

# 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.

London's tax rate this year is 24 1-4 mills.

Woodstock is considering an offer to buy the local Electric Light Company's plant for \$16,500.

An English Specialty Manufacturing Company, with a capital of \$5,000,000, may locate in London, Ont.

The Canadian branch of the Pratt & Letchworth Malleable Iron Works, of Buffalo, was opened at Brantford.

McMillan's wheat elevator at Emerson, Man., burst. Over 2,000 bushels of wheat are spread over the railway tracks.

The five youths who threw stones at the Jewish Synagogue at Ottawa have been given the extreme penalty, \$50 and costs or six months in jail.

The trouble between the High school trustees and the London City Council has led to a lawsuit. The city will not grant \$17,000 for repairs. The court will pass upon the legality of the refusal.

The supplementary recruits for Strathcona's Horse, which were enlisted at Winnipeg, are all superior horsemen and excellent shots, and most of them have had previous military training.

When Mrs. Thomas, of Ottawa, was told of the death of her son, C. T. Thomas, in South Africa, she remarked proudly through her tears, "Well, I have six sons, and surely can spare one for the Queen."

Hamilton will advertise for offers for city debentures about to be issued. For good roads, \$150,000; for the third main and the filtering extension, \$200,000; and for the Board of Education, \$30,000.

The census of the Yukon for the purpose of local representation shows that Dawson City has a population of 5,400, an increase of 1,000 since last September. British subjects number 1,700, and American 3,300.

Montreal City Council dismissed J. O. A. La Forest, superintendent of water works, for using city material and labor for private purposes, and William McGibbon, park ranger, against whom there was considerable racial feeling.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are attempting to secure the \$5,000,000 which the Halifax award in 1767 condemned the United States Government to pay Canada as a set-off to illegal fishing by Americans in Canadian waters.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

It is officially announced that the Duke of York will visit Berlin on May 6.

Sir Francis Marindin, senior inspector of railways in connection with the London Board of Trade, is dead.

The Archbishop of Canterbury says that the Church of England's danger is of excess and want of toleration.

The Duke of Argyll was reputed to be the greatest landowner in England, had 13 titles, wrote 100 books, and shaved himself.

Samuel & Co., an English firm, have outbid American and other foreign firms and secured the Formosa camphor monopoly for ten years.

Winston Churchill, the war correspondent, may be offered the Manchester Conservative nomination for Parliament, to succeed the Marquis of Lorne.

It is said in London that Lieut.-Col. Ross, grandson of Major-General Ross, who defeated the Americans at Bladensburg in 1814, will command the Irish Guards, the new regiment which is forming by order of the Queen.

Sir John Bridge, the former police magistrate of London, is dead. He was born in 1824, was educated at Trinity College, Oxford; was called to the bar in 1859; was appointed a police magistrate at the Bow street Police Court in 1872, and was chief police magistrate for London in 1889. In 1820 he received the honor of knighthood.

### UNITED STATES.

There is a leprosy patient in the Bellevue Hospital, New York.

The National Steel Company's plant at Columbus, Ohio, has shut down.

Gen. Wheeler and the widow of Geo. W. Childs are reported to be engaged.

Automobile omnibuses with a "no seat, no fare," rule will be run in Chicago.

United States Weather Bureau's reports indicate large yield of grain and fruit everywhere.

The United States Agricultural Department, in a circular, urges the importance of good roads.

United States coal production for 1899 is estimated at 250,539,650 tons, an increase of 17.5 per cent.

The price of morphine in the United States has been reduced 10 cents an ounce because of competition.

United States Naval Board of Construction has adopted plans for three new battleships, to be the largest in the navy.

An Ohio man found his intended bride, whom he secured through a matrimonial paper, to be his missing daughter.

The steamship Triton sails from New York on May 5th with 200,000

bushels of grain for Indian famine sufferers.

Romain Zuffel, a bartender, committed suicide at Paterson, N. J., by cutting his throat with a broken lamp chimney.

