

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 late Mr. Thomas Lawry of Hamilton left an estate of \$155,000.

Oxford County Council is considering the purchase of all the toll roads in the county.

It is expected that the new census of Montreal will show a population of three hundred thousand.

Judge Davidson has been appointed professor of criminal law in the McGill University faculty of law.

The Customs Department is taking steps to stop the importation of inferior and unwholesome tea.

Lieut.-Col. Humphreys, of the 66th, Halifax, has withdrawn his resignation and other officers will follow.

Dundas Town Council will not cooperate in the Dominion Alliance's petition for liquor license amendments.

Alphonse Cyr, who ran a nail into his foot while working in Booth's mills, died of lockjaw in the hospital at Ottawa.

The British Board of Trade figures for November show a decrease in imports of \$1,350,000, and an increase of exports of \$1,202,717.

Chevalier Drole has left for England to complete arrangements for the sale of his mining rights on the Saskatchewan to an English syndicate.

Guard Milligan has been suspended by the Kingston penitentiary authorities for carrying out letters and having communication with convicts.

The C. P. R. has been compelled to refuse grain shipments via St. John on account of the difficulty of getting vessel accommodation from that port.

The County Council has decided to encourage the introduction of the teaching of agriculture in the Public Schools of the rural districts of Wentworth.

Mr. Shaughnessy, Vice-President of the C. P. R. strongly denies the reports that the men engaged on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway have been ill-treated.

W. B. Palmer, Hamilton, sentenced to three years at Kingston Penitentiary for embezzlement from the Bank of Commerce two years ago, has been pardoned.

A letter has been received from Major Walsh, written from Lake Bennett, on November 15th. His party are all well, and they expect to reach Dawson in February.

It is probable that the Dominion Cotton Company's big mills at Brantford will shortly be moved to Three Rivers, where power can be had from the Shawanegan Falls.

The annual report of the London Board of Health states that the death rate is only 12.03 per thousand. London claims to be the healthiest city in the Province.

The C. P. R. announces another reduction in freight rates, this time on west-bound oats and oatmeal between Smith's Falls and points in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. G. M. Bosworth, traffic manager of the Canadian Pacific railway, says the freight rates on grain between Fort William and Montreal were lowered to induce a winter movement of Manitoba wheat.

A delegation of artillery officers, headed by Major-General Gascoigne, waited on Dr. Borden on Saturday, and asked that a special grant be given the association to entertain the British team that will visit Canada next summer.

Mr. David Mills, Dominion Minister of Justice, is being deluged with applications for the pardoning of criminals, and it is remarked as a curious fact that most of the letters asking for pardons refer to the worst criminals, and emanate from women and women's associations.

Dr. H. Walton L. Jones, who was sent by the Dominion Government to the Stockholm Exhibition, returned to Montreal, and reports that there is very little prospect of immigration from Norway, Sweden, Finland, or Russia, as times at present are good in Norway, and fair in the other countries mentioned.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Investigation into the recent London fire reveals points of inefficiency in the brigade.

A severe gale is again raging on the British coasts, and especially on those parts bordering on the Irish sea.

Rumours are current that the Earl of Elgin early next year will retire from the Viceroyalty of India, and that he will be succeeded by Lord George Hamilton.

London, notwithstanding the mild and unseasonable weather, is putting on a gay appearance and many noblemen have issued invitations for large Christmas parties.

At the sale of the Earl of Ashburnham's library in London, Caxton's translation of "A Booke of the Hoole Life of Jason" fetched two thousand one hundred pounds.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has issued a pronouncement that he disapproves of the remarriage of divorced couples, and that his Vicar-General hereafter will not license them.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. Charles Fleischmann, the yeast manufacturer, of Cincinnati is dead.

A large store in Philadelphia has opened a department for the sale of cats.

Mr. D. W. Powers, the banker and

owner of the famous Powers block in Rochester, is dead.

Capitalists of Bay City, Mich., have organized the first beet sugar company in the State, with a capital stock of \$300,000.

Representative Johnson of North Dakota, is preparing a bill providing for the complete extermination of the seal herd of Behring Sea.

