

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 price of gas in Winnipeg has been reduced from \$2.50 to \$2.25 per thousand feet.

The Hamilton Board of Health requests that all school children in that city be vaccinated.

The Manitoba Legislature will be called some day during the week beginning March 12.

James McShane, ex-M. P. for Montreal Centre, has been appointed harbourmaster at Montreal.

Brantford hopes to have a new industry in the shape of a branch of a United States electrical concern.

A pro-Boer workman at Brantford was compelled by his fellow-employees to kneel and apologize to a British flag, and was also soundly thumped.

It is probable that the Leinster Regiment will remain on garrison duty at Halifax, so the Canadian offer to supply their place will not be accepted.

There will likely be a new election in Quebec before the Federal elections.

The estate of the late George E. Tuckett, of Hamilton, amounts to between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000.

Montreal Harbour Commissioners are asking the Government to establish an Admiralty Court there.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The British minister in Persia has invited the Shah to visit England.

Dr. Charles P. Smyth, a noted astronomer of Edinburgh, is dead at London.

H. D. Traill, well known English newspaper man and author, is dead at London, Eng.

By a vote of 161 to 32 the British Commons adopted the Government vote for the addition of 12,500 men to the army.

An army order issued in London invites the reservists to rejoin the colours for a year for home defence, and offers £22 bounty to those who do so.

In answer to a question in the House of Commons in regard to the Pacific cable, Mr. Chamberlain replied that he understood that the deliberations of the committee would soon be completed.

UNITED STATES.

A case of yellow fever has reached New York harbor.

Wm. Wickes, the pioneer in the refrigerating car business is dead at Brooklyn, N. Y.

United States Democratic convention will be held at Kansas City on July 4th.

Traffic on railway lines at Ithaca, N. Y., has been suspended, owing to floods.

Dr. Leslie E. Keeley of "Gold Cure" fame died suddenly at his winter home near Los Angeles, Cal.

Coal miners in the mines between Jackson Center and Sandy Lake, Pa., have struck for higher wages.

The members of the New York Mercantile Exchange favor the \$2,000,000 canal improvement in the State.

Wm. Macdonald, a noted Californian basso, has paralysis of the jaw, the result of a bad tooth, and is dying at San Francisco.

Leander J. McCormick of the and founder of the Leader McCormick Observatory of the University of Virginia, and founder of the Leader McCormick ginia, is dead.

GENERAL.

Fire has destroyed 320 houses in Ataque, Spain.

The bill extending the *modus vivendi* on the French treaty shore has passed the final stages in both Houses of the Newfoundland Legislature.

According to a despatch from Rennes, France, a factory there has received an order from the Transvaal Government for 150,000 artillery shells. Gales swept the Spanish coast, 24 seamen have been drowned, 8 vessels are missing and two ships with 48 men on board are believed to have foundered.

A Monte Carlo pickpocket recently relieved Sir Charles Rivers-Wilson, president of the Grand Trunk Railway, of his pocketbook, containing \$1,250 in cash and some valuable papers.

A Leipzig cable says a new substitute for brass has been invented, being a new method of plating cast iron with brass by a galvanizing process. The plating is so thick that a casting from solid brass.

NO GAME GETS AWAY.

In killing game the Boers use a bullet of which the lead point is exposed so that it "mushrooms" when it strikes. On entering the bullet expands and tears an ugly hole. If it strikes sideways the effect is horrible.

QUITE NATURAL.

Bald-headed Customer—I want a brush.
Clerk, bringing out a lot of clothes brushes—Yes, sir.
Customer—Got any other kind? It's a hair brush I want.
Clerk, awkwardly—Oh, I beg your pardon.

ENGLAND.

Her Present and Future as Seen by Lord Roeberry.

Though I read with the greatest interest the criticisms of the military experts on the Continent, and read with a considerably greater interest the deductions they draw that the sun of England is setting, and setting forever, I am not aware that any other country in the world has ever sent an army of 120,000 men to fight 7,000 miles away from its base. If that be a fact, as it is a fact, we need not think the importance of England is so great as it is supposed to be on the Continent.