The Cuba Company, incorporated at Trenton, N. J., with a capital of \$8,000,000, will build railroads and tramways on the island.

Permission was granted by the New York State Railroad Commissioners for the construction of an electric coal railroad along the line of the abandoned Delaware and Hudson Canal.

In a jealous mania Harry Matthews a corporal of Co. C., 15th Infantry, stationed at Plattsburg, N.Y., barracks, fired 125 rifle shots through the Lakeview Hotel Sunday night, wounded his sweetheart, Miss Stella Hamilton, of Montreal, in the arm, and suicided.

### GENERAL.

Receipts of Prussian railways are increasing.

In the month of March 378 Filipinos were killed by the Americans.

A Turkish torpedo boat blew up in Beyrout harbour causing a loss of 23 lives.

Berlin financiers have subscribed 400,000 marks to the Indian Famine Fund.

The French Academy of Medicine at Paris has a cure for seasickness—compressed oxygen.

Over 5,319,000 persons in India are in want, and the demands for relief are said to be increasing.

Plague-infected rats have been found at the wharves of Brisbane, Auckland and Melbourne.

The destruction of Panuca, Mexico, by fire rendered 11,000 persons homeless and caused \$2,500,000 damage to property.

Li Hung Chang has legalized big lotteries at Canton by licensing them. Li Hung will use the revenue in suppressing piracy.

Nearly every town in France has named a street after Colonel Villebois Mareuil, who was killed while fighting with the Boers.

### MODERN MINE SALTING.

The Way This Swindle Is Artfully Worked in Mexico.

"Mine salting nowadays has developed into a very nice art," said an engineer and assayer who has lately returned from the inspection of some properties in old Mexico. "In former times it was done crudely. A rascal who wanted to give fictitious value to a worthless prospect hole generally bought or stole a sack of high grade ore and simply scattered it about the excavation, where the victim would be likely to pick up a few pieces for sampling. If an exposed ledge was to be dealt with, he sometimes filed up a \$20 goldpiece, loaded the dust into a shotgun and fired it against the surface from which specimens would be taken. But at present greater finesse is needed. The up to date purchaser insists upon having fresh ore blasted out from beneath the surface, where it could not possibly be tampered with, and seals it up in a little canvas sack for the assayer with his own hands. It is then that the latest development, the hypodermic syringe, comes into play. The scientific mine salter has one of these handy little implements in his coat pocket, charged with a solution of chloride of gold.

"He watches for an opportunity, and when one presents itself quietly thrusts the tip of the needle through the canvas sack and gives the piston a gentle push. The consequence is that a few drops of the liquid are discharged over the surface of the ore. The quantity of gold in the solution is almost infinitesimal, but it is enough to 'run up' an assay \$1,000 a ton.

"Meanwhile the victim is tranquil in the knowledge that he has selected the samples himself and has them safely sacked under his own private seal. Hypodermic mine salting is all the go in Mexico at present. It beats the old method to death."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

### He Knew the Sex.

"I understand you have consented to your daughter's marriage to that young Swiftspace," said the old friend.

"I have," replied the father.

"I guess you don't know the young man," suggested the old friend pointedly.

"On the contrary, I know all about him," answered the father, "and I also know all about my daughter and a few things about the sex in general. If I had refused my consent, ten to one she would have married him anyway, but, having given it, the odds are easily ten to five that she will tire of him and throw him over before they've even set the day for the wedding."—Chicago Post.

### Curiosity Satisfied.

Burly Tramp—Wot's th' good of a little dog like that?

Mrs. Rural—To keep off tramps.

"He, hel Wot kin that little critter do?"

"He can bark. That will wake up the big dogs under the porch."

"Y-e-s, mum. Good day, mum."—New York Weekly.

### Not Enough Pin Money to Go Round.

Ostend—Pa, I want a dollar to buy a set of tempins.

Pa—Well, you just don't get it! It's all I can do to keep your mother in pin money.—Chicago News.