Mr. George W. Vanderbilt, youngest son of William H. Vanderbilt, before sailing for England, effected a million-dollar insurance policy on his life.

Rioting is reported at Port au Prince resulting from popular indignation against the Government for surrendering to the demands of Germany.

Charles Zanoli, the New York barber, denies he poisoned his four wives for the sake of their insurance, and asks that an autopsy be performed on the remains of his last wife.

A slab of quartz with veins of gold prominently showing will convey California's invitation to President McKinley to attend the gold jubilee of the discovery of gold.

Lena Winslow, of Kansas City, who sued the Knights of Maccabees for twenty-five thousand dollars for dislocating one of his kidneys while initiating him into the local order, has been awarded ten thousand dollars damages.

Mr. J. Havelock Wilson, labor member of the Imperial Parliament, and Mr. Edward Harford, of the British Trades Union Council, have arrived in New York to attend the congress of the American Federation of Labor, to be opened at Nashville next Monday.

The Interstate Commerce Commission of the United States has decided to extend for two years the period within which railroads must comply with the act of Congress requiring all railroads to be equipped with safety appliances for the protection of the employees and passengers.

Commercial summaries are not usually exciting reading at this season of the year, and those of the present week are no exception to the general rule. There is a steady retail trade in the ordinary lines of holiday goods, especially in the lighter lines of toys and presents, but usually business is quiet with no special features. But while there is no marked improvement in any special lines, there is a better tone all round in business circles than has existed for a long time, and many concerns are busy to their full capacity in confident expectation of a large increase of business immediately after the turn of the year. All the speculative markets are stronger than at the close of last week, and in the chief centres of trade and industry in the United States the outlook is regarded as exceptionally encouraging and bright.

GENERAL.

The ravages of the bubonic plague at Poona are unabated.

The harvest prospects of South Australia are unfavourable.

Emperor William refers to the Haytiens as a contemptible crowd of negroes.

Russia will not tolerate a permanent occupation of Kiao-Chau bay by Germany.

The Albanians are reported to be committing great excesses at Debra and Kitchovo.

A French expedition is reported to have been massacred while on its way to the Nile.

It is announced from Rome that there is a serious falling off in Peter's Pence, the principal revenue of the Vatican.

A workman of Berlin, who was charged with lese majeste, committed suicide on Friday to escape punishment for his offence.

The Chinese Government has caused it to be made known that the occupation of Kiao-Chau bay by the Germans will be resisted.

It is said that Germany has proposed to China to take a lease of Kiao Chou Bay and adjacent territory for a long period.

The German-Chinese difficulty has practically been settled, the Chinese having conceded all the principal demands of Germany.

Wilhelmina, Queen of the Netherlands, will take the oath of accession to the throne on September 6, 1898, in the new church at Amsterdam.

Emperor William is reported to have said recently that America's meddling policy must cease, or he will be obliged to teach them manners.

Gen. von Gossler, the German Minister of War, announced in the Reichstag that it is the will of the Emperor that duelling shall be diminished.

Part of a company of British artillerymen, stationed in South Africa, mutinied because they had been ordered to embark on the troopship Avoca for Mauritius.

It is stated that France is deliberately seizing the upper waters of the Nile above Khartoum, thus cutting the British line of communication between Cape Town and Suez.

It is reported from Port au Prince that the Haytian Government has saluted the German flag, paid the required indemnity, and that all trouble between the two powers has ceased.

The new Government of Newfoundland has "chopped off the heads" of 12 magistrates, 23 customs officials and other officers, saving thereby \$15,000 a year.

It is officially reported that since the beginning of the disorders at Prague there have been 600 arrests, and 30 citizens, 60 policemen and 20 soldiers have been injured.

The Havana correspondent of the London Daily Chronicle says that the Cuban reforms offered by Senor Sagasta have come too late. The devastating policy of General Weyler has converted the inhabitants of Cuba into the implacable enemies of Spain.

MAN'S SMALLEST BONE.

The smallest bone in the human body is situated within the drum of the ear.

LONG LOST CHILD FOUND.

A STOLEN WINNIPEG BABY FOUND IN BUFFALO.

