

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.

Captain William Sparling of the Montreal Fire Brigade is dead.

Over \$18,000 has been collected in subscriptions for the Western University.

Another case of smallpox has been reported to the Mayor by the Montreal Health Officer.

The Hamilton Acetylene Gas Machine Co. has been formed, with a capital stock of \$45,000.

The new R. & O. steamers being built at Toronto will be called "Toronto" and "Kingston."

A company has been formed and plans matured for building an electric railway between St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie.

Wm. Green, who was run into by a street car at Hamilton, while riding a horse on Sunday afternoon, is dead as the result of his injuries.

S. S. Stratton and R. Ronan, of Ottawa, have been awarded the contract for supplying for four years the Post-Office Department with mail bags.

Brakeman Wheeler, of the G. T. R. fell beneath the cars at Brantford. Fortunately he fell between the tracks, and by lying prostrate, escaped injury.

Mr. Arthur Piers, C. P. R. Steamship Manager, has gone to England to purchase steamships and to make other arrangements for the new Klondike line.

Mr. Sifton does not anticipate any trouble from the efforts being made at Washington to prevent the entrance of Canadian goods into the Yukon by way of Dyea.

An order has been received at the C.P.R. shops, Perth, for 1,500 box cars. Robert Marshall, aged fifteen, was killed in the Hamilton cotton mills elevator.

Mr. W. C. Macdonald has made another gift of about \$900,000 to McGill University. Mr. Macdonald's total contributions to McGill amount to about \$2,500,000.

The Thirteenth Battalion of Hamilton, have won the Gzowski Cup for the fourth time in succession. The Queen's Own came second, and the 48th Highlanders third.

It is announced that Lord Strathcona has presented his entire herd of buffalo now on his farm near Winnipeg to the Dominion Government, to be placed in the National Park at Banff.

After the first of January the Intercolonial railway, the Prince Edward Island railway, and the leased lines, will be known under the title of the Canadian Government railway system.

The Dominion Government will sue the United States Government for \$10,000 for damages caused to the Government vessel La Canadienne in the collision with the American vessel Yankee.

The Dominion fishery protection fleet on the Atlantic coast has gone into winter quarters with the exception of the Osprey, which is watching two or three American fishing steamers which have not yet left for home.

Lord Strathcona, Canadian High Commissioner, in a letter to Sir Richard Cartwright, states that he will return to Canada shortly to interview pulp and paper manufacturers here regarding opportunities for extending their business to Great Britain.

Many applications have been received at the Dominion Customs Department from Americans for permission to take goods into Alaska, via Canadian territory, in bond, and the matter is receiving the attention of the Cabinet at Ottawa.

Mr. J. Haney, superintendent of construction of the Crow's Nest Pass railway, gives a general denial to the charges of unfair treatment of the labourers employed on the work. He says out of four thousand men only sixty had any complaint to make, and they were sent home.

Mr. B. P. Osler, Q. C., of Toronto has filed a petition with the Dominion Department of Justice asking for the revocation of the charters of the Canadian Copper Company and the Anglo-American Company, on the grounds that they have not established smelting works in Canada, according to the terms of their contract.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Gen. Sir Henry Gardiner, commander of the Horse Artillery, is dead in London.

London's weather continues remarkably mild, and is decidedly favourable to the city poor.

Terrific weather has been prevailing on the south-west coast of Ireland, and serious wrecks are reported.

Sir Frank Lockwood, M.P., who accompanied Lord Russell on his recent trip to this country, is dead.

It is reported that the prospects of a settlement of the engineer's strike in Great Britain are very promising.

Lord Wrottesley's seat in Staffordshire has been completely gutted by fire, and many articles of historic value are lost.

The engineers of six of the Allan line steamers, now at Glasgow, have gone out on strike. Serious disorganization of the fleet is feared.

It is reported at London that Sir Wm. E. Maxwell, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Gold Coast, died at sea while en route to England.

An immense shoe factory is to be started in Galashiels, Scotland, to compete with the United States, which

now holds a large part of the British shoe market.

Vladimir Bourtzeff, a Russian, was remanded at Bow street police station, London, on Thursday, charged with issuing a publication inciting the assassination of the Czar.