There has been a great loss of prestige. I suppose that at the end of 1878 the prestige of England stood higher than it has stood since Waterloo. I am afraid that this war has dispersed a good deal of that sentiment; but I ask you to remember that, if it was ill-founded, it is infinitely better that it should be dispelled now than that, resting on a rotten foundation, it should lure us by its dream of power into enterprises which might be much more disastrous.

That prestige, I venture to predict, will be recovered without much difficulty. What we have to do is to set ourselves, with as little loss as may be, to recover all that prestige. When the war is finished, if we set ourselves earnestly to do the work of recovering the reputation which undoubtedly we have lost by our military operations in South Africa, we shall be infinitely more powerful, infinitely stronger, infinitely more formidable than at any previous time of our history.

This country has two supreme assets, to a degree which no other country in the world possesses; therefore I venture to use the word "supreme." They are our Navy and our capital—weapons of enormous importance in time of war and instruments of enormous weight in time of peace. These are the supreme assets which we have in a condition superior to all other nations, and, with that start of a Navy and capital, we should not be long in building up our prestige.

We have another asset, but it would be offensive to other nations to say we have it in a degree superior to any others, and therefore I will not say it; I will only say it is solid, visible and tangible—I mean the character of our people. I think that many of us of late years, in watching the march of prosperity, the march of luxury, the march of ease in this country, the heedlessness with which we were assuming enormous responsibilities abroad without really thinking sufficiently of how we were to sustain these responsibilities, must have begun to fear that the nation might be suffering from fatty degeneration of the heart; that the nation might prove itself unworthy of its high destiny; that it had had too easy a time, and that it required to be braced up and tested by adversity. We have been braced and tested by adversity. I venture to think that if that work which ended with the battle of the Tugela had been passed in some countries and among some peoples it would have ended—perhaps not in revolution, though not possibly in that—yet in such disquiet, such mortification, such accusations of betrayal and treachery against their chiefs, that the end of the nation might have been visible. I, for my part, was never so proud of my country as at the end of that week. There was a passionate resolve to pour out the last shilling and the last man to assist the country in her hour of need. Whatever foreign nations may think, they have not got to the bottom of Old England yet. Prolonged cheering.—London Times Report of a speech.

TOASTS TO QUEEN VICTORIA.

One Regiment Where Her Health is Not Drunk—A Welsh Toast.

There is only one regiment among those in the British army which does not toast her majesty at mess. This is the Seventh Fusiliers, and the regiment is extremely proud of its distinction. It seems that upon one occasion, in the long ago, some king of England was dining with the officers of the regiment, and said, after dinner, that the loyalty of the Seventh was sufficiently well assured without their drinking the sovereign's health.

It is a curious fact—the origin of which is not known—that the queen's health, on shipboard, is drunk by the officers sitting, instead of standing, as is customary elsewhere.

Of all the regiments, the Welsh Fusiliers have the most curious army toast. It forms part of the ceremony of the grand dinner given annually on St. David's day. After the dinner, the drum major, accompanied by the goat, the mascot of the Fusiliers, bedecked with rosettes of red and blue ribbon, marches around the table, carrying a plate of leeks. Every officer or guest, who has never eaten one before, is obliged to do so, standing on his chair, with one foot on the table, while the drummers beat a roll behind his chair. He is then considered a true Welshman. All the toasts are coupled with the name of St. David. It is in much this way that the toasts with Highland honors is drunk. Each guest stands with one foot on his chair, one on the table, and the pipers piping parade the room.

Agricultural

CROSSING BREEDS.

It may be stated as a principle that the crossing of opposite or antagonistic elements is rarely if ever a success. The man who attempts to combine the beef qualities of the Hereford or Polled-Angus with the milk and butter qualities of the Jersey or Guernsey will almost universally find his efforts ending in dismal failure. He will spoil the beef qualities of the one and the butter qualities of the other, and the neutralizing effect of the cross is the production of an inferior animal, both beef and butter considered.