The Mother Recognized Her Daughter Who Had Been Missing For More Than Five Years - An Aunt Accused of the Kidnapping.

By a mere accident, says the Buffalo Express, Mrs. John B. Harris, of Winnipeg, Manitoba, found in Buffalo on Friday afternoon, her little daughter Ruth, who, it appears, was practically stolen from her five years ago. Though the child had grown wonderfully since she was taken away, a little girl three years old, the mother recognized her on sight. With the aid of the police she regained possession of the child, and she returned home with her on Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Harris is the wife of a furrier in Winnipeg. At the time Ruth was taken away, she was the only child Mrs. Harris had. On October, 13th, 1892, little Ruth's aunt, Mr. Harris' sister, paid a brief visit to the Harris family. When she was about to leave, she said she wished to take Ruth home with her for a little visit. The aunt lived in the country a few miles from Winnipeg. Mrs. Harris gave her consent, and kissed the child, with never a suspicion that that was the last she was to see of her for five years.

IN A FEW DAYS.

The mother did not worry until four days had passed. Then she went to her sister-in-law's home, which was on a farm. Mrs. Harris was shocked to find the house vacant, and to learn from neighbours that the family had packed up its household goods and moved away two days before without telling a soul whither it was going. The city authorities were notified, but they failed to get any trace of the family or the missing child.

Through the five years that followed Mr. and Mrs. Harris spared no pains or expense in their search for little Ruth. They wrote letters to the police in all the large cities of Canada and the United States and also communicated with everyone they knew had the slightest acquaintance with the aunt and her family. Their labours were unrewarded until one day about a week ago when they gained the information that the family and little Ruth were in Buffalo.

Mrs. Harris started at once for that city, arriving there last Thursday. Not knowing her sister-in-law's address Mrs. Harris could not locate the family. All she could do was to walk the streets in the hope of running across either the woman or the child. On Friday afternoon, as she was passing one of the large down-town dry goods houses, the weary and faint-hearted mother saw a little golden-haired child, with pretty blue eyes, come out of the store, accompanied by a woman of middle age. Mrs. Harris at once

RECOGNIZED THE CHILD

as her long lost Ruth. Not wishing to create a scene on the public street, Mrs. Harris followed the couple to a house on William street, near Pratt street.

Mrs. Harris is a level-headed woman. Though her instinct prompted her to go into the house and claim the child she paused to think, and decided that it was best for her to get an officer.

An hour later a strange scene attracted a crowd on William street, near Pratt. A woman was leading a little girl by the hand. The child was crying piteously, and trying to resist the woman. A tall, dark man was walking close behind them, warning the following crowd to keep back.

"Mamma, mamma, I want to stay with mamma," cried the child, and the eyes of the woman who was leading her filled with tears at the appeal for the woman was the child's mother, and the child thought she was a stranger.

On Saturday afternoon Mrs. Harris, escorted by an officer, took Ruth to a number of stores and bought her some good, warm clothing, and a generous supply of little things that please children. Then they went to the Grand Trunk station and took a train, bound for north-western Canada.

The mother learned that two days after little Ruth went to visit her aunt the family moved directly to Buffalo, and that the child had been living with them ever since. They are in poor circumstances, but they treated the child well.

BURIED ALIVE.

Hideous Cruelty of Insurgents Towards Women and Children.

A despatch from Madrid says:—A storm of indignation has been provoked here by news of tortures inflicted by the Cuban rebels upon the inhabitants of Guisa, women and children being bound and burned alive. The details are given by the Imparcial, a paper by no means favourable to the present Government policy, and the news is now officially confirmed. One of the Ministers says that as far as is known at present the only crime the unfortunate creatures appear to have been guilty of, is that they favoured the acceptance of autonomy.

THE WAY THEY ALL DO.

Queer about girls. What is queer? When my daughter was single she wouldn't let her brothers and sisters touch her piano; now she is married, she thinks there isn't a piano on earth too good for her baby to bang on.

BRITISH LABOR STRUGGLES.

The Idea of a Railway Strike Abandoned - No Reduction in the Cotton Operatives' Wages.