It is understood that the Duke of Norfolk, one of England's most influential peers, has approached Lord Salisbury with a view to obtaining the admission of Cardinal Vaughan into the House of Lords.

The Countess of Warwick is taking great interest in the founding of an Agricultural Training College for Women, to educate farmers' daughters in scientific and commercial dairying, poultry, raising, etc.

Lieut. Parry, previous to leaving England for the United States, was presented with models for flying machines, submarine boats, and other devices supposed to be likely to facilitate his exploration of the polar region.

UNITED STATES.

develop into a strike of serious proportions.

Charles Butler, lawyer and philanthropist, is dead at New York.

There is a strike of iron workers in New York, which, it is feared, will

It is proposed to hold an ecumenical Foreign Missionary Conference in New York in April, 1900, to last ten days.

The United States Senate has approved a bill appropriating \$200,000 for the relief of the miners in the Klondike region.

The San Francisco transportation companies have agreed upon a passenger rate of five hundred dollars from that city to Dawson City.

The United States War Department proposes to buy 500 reindeer from Lapland to be used in taking supplies into Dawson City this winter.

The total tonnage carried on the canals of New York State during the past season shows a decrease compared with the previous season of 97,000 tons.

The Rev. Dr. James M. Farrar is about to abandon his wealthy New York pastorate that he may devote his life to preaching the Gospel without pay.

Durrant, who was sentenced on Wednesday for the fourth time to be hanged, says that he will never go to the scaffold, as he is confident help will come to him in his extremity.

Zanolli, the New York barber, who is accused of seven murders, says he has no hope of escaping the consequences since the untruth of his statement regarding his daughter's death has been found out.

On Sunday at St. Joseph, Mo., Mrs. Charles Miller, her mother, and all her relatives and other Catholics who attended her marriage, were excommunicated because the young woman was married by a Protestant minister.

The bill relating to pelagic sealing, which has just passed both branches of the United States Congress, places an absolute prohibition on the further bringing of sealskins into the United States from any source whatever.

According to reports as to business in the United States, retail trade in the east has been more satisfactory during the past week. There is possible trouble in the New England mills and either a strike or a shut-down is likely to occur. In the West and the North-West trade is reported to be most satisfactory, though mild weather has checked the distribution of seasonable goods to a large extent. Collections generally are reported better, and the all-round tone and trade outlook good. The commercial failures in the United States for the week just ended were 233, as compared with 359 in the corresponding week of last year.

GENERAL.

It is rumored that Russia has occupied Port Arthur with the consent of China.

Alphonse Daudet, the celebrated French novelist, is dead. He was 57 years of age.

Strong earthquake shocks, lasting twelve seconds, were felt on Saturday morning in Central Italy.

The Marquis di Rudini has succeeded in reconstructing the Italian Cabinet, without making many changes.

The French Chamber of Deputies has adopted a proposal fixing ten hours as a day's work for railway employes.

Among the persons under arrest for pillaging in Prague, is the son of a millionaire. The Germans still dread a fresh attack.

Haiti is again threatened, this time by Italy who is making heavy claims for the alleged illegal seizure of an Italian merchant vessel some years ago.

The Crown Prince and Princess of Greece and Prince and Princess Constantine of Greece will leave Athens for a prolonged tour for the benefit of their health.

The famous Parisian model, Lucie Hagerland, had her beauty destroyed by vitriol, which was thrown in her face by another model in a fit of jealousy.

A despatch from Athens announces that the treaty of peace between Turkey and Greece has been ratified by King George. It has been also ratified by Turkey.

Prince Bismarck, who nerved himself up for the Emperor's recent visit has relapsed into his former weakness, despondency and insomnia, and is said to be sinking fast.

A well-known diplomat says that Greece was involved in the war with Turkey owing to the endeavor of King George to bluff the Czar into hurrying the marriage of Princess Marie.

Spain is negotiating with the Armistice, of England, to obtain a four thousand three hundred ton cruiser, worth one million five hundred thousand dollars, which has been built for Japan.

Some of the richest Spaniards of Cuba are holding meetings to consider the advisability of sending a petition to President McKinley seeking to estab-

lish a United States protectorate over the island.