## Agricultural

### PEAS AS A PASTURE CROP.

Peas are sown along with oats or other grain to furnish pasture for sheep and swine. They improve the quality of the pasture because of the rich flesh-forming and milk-producing food which they furnish. The best soil for peas is a mild, porous and moist clay loam; free from superfluous water in the soil or subsoil during all stages of the growth of the plants. Sandy loams are good if moist but dry, sandy and gravelly lands deficient in moisture are poor pea lands.

In preparing the soil for peas, the aim should be, first, to plough the land in the autumn unless where there are good reasons for not doing so; second, to plough it deeply; and, third, to make a fine seed bed. In localities where the winters are long, open and rainy, the land should not be plowed in the fall. Nor is it necessary when the peas are broadcasted and then plowed under. When sod is plowed for peas, and more especially if it is plowed for them in the spring, the furrow slices, should be narrow and laid at an angle of about 45 degrees. When peas are broadcasted on land thus prepared, they fall down in the depressions between the furrow slices. And when in covering the seed the harrow is run straight along these furrow slices and at one or two different angles over them, it drags down the earth into the depressions and in this way covers the seed.

When peas and oats are sown for sheep pasture, about 3 bushels of the combined mixture should be sown, but for some soils a less quantity will suffice. About equal parts by measure of each kind of seed should be used, but there may be reasons for varying these proportions. The small varieties of field peas should be preferred, as they produce more forage. The seed may be mixed and sown with the drill, taking care to bury it deeply as deep as 3 to 4 in. Sometimes the peas are first sown broadcast and the land is then plowed, as deeply on light prairie soils as 4 to 6 in. and then the oats are drilled in less deeply. But on the whole, the first method is to be preferred when it is the proper thing to plough the land in the fall for the reasons, first, that the moisture is better conserved; second, that the labor is less, and third, that the harrowing subsequently given by way of cultivation may be more thorough than when the oats are planted less deeply.

Peas should never be broadcasted and covered simply with the harrow, except on sod land, the narrow furrow slices of which are laid up as described, but it may be admissible sometimes to disk in peas on properly prepared land. Peas sown for the grain they will produce, for sheep pasture and for swine forage had better be sown as early as the land can be worked nicely in the spring. But for the two purposes last named, there may be good reasons for sowing them later, and as a rule the roller should follow the seed drill.

When peas and oats are pastured by sheep, they may be turned in to graze them down when they are from 6 to 10 in. high. The sheep should not be allowed to pasture on them, for various reasons, when they are wet. If, when the pasture is grazed down, the sheep are shut away from it, the grain will soon spring up again, and vigorously in moist weather, and will therefore furnish pasture a second time, and even a third time under some conditions. Peas and oats furnish an excellent and a safe pasture for sheep and lambs. It comes in at a season when much milk is wanted for the lambs, and much milk is sure to be the outcome if the dams are grazed upon this pasture when it is succulent. And it is safe because no ill effects may be expected from pasturing the sheep upon it. If the pasture should grow so fast that the sheep could not properly utilize it, the residue could be made into hay. But when so used, the sheep should be removed from the pasture some time previous to cutting the crop for fodder.

Peas are pastured by swine either before or after they are matured. When pastured before the peas are ripe, it is common to begin when the seeds are about ready to cook. If the swine are turned in at this time, they eat also of the green portions of the vine, hence the waste of straw is much less. Swine should not be turned in and left there for a long period at the first. There is danger that the green peas will derange the digestion and that the ripe peas will swell through its undue distension. But after a time the swine may forage upon them at will.

The straw will be a total loss so far as its food value may be concerned and can be burned or plowed under. Autumn pasture may also be furnished by deferring the burning of the straw or plowing the field so pastured. The shelled peas that have been trodden into the ground by the feet of the swine will quickly grow up.

### A BAD HABIT.

Of all the blunders made by some farmers, the greatest is the habit of cutting and slashing fruit trees. Look at that apple orchard. Many of the trees are dying—and what is the

cause? The farmer did not understand his business—and has been cutting off the lower limbs. The stub left on the tree decays—and in a few years the rot gets into the heart of the tree; and the winds break such trees down. Let us travel all over the country, and we shall find old orchards dying; some will tell us it is for want of pruning, but it is a mistake. These big limbs when sawed off of old trees will not heal over, hence decay takes place.