Cross breeding is never advisable, unless the animals sought to be improved have their desirable elements in common, so that in these there is concentration of common elements instead of neutralizing characteristics that are opposite each other, as speed and size, or beef and milk and butter. The thoroughbred running horse may be, and often is, crossed with advantage with the standard bred trotter. Both have much in common. Possibly the thoroughbred and Hereford might be successfully crossed when the strong point of one would supply a weak point in the other, and still retain the best qualities of both.

The Jersey and Guernsey have little in common with the Holstein. Each has been bred, in the main, for centuries for different and largely opposite purposes—the Jersey and Guernsey for milk of concentrated character for fat, the Holstein for large frame, and a large flow of milk with less regard for the quality. The cross neutralizes the results of centuries of breeding for these purposes, and improves neither. The admirer of Holsteins, if he be wise, will never attempt to cross them with any other breed. He may use a Holstein bull with his native cows to improve the herd for milk by adding Holstein blood, but he will not go beyond this. The Ayrshire, Jersey and Guernsey have much in common. All are moderate in size, and all bred for the production of milk and butter in which quality as well as quantity is sought. All of these breeds have their weak points as breeds, but they do not lie in the same direction. For hardness of constitution, the Ayrshire is perhaps surpassed by no breed. This is the weak point of the other two breeds, and the result of the cross is an animal with the hardihood of the Ayrshire little if any diminished, and an increased flow, with the quality of the Jersey retained.

The animal the result of this cross is larger than the average Jersey, better rounded, and as handsome in form as one could wish to see. It is simply the strong point of the one supplying the weak point of another with a concentration of the desirable elements of both that are in common. It is in cattle much what the cross of the thoroughbred with the standard bred is among horses. Of course in this cross, as in all other kinds of breeding, individuality of animal must not be disregarded. Cross of Holstein or Shorthorn and Jersey may occasionally result favourably, but as a rule is a failure. Concentration of desirable elements common to father and mother, and the strengthening some weak point in one or the other, common to the breed, is the only inducement to cross-breeding. As a rule it is not desirable, and should never be done but in the instances and for the purpose cited.

UTILIZING A MUCK SWAMP.

My advice to one owning a muck swamp which he wishes to use for fertilizing purposes would be first to send a fair average sample to his experiment station for analysis and advice, writes Mr. E. C. Birge. If the report is encouraging, the next step would be to drain off as much water as possible. Muck swamps are generally drowned in water.

It is not advisable to cart green muck very far. If instead of carting from our five-acre muck swamp, so many green loads down to the barn to compost with manure, had spread it on the field where the compost was subsequently applied, and had carted up the manure and sprinkled it on top of the muck, much labor would have been saved, and just as much ripening would have been given to all the material by its exposure lying upon the field, as it could get in the compost. In another case where we composted green muck drawn from the swamp and manure drawn from the stable on the field midway between the two points and near where it was to be applied later, it is doubtful if the trouble of piling and turning paid. It were better, as in the previous case, to have spread both together on the land as carted, and to have left the decomposition to be carried on by the weather.

It is doubtful if it will pay the dairy farmer to dump muck upon the upland to be partially dried and pulverized that he may afterward cart it half a mile to compost with manure. It may be a profitable practice for greenhouse work, and, perhaps, for the truck grower, but other

methods are better for the dairyman. But when good swam muck can be so dried on the upland that a 40 or 50-bu load is not too heavy for the team, any farmer can well afford to haul it two or three miles and perhaps further, to be used when further dried as an absorbent in the stable to take up liquid manure.

If the farmer wishes to increase the bulk of his manure pile, as he certainly should, let him use plenty of absorbents and keep the manure away from detrimental action of the weather. Add light composting materials that will rot, as much as he wishes, but do not let him cart very much dirt into the barnyard.