It is stated that the citizens of Madrid are in a state of great suppressed excitement, and there are such strong fears of a revolution that preparations are being made for the flight of the Royal family.

The general opinion of Kiel regarding the German occupation of Kia-Chau bay is voiced by a diplomat, who says it is a great pity that Germany, having an easy, safe and simple, though slightly piratical piece of work, should not be able to perform it without setting the whole world laughing.

WINE FROM LEAVES.

A French Chemist's Experiments with Leaves of the Fruit Trees.

Wine growers are much interested in, but somewhat dubious of, a story of a new process of wine manufacture, says an exchange. It seems that a French druggist has conceived the idea that the flavor of the fruit of shrubs is generated in the leaves of these plants and passes from them into the fruits. The fragrance which the leaves of the black currant bush gives off, especially after a little rubbing, and which is so very similar to the taste of the berry, appears to favor this view. The Frenchman, however, goes further, and says that the pleasant taste of the apple, pear or grape is prepared in the leaves of the respective plants, although it may be noticeable in these cases in a less degree than with the black currant. After crushing the leaves he adds a fermenting agent, such as yeast to them, whereupon the odorless and tasteless glycoside principle becomes free which is to impart to the fruit proper its aroma and pleasant taste. What was formerly sought to be accomplished with grapes and other fruits is now claimed to be done in a superior manner with the leaves of the plants in a fermenting vat. Apple-tree leaves, for instance are placed in water containing 15 per cent. of sugar and yeast is added. As the process advances there is an odor of apples, and when the fermentation is finished and the yeast has settled, a straw-yellow liquid is obtained, which possesses the fine "bouquet" of the fruit of the respective trees from from which the leaves were taken. The public is assured that "with vine leaves the results are still more prolific. A beverage tasting and smelling strongly of wine is obtained, from it which is similar to the best and finally, brandy may be distilled cognac."

CANADIAN WOMEN BARRED.

Inspector De Barry Rules Against Their Admission as Nurses at the Buffalo Hospitals.

A despatch from Buffalo says:—Dr. Renwick R. Ross, Superintendent of the Buffalo General Hospital, recently communicated with Immigration Inspector De Barry to ascertain whether it would be a violation of the law to import young women from Canada for the purpose of training them as nurses at the hospital, provided the young women were willing to work during their training course without remuneration, excepting their board, clothing, washing and instruction.

Inspector De Barry, in replying stated that, in his judgment, such action on the part of the hospital management would be clearly a violation of the alien contract labor law, and that if the young women were brought here, as the Superintendent suggested, suits could be instituted for the recovery of a penalty of \$1,000 in each case and for the deportation of the aliens brought in. The statutes, the inspector said, made no discrimination in the matter of money payments for the services of imported aliens.

The nurses at the Buffalo General Hospital for some time past have been largely composed of young women from Canada.

UNDESERVED CUFF.

It was undeserved, but the circumstances were so peculiar that even the recipient of the blow must have been more amused than angry. The story is told by a London journal:

The Rev. Dr. X., a popular minister, suffers from a halt in his gait, a peculiarity which he inherited from his father. One day when the reverend doctor was still a student, he was walking along Princes Street, Edinburgh, in company with his father, and on coming to a path where the footway was narrowed on account of some building operations, the old gentleman stepped on before him.

As they were proceeding thus, a sober-looking countryman behind them, evidently unaware of the relationship of the pair, frowned once or twice at the limping youth, and shook his head at him reprovingly. Young X. was wondering what this could mean, when he was speedily enlightened by the countryman giving him a smart box on the ear, at the same time exclaiming indignantly:

"Tak' that, ye young jackanapes! Ye should be ashamed o' yoursel' for mimicking the auld gentleman's infirmity. Ye toothless young scoundrel, ye'll be lame yoursel' some day."

INDISCRIMINATE.

Bouttown—Mornin', Judge. I think you had no right to fine that minister for scorching.

Judge—And why not, sir?

Bouttown—Because he was practicing what he preached.

SHE WANTS THE EARTH.

She—Man should keep out of woman's sphere.

He—But we have not yet discovered a way to reach Mars.

AN ACTOR ASSASSINATED.