A despatch from London says:—As a result of the refusal of the Rt. Hon. Charles T. Ritchie, President of the Board of Trade, to accede to the request of the railway employees that he should interfere in the name of the board in the present labor dispute, with a view to arranging a conference between the Amalgamated Society of Railwaymen and railway companies, as a whole in order to avert a strike, the idea of a general railway strike has been abandoned. Mr. Ritchie, in his reply, refusing to intervene, had reminded the men, in substance, that they were a specially privileged body, having special responsibilities, and that their attitude was unjustifiable.

The employers in the cotton trade have abandoned their demand for a 5 per cent. reduction in wages, many firms being disinclined to enforce it. The operatives are thus victorious in the struggle. The decision of the employers was largely influenced by the result of a ballot of the association of cotton operatives taken during the last few days, which was almost unanimous against accepting the reduction proposed by the employers. The Pall Mall Gazette of London, commenting about six weeks ago upon the then threatened strike of the cotton operatives throughout the north of England, said it would affect 200,000 persons, entail the loss of £70,000,000 and mean the ruin of the cotton industry. Continuing, the Gazette then remarked:—"The worst of it is that Lancashire is cutting its own throat and supplying textile machinery to its rivals. The cotton goods trade is already shut off in the United States, by prohibitive tariffs, and Lancashire is supplying Canada with machinery almost sufficient to supply her own requirements, while India and China are fast beating it out of the neutral markets."

SUSIE ARCHER TOOK POISON.

Found Writing in Agony on a Street Corner in Buffalo - Left Her Home in Toronto Two Months Ago.

A despatch from Buffalo, says:—Susie Archer, a Canadian girl, 25 years old, suffered intense agony on Monday night at the Pearl street police station. For reasons known only to herself she attempted to end her earthly peregrinations by taking a dose of carbolic acid.

She was found writing in frightful agony at Grant and Hampshire streets by Patrolman Gruser, of No. 5 police station. At first the officer thought the woman was suffering from the effects of over-indulgence in liquor, but on stooping down to lift her up he smelled carbolic acid. A quick call for the patrol waggon, was sent in, and the suffering woman was sent to station No. 3, and placed in Matron Duffy's care.

She could scarcely breathe when she arrived at the station, her lungs and throat being apparently badly clogged with mucous matter, which she tried vainly and with much distress to raise. Dr. Dowd was summoned, and he did what he could to relieve her of her suffering.

Miss Archer would not admit that she had taken poison. She experienced a great deal of pain, and talked with much difficulty. She hesitated a long time before telling her name, but was finally prevailed upon to do so. She said her home is in Toronto, and that she came here two months ago to join her younger sister and also to look for work. Dr. Dowd said that the girl would recover.

Susie's sister is employed as a domestic at Dr. Foster's home, No. 3, St. John's place. She said that she had never known Susie to have any trouble and could assign no cause for any attempt at suicide on her part.

BOY TO BE HANGED.

Lyman Dartt to Die for the Murder of an Armenian Peddler.

A despatch from Halifax, N.S., says:—At Truro on Friday morning Lyman Dartt, aged sixteen, was sentenced to be hanged on March 3rd for the murder of Asard Dever, an Armenian peddler, who was shot dead in a road near Truro two months ago. The boy was convicted on circumstantial evidence, there being no witnesses to the crime. He has maintained his innocence throughout.

TRIED TO KILL THE SULTAN.

Two Soldiers of the Imperial Guard Were the Culprits.

On Monday last two soldiers in the Imperial service at the Yildiz kiosk, the palace of the Sultan at Constantinople, made an attempt on the life of his Majesty. This was frustrated by the attendants of the Sultan, His Majesty had the men tortured in the hope of extorting the names of the instigators but both succumbed without revealing anything.

FULL OF BLACK DIAMONDS.

Excellent Bituminous Coal Deposits Found in the Northwest.

Extensive deposits of coal have been discovered at Dominion City, thirty miles from Winnipeg, at a depth of one hundred feet. A company is being formed to develop the claim. The coal is of good bituminous quality.

IN WINTER QUARTERS.

SIR WILLIAM LOCKHART'S TROOPS LEAVE THE HILLS.