THE MONEY-MAKING PULLET.

A pullet that lays early is your money-maker. Watch her, note her, mark her with a leg-band, and do not lose track of her. If she lays early and regularly, she will lock it. She will be bright, first as to her head; she will have a fairly long body and will have a quick business air about her. She will be active and important; she will be hungry and will meet you when you come with the feed pail. Glance around at the rest of the pen—you will see dumpy, stupid looking pullets, pale in comb and ruffled in plumage; these are not laying, and the contrast will surprise you. Take out the dumpy ones and pen them separately and leave the bright ones alone to continue laying. The dumpy pullets are out of condition and need special care. They may be brought around and will lay later perhaps, but do not let them hamper your early layers.

MENDING A BAD JOB.

English Military Surveyors Hurried Off to the Front.

English officers have been urging the authorities for years to make a systematic survey of South Africa. The reply was always the same—"That's all very well, but who's to pay for it?" so the work never got done.

Now that the British Army is walking into traps all over the place, and putting themselves at the mercy of guides because they have no record of the lie of the land, it has occurred to the authorities that a survey and maps might be of some value after all, whoever pays the bills. Therefore two officers and a staff of men have been sent to South Africa to make the best of a bad job, and survey as much as they can of the country while the enemy is in force upon it.

Those officers, Captain Close and Captain Jackson, of the Engineers, are now on their way to the Cape. Both have had experience in India, where Engineers not only measure fields with chains but make maps of wide stretches of unknown country. Captain Close has also worked in Africa. He was one of the commissioners who marked out the Anglo-German boundary between the Nyassa and the Tanganyika.

In South Africa there are practically no maps to work on. Such as exist are deplorably inadequate—"absolutely untrustworthy, such as no other country in the world would stand!" is the verdict of a distinguished officer of Engineers.

Sir Thomas Holdich, R.E., who for years was at the head of the Field Survey Department in India opened the eyes of the War Office to the urgent need of surveying in South Africa. The War Office asked him to assist them, and the despatch of the two captains is the result of their deliberation. Sir Thomas is of opinion that Lord Roberts will insist on the officers having their own men to help them from India—natives who have been trained in the work for years.

"General Gatacre's reverse," says Sir Thomas Holdich, "was simply due to the fact that he did not know where he was going. On the Indian frontier we never trust to guides. We have our own surveys and our own men, and so it will have to be, in South Africa."

"Now that we are going to take up South Africa, I shall suggest when the war is over, that a complete topographical survey of the whole country be made. For that purpose intelligent natives would make the best workmen. They might be sent to India for their initial training."

HIS ADDRESS.

The following, from an English paper, will be enjoyed by speakers who have found themselves called upon to address audiences already wearied by excessively long speeches:

A certain man was invited to speak at a local gathering, and being nobody in particular, was placed last on the list of speakers. Moreover the chairman introduced several speakers whose names were not on the list, and the audience was tired out when he came. Bones will now give us his address, introducing the final speaker, "Mr. My address, said Mr. Bones, rising, 'is 551 Park Villas, S. W., and I wish you all good night.'"

A STROKE IN ECONOMY.

Wife, where are those new handkerchiefs I bought?
Why, Edgar, you already have so many that I put them away to give you on your birthday.

NOTES ABOUT CUBA.

Three out of four Cubans are illiterate. Cotton plants grow 15 feet high in Cuba. The average Cuban is short and sparely built.

Cuban ladies smoke long and strong cigars.

The Cuban's pet word is "manana" (tomorrow).

Area of Cuba is 46,000 square miles. It counts 350 rivers.

The present population of Cuba is estimated at 1,000,000.

Cuban soil produces three to five crops of vegetables a year.

There are 1,000 miles of railroad in Cuba—one mile to every 1,000 people.

Cuba's rainy period is from May to October. Her dry time covers the rest of the year.

Cubans have been paying \$25 per capita in taxes under Spain exclusive of local taxation.