Trees, like children, should be pruned when young, and then the chances are the wounds will heal over. If well done, the trees will grow healthy and of symmetrical form. If our farmers would devote a little more time in pruning and killing worms that are destroying their apple crop it would pay them.

### PUSH THE CALVES AHEAD.

The calf makes the cow. If good cows are desired or stock is to be improved, it is through the calves that it may be done most effectively and cheaply. The spring calves should be confined to pasture, and this generally poor, but should be fed with unstinted generosity. The rule should be to feed the calves with the greatest liberality with the best food, and to push them ahead the first year of their life, and never relax the generous treatment until the old cow gives up business. The animal is the machine through which the food is changed from a cheap material to a much more valuable one.

Thus the milk feeding should be continued to the age of five or six months, some dairymen say all through the cow's life. And doubtless this is true, for why should not the food that makes a good cow be still employed to sustain her? It has been proved, by practice in many dairies that the skimmed milk makes 50 per cent, more return when fed to cows than by any other way of disposal. But it is certainly good for the calves, tending to give them a good strong frame, a well-developed digestive function, ability to dispose of much food to advantage and well-developed vital organs, thus building up an animal fully supplied with every facility for making profit for her owner in her after life. But with the milk a generous allowance of grain food must be given.

### BOER WAR BABIES.

Names Chosen by Patriotic Parents in London.

One of the most interesting consequences of the war has been the readiness of patriotic parents in London to give their babies names commemorative of our great generals and victories in South Africa, says the London Daily Mail. From inquiries made at registration offices in all parts of the metropolis it is evident that the prevailing taste in the bestowal of Christian names is martial. New Cross, for instance, has recently produced an Archibald Baden Lay, an Audrey Buller Lily Wallace, a Harry Redvers Doncaster and a Colenso Stuart Dudley Middleton.

In the Holborn district, besides a Thomas Elands Laagte Wilks, fond mothers have named their babies after Roberts, Kitchener and Buller, while the famous deeds of our gallant soldiers on the hard-won mountains of Natal have prompted other parents to call their infants Glencoe, Ladysmith and Dundee.

Bromley furnishes Lord Robert Kitchener, Alice Pretoria and Amelia Ladysmith, while Greenwich has four Redvers, one Kimberley and one Pretoria. Ladysmith Waghorn, who appears on the Hampstead register, was born on March 1, and Frank Kimberley Stuckey is the baby son of a Hampstead coachman. The mother of a girl born in the same district on December 17, is the wife of a reservist, a gallant corporal in the Essex regiment. She named her baby Pretoria May, in anticipation of the month when the British army would be likely to enter the Transvaal headquarters. Hampstead has also a Cecil Redvers and a Buller.

A Rotherhithe baby is learning to answer to Louisa Pretoria, and St. George's circus has a brace of sturdy little namesakes of the British commander-in-chief in South Africa. The Central Hackney register contains the names of five commemorative babies—Theodore Alexander Pretoria, Robert George Redvers, Cyril George Dundonald, Frederick Redvers and Henry Frere George.

Shoreditch can claim a James Spion Kop Skinner, the son of a night-watchman, while in the New Kent Road district there are Phyllis Mary Redvers Halsall, James Albert Redvers Kirby, Edward Redvers Godsmark and Hector Macdonald Matthew. The register at 128 Kennington Road has a William Roberts and a Fredrick Redvers; Deptford produces a Harry Glencoe and a Lily Colenso; End Old Town contributes a Colenso, a Redvers, a Kruger, a Tugela, and a Pretoria, while the register kept at 49 Amwell street, Claremont square, E. C., has a Margaret Ellen Ladysmith Ingram.

Bloemfontein as a Christian name has yet to find popularity.

### PHEW.

Noggs—My little girl is 2 years old and cannot talk yet.  
Boggs—Don't be at all alarmed. My wife was 3 years old before she could say a word, and now!