Operations Against the Afridis Will Cease Until the Spring - The Heavy British Loss - An Admirably Conducted Campaign Under Great Difficulties.

All the forces of General Sir William Lockhart, the British commander of the Indian frontier, have been withdrawn to the Bara valley for the winter.

Military circles in London are praising Sir William Lockhart's conduct in the campaign in India. The exciting events that have happened in other quarters of the world during the last 30 days have diverted attention from the attempt to punish the Afridis. But the undertaking, in its way, is the most remarkable in which England has ever been engaged. Gen. Lockhart has under his personal command a larger body of troops than was ever before commanded by a British general. He has 70,000 men in the field, more than Wellington had at Waterloo, where only 25,000 were actually British. In the exceptionally difficult conditions, the mountainous and unknown country, the cold season, the labour of maintaining communication along a very extended line, and the fierce fanaticism of tribes that believe they are fighting in a righteous cause, and for very existence, Sir William Lockhart has displayed remarkable ingenuity and resource.

The campaign has been suspended for the severe weather, but Parliament will meet before it is resumed, and the demands of India, Central Africa, and the Niger region may help the Salisbury Government to push through the bill for an increase of military strength which Lord Lansdowne has outlined.

The proportion of officers killed in Gen. Lockhart's campaign is 42 as against 74 men. This is a state of things unheard of, even in the English frontier and desert war.

The Railway News' correspondent at the front says that the native losses throughout have been far less than the British and Indian losses, and that the villages destroyed were merely the summer huts of nomadic tribes, who live elsewhere most of the year, and which it will be no trouble whatever to rebuild.

WHO HELPED BEST?

Three Incidents Which May Start some Thinking.

"I am thankful that's over with!" said a portly gentleman to his wife, as he entered his door one Sunday noon.

"What's the matter, dear?" The sick lady looked up anxiously.

"Why, we had the foreign heathen man there, and what he said literally forced me to give ten dollars. He made everybody cry. I am glad I sha'n't have to hear of the heathen again for another year. It's bad enough to have your own poor everlastingly tormenting the life out of you. The fact is, it is as much as my income is worth to go to church at all, nowadays."

He looked at his pale wife half-quizzically. Her only answer was a gentle sigh, for she knew that her husband thought he was not only a benevolent man, but a conscientious Christian; she also knew that he never gave money cheerfully, and not at all in proportion to his income.

It was a dark winter night, and it was snowing furiously. On a lonely road, five miles from the city limits, in a very plain house, there was a single light burning in the kitchen. This lighted up the flickering path in the doorway. There were only two women in the house, and the severity of the storm gave them anxiety. A resounding knock quite startled them. Timidly opening the door, they saw standing there a man, bearded, white, uncouth, almost repulsive in appearance.

"Don't be scared," he said, reassuringly, "but me and my partner are almost exhausted. We're driving a lot of cattle to the slaughter-house, and haven't had anything to eat since breakfast. He's gone on with the cattle. They'd lay down in the snow and freeze, if we didn't keep 'em goin'." Couldn't ye give us a bite?"

The two women, timidly, and with some hesitation, invited the man into the house, and seated him by the stove. Hot tea was immediately made, and the only piece of meat in the house was at once disjoined for the stranger to eat.

"You see," he explained, "we stopped at the big house above here, and knocked at the front door! The gentleman, he sent us to the kitchen, but the cook had a toothache, and she slammed the door in our faces; but the boss meant all right, I guess."

In a short time, warmed, fed, comforted, with a supply of food in a package in his hand for his mate, the cattleman faced the storm again. "Thank ye," he stammered; "I'll never forget your kindness. If ye hadn't done it, I dunno how long we'd have stood it."

Professor Drummond once told a story of an officer of an Italian coast-guard who reported to his government a shipwreck in these words: "We saw the wreck, and we attempted to give every assistance possible through the speaking-trumpet; notwithstanding which, next morning, twenty corpses were washed ashore." Too much of our benevolence is of the speaking-trumpet variety, and even this we boast about. The Samaritan of the New Testament represents the benevolence of which the world stands in the greatest need.