The Cuban woman is a beauty and marries at 15, at 30 is a portly matron and at 40 is old.

The Cuban gentleman dresses in linen and creases his trousers at the sides. The Cuban holds up his trousers with a belt.

The Cuban business man gives only four hours a day to business, sleeps from noon to 2 p. m. and spends the other 18 hours in eating, resting and social pleasures.

PERT PERSONALS.

Cecil Rhodes wants universal peace, broken probably by brilliant flashes of Jamesonian raids.—Baltimore American.

The girls may have kissed General Shafter, but you may be sure they didn't clasp their arms around his waist.—Boston Globe.

The greatest wonder of this great country is to see the Hon. Tom Reed wheeling down Pennsylvania avenue smoking a cigarette.—Memphis Appeal.

It will be an interesting meeting when Senator Beveridge of Indiana discusses the situation with Representative Booz of Maryland.—Minneapolis Journal.

Miss Mamie Witless and Henry Foolfeller were married in Lincoln county last week. Heaven will surely smile upon such a fitting union as that.—Denver Post.

Dr. Mary Walker wants to lecture before congress. It is believed, however, that congress will practice self denial in this matter.

CURTAIN RAISERS.

"The dramatic breakfast" is the latest fad in New York.

John Philip Sousa has completely recovered from his recent illness.

London is to have the first view of Sarah Bernhardt as Hamlet.

Digby Bell is rehearsing "Joe Hurst, Gentleman," a play by Mrs. Hodgson Burnett.

Neil Burgess has returned to America and will go into vaudeville with Louise Thornadyke Boucault.

Perosi, the priest composer, has been appointed director of music at the Sistine chapel by Pope Leo XIII.

Minnie Palmer, the veteran soubrette, shortly returns from Europe to make her debut on the vaudeville stage.

Walter Jones is now sole manager of the "Yankee Doodle Dandy" company. He will produce it in small eastern towns.

There is some probability that "Rupert of Hentzau" will be given in London next season with James K. Hackett as the two Rudolf.

Julia Arthur has secured the American rights to Emile Bergerat's "Plus que Reine," in which Jane Hading will appear soon in Paris.

Two actresses and one actor of New York, with liabilities of \$125,000 and scarfpins and stage jewels as assets, have been adjudged bankrupts.

Yvette Guilbert, who has been suffering from rheumatism, declares her affliction is a blessing in disguise, as it prevents her from using superfluous gestures.

Paul Potter is at work upon a romantic drama of the Anthony Hope-Stanley Weyman type, and Madeline Lucette Ryley is putting the finishing touches to a play which has an English poet of a century ago for its hero.

Most of the successful plays of late are dramatizations of novels. Among them may be mentioned "The Manxman," "The Christian," "The Little Minister," "Under the Red Robe," "The Prisoner of Zenda" and "Rupert of Hentzau."

THE HONEY MAKERS.

An apiary is best located on the south or east side of a slope.

Worthless queens may be detected by the broods they produce.

Foundation for comb honey must be made very thin and of the best quality of wax.

We can be more successful in increasing the stock of bees by managing to have a surplus of queens early.

It is necessary as soon as possible to unite all weak colonies that will be unable to build up into strong ones.

In many cases to make the most out of bees it will pay to sow a patch of buckwheat and clover especially for them.

It is a heavy loss of honey to allow bees to manufacture their own comb. The more economical plan is to buy foundation.

Care should be taken to save all young brood and the brood combs or those containing brood, putting them together in the center of the hive.

When the bees are kept in ordinary hives and wintered out of doors, shading during the latter part of the winter will be beneficial.—St. Louis Republic.

UNGALLANT FRANCE.

So there is to be no woman's department at the great exposition in Paris next year. The French don't sympathize with that sort of "newness."—New York Sun.

France will have no woman's department in the 1900 affair. Some of the ladies connected with the exposition in Chicago may resent this. France has had trouble enough.