## SOME INDIAN MAGIC.

### QUEER FEATS THE FAKIRS PERFORM IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.

A Fire and Water Trick That Is Pretty Hard to Explain and an Apparent Display of Strength That Passes Understanding.

The question of how the fakirs of India perform their wonderful tricks is a matter that has for centuries interested scientists, and the best explanation that has yet been offered of the matter is that it is done by hypnotic power—that is, that the fakirs simply hypnotize the entire audience and make them think that they saw trees grow out of the ground in a second. Libraries have been written on the subject. In his book entitled "Quaint Corners of Ancient Empires" Mr. Michael Meyers Shoemaker deals in an interesting manner with the Indian fakirs.

In writing about the fakirs he says: "The statement has been made by such prestidigitators as Herrmann and Kellar that they had never seen any tricks by these men of India which they could not explain. Be that as it may, these common street magicians of India do some very clever things.

"Certainly the performance before the Grand hotel, Colombo, this morning, under the blazing sunlight and not three feet from the looker on was remarkable. As to the mango tree trick, there appeared a strong resemblance between a tree grown yesterday and the one produced this morning. But it was in the other performances that the observers were most interested.

"In one instance the fakir took a small jar of metal and handed it around to show that it was empty. Then, placing a copper coin between his teeth, he began to blow, and smoke soon issued from his mouth and nostrils. The jar, which was held aloft all the time, was found filled with water, which commenced to boil furiously.

"Passing if aside, he opened his mouth and ejected jets of living flame. Indeed the whole cavity of the throat appeared to be filled with fire, which ignited anything with which it came in contact. We all saw the empty jar, the filled jar, the boiling water and the fire, but the fire never approached the jar.

"Another trick consisted in causing a dead and dried up cobra to come to life, or so it appeared. The snake is usually kept in a small, round, flat basket with a closely fitting cover. This we saw was empty, and into it the fakir laid the flat, dried skin of a dead serpent.

"Placing it not three feet from our circle and in the brilliant light of the southern sun, he covered the basket with its lid and then made the usual passes with the inevitable cloth, about a yard square, which he held by two corners to show that it contained nothing.

"His costume consisted of one garment of the shirt order, the sleeves of which were tucked up at the shoulders, affording, it would seem, scant opportunity to hide anything, yet when, after a few waves of the cloth, he removed the lid of the basket the dead snake was gone and in its place rose the majestic head and neck of one of the largest of cobras.

"It must be remembered that when we see such work in England or America it is done at a distance and on the stage, with all the assistance of stage lights and shadows, but in this case we were out in the plain air and near enough for the serpent to have stung us.

"The last trick consisted of a display of apparently wonderful strength. A boy of 10 years of age was tied up in a large scarf, with its ends attached to two strong cords. At the ends of these cords were hollow brass cups about the size of an acorn. The fakir, raising the upper lid of each of his eyes, inserted these cups thereunder, with the hollow side next to the eyeball, after which he pulled the eyelids well down.

"Then, with hands on hips and head well back, he arose to his full height, lifting the boy a foot or more off the ground and swinging him from side to side, the entire weight of course falling upon the brass cups. It seemed a marvel that the eyeballs were not destroyed.

"Perhaps those who understand these matters can explain all that was done, but certainly no magicians on our stage have accomplished similar feats, and yet these men are but common street performers."

In the Crimea the British left 60,000 corpses, which are interred in 130 cemeteries on ground occupied by the troops during that long and disastrous war.

### Swelled the Collection.

A man came up to me one day after service in a frontier town and was pleased to address me in this manner: "Say, parson, that there service and sermon was grand. I wouldn't have missed 'em for \$5."

When I suggested that he hand me the difference between the amount he had put in the collection basket and the figure he mentioned for my missionary work, he stopped suddenly, looked at me with his mouth wide open and then slowly pulled from his pocket \$4.90, which he handed to me without a word.—Rev. Cyrus Townsend Brady in Ladies' Home Journal.