when cows are fed good ensilage, and are kept very clean and fed roots ensilage and healthy food. To pasteurize the cream and use a large percent starter will improve it.—F. W. Culberton.

Winter flavor must be caused by a certain bacteria found in the hay and dust of the barn, and that gets into the milk. It can be prevented by pasteurizing and using a starter or butter culture.—B. F. Warner.

I believe "winter flavor" is caused by the improper care and feed of the cows. Patrons are not careful enough with the milking and general care of the cow. Often they are fed poor hay to economize. The farmer must be educated more fully in this direction to prevent so called "winter flavor."—Wesley R. Field.

ORIGIN OF THE RING.

The origin of the marriage ring dates back many centuries and is involved in somewhat of a mystery. According to an old legend of mythology, Jupiter sent to Prometheus, in honor of his deliverance by Hercules, a ring in which was set a piece of the stone to which Prometheus had formerly been bound in chains.

In northern mythology the ring symbolizes the bride from this world to the next, or, according to another idea, the rainbow symbol of eternity. Hence it is plain that from most ancient times the ring was a symbol of remembrance and eternal recollection. Since the earliest days of Christianity the ring has been a precious pledge of faithfulness, the talisman of two souls forming a sacred life-union.

The custom of wearing the wedding ring on the fourth finger of the left hand goes back for its origin to the Egyptians, from whom the Greeks borrowed the custom and handed it on to the Romans. The fourth finger was dedicated to Apollo, the sun god, and gold was an additional emblem of the sun. Besides it was believed that Apollo's finger was connected by a nerve directly with the heart, and it was most appropriate that the sign of the loving union should rest on this finger

Sketches of War Items.

WARSHIPS' DEATH CHAMBERS.

How would you like to spend your life directly over fifty tons of gunpowder, with a huge furnace at full blast within a few feet of the magazine? That is what every man in the Navy has to do.

It sounds worse than it really is, however, for every possible precaution against danger is taken.

The huge cartridges are placed in sealed cases, and these are kept in a watertight magazine ingeniously constructed.

The magazine is a big chamber made of thick steel, and lined with wood. A space is left between the steel and the wood, so that if the steel gets heated the wood may not catch alight. This chamber has watertight doors, and it can instantly be filled with water in case the ship catches on fire.

Inside is a delicate thermometer, which is carefully watched. Not a particle of iron is ever allowed in the magazine, lest sparks should be given off. All the metal tools and fittings are made of either copper or zinc.

No light, not even yet a safety-lamp, is allowed to be taken in, but the chamber is lighted from outside through thick bulls'eyes in the walls.

Finally the door is always kept locked, and the key is guarded by a sentry.

THE LIFE OF A BIG GUN.

The bigger the gun the shorter its life. Those monsters, the 110-ton guns, cannot be reckoned upon to fire more than eighty full-charge rounds without becoming quite useless. The 67-ton gun can fire 105 rounds; while the 6-in. breechloader is good for 400 or 450 full-charge rounds.

The reason of this is that the terrific heat and corroding effect of the powder wears away the bore at the chamber end, and then the shell does not catch the rifling.

There is nothing for it then but to send the gun to the factory and have the barrel bored and lined with a new tube.

Eighty shots from a 110-ton gun would be good business in any war. Where the inconvenience arises is in the fact that during peace the men cannot practice as much as is desirable. Still there is a way out of it to a certain extent, for it is found that a half-charge, which is sufficient for practice, wears out a gun only one-fourth as fast as a full charge; and even in a way a three-quarter charge is powerful enough.

Now a 110-ton gun, though it can fire only 80 full charges, can fire 160 three-quarter charges and 320 half-charges.

KRUGER'S LEADING STRINGS.

Cordite, so called from its stringy appearance, is a mixture of nitroglycerine, gun-cotton, acetone, and mineral jelly. The first two substances are carefully incorporated under the influence of the liquid acetone, the jelly being added to give softness and ductility to the mass. When thoroughly mixed the explosive is placed in cylinders, in which a piston accurately fits. Tiny holes, varying from the size of cotton to that of thick cord, are bored in the far end of the cylinder, and enormous pressure is applied by the piston. As the fine strings emerge like maccaroni, they are wound on drums and put aside to dry. Ten of these reels are then wound on to one, and six of these blended cords are again twisted into a cord of sixty strands. Short sections of this, weighing thirty grains, form the explosive for a rifle-cartridge.

The energy developed by cordite is progressive, and, so to speak, follows the bullet or shell down the barrel with increasing force. That of gunpowder is enormous to commence with, rapidly failing with each foot of the barrel. This explains the difference in shape between the fat, stump muzzle loading guns, and the long, uniform guns of to-day.

The power or cordite is roughly three times that of powder, and it is smokeless.

FACTS FOR SPINSTERS.

Some one has proposed a husbands' union for the protection of husbands; just what they are to be protected from is not yet stated. Possibly the union is to be founded on the same lines as the Schools for Wives, established in England.

Still better are the marriage schools which are being developed in Germany on very practical lines. They are for girls and women only, and the value of such a training cannot be overestimated. Girls leave the marriage school content to undertake the management of a house—and of a husband. The girls who have been graduated from these schools have been extra lucky in getting married, so it is said.

Another society which has been organized in Denmark is the Celibacy Insurance Society. Its object is to provide for those women who either cannot or will not provide themselves with husbands. The premiums begin at the age of 13 and end at 40, an age at which it is supposed most of the members will have abandoned all thought of marriage. Such being the case, the woman receives an annuity for life. If she marries at any time she forfeits all her rights.