WILLIAM TERRISS STABBED AT THE ADELPHI THEATRE.

He Was at the Stage Entrance When a Man Struck Him With a Dagger—The Wound Almost Immediately Fatal—The Assassin Arrested.

A despatch from London, says:—William Terriss, the well-known actor, was stabbed as he was entering the Adelphi theatre on Thursday evening for the performance of "Secret Service." His assassin is supposed to be a former super. The latter rushed at the actor as Terriss was stepping across the pavement from his cab, and stabbed him just below the heart. As Terriss fell his murderer was seized by the people who were outside the theatre. The wounded man was carried into the theatre and doctors were called from the Charing Cross hospital, but the wound, which was very deep, proved fatal, and the actor expired in fifteen minutes. The assassin had the appearance of a foreigner, and wore a long cloak. Terriss fell, shouting:—"My God! he's stabbed me; don't let him escape."

The assassin withdrew the dagger and made

A SECOND PLUNGE

at his victim, but he was seized by the spectators, of whom there is always a crowd, about the stage entrance to witness the arrival of the actors.

Mr. Terriss was placed on the landing of the stairway just inside the theatre, where he lay groaning loudly. Once or twice he feebly attempted to speak, but it was impossible. He quickly succumbed, while surrounded by the theatre staff, including Miss Millward.

The murderer was taken to Bow street police station, followed by an angry crowd. His name was given as Archer. It is said that he had been a "super" at the Adelphi theatre several years ago, and for some days past he has haunted the theatre. The motive for the crime is not yet known.

A large audience had already assembled for the evening performance, and the manager came to the footlights and announced that as Mr. Terriss had met with an accident, no performance would be given.

It appears that the assassin on Wednesday evening, asked the keeper of the ordinary stage entrance as to the whereabouts of Mr. Terriss, and his behavior was then so obnoxious that Harry Nicholls, one of the principal colleagues of Mr. Terriss, was obliged to remonstrate, and to order him to

LEAVE THE PREMISES.

The scenes along the Strand at the hour when the theatres closed this evening were remarkable. By that time the special editions of the evening papers were out, and the newsboys were shouting around the theatre exits that Mr. Terriss had been murdered. At first the people refused to place any credence in the report, believing such an event impossible, but when they found it was true, horror and indignation were painted on every face.

When Archer, the murderer, arrived at the police station, he still had the weapon, apparently a big butcher's knife, concealed beneath his Inverness cape. On being charged with murder, he is reported to have replied:—"He's done me out of the benevolent fund this morning, and I am out of it for life."

The murderer was placed in a cell, and is under a special watch for the night.

ENGLAND'S COAL SUPPLY.

Prof. Jevons' Thirty Years' Estimate—Mr. Courtney's Pessimistic View—The Iron Trade is Drifting to the United States.

A despatch from London says:—The most notable speeches of the past week have not been political, but industrial. One was Mr. Courtney's address before the Royal Statistical Society on Jevons' coal question after thirty years. Although Mr. Courtney is now well nigh blind, he cannot, like Mr. Fawcett, speak without notes, but has his secretary behind him to read statistics and prompt him. He has, however, Mr. Fawcett's ardour for scientific study, and succeeds in making dry subjects deeply interesting. His address has been widely commented upon by the press, since he contended that Jevons was right in his main prediction that the day must come when England's supremacy in the coal and iron trade would be impaired. Mr. Courtney laid great stress upon the enormous increase in the output of coal in the United States, and the extraordinary reduction in the cost of production there at the mouth of the pit, until it is two shillings lower a ton than in Great Britain. He plainly intimated that America, with a larger store of mineral wealth and superior facilities of production, must ultimately lead in this industrial struggle.

DESPERATE MEASURES.

How dreadful in Dr. Smith to marry his cook!

"I don't know; probably she had threatened to leave."

AN EXTINGUISHER.

They say that was a brilliant match of Bullion and Miss Goldy.

Yes; but it seems to have gone out when they were married.

MANITOBA'S PROSPERITY.

DECEMBER CROP BULLETIN OF AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT

Nearly Thirty-Three Million Bushels—Fall out of the Oat and Barley Crops—A Splendid Season for Dairy Products—Estimated Acreage for Next Year.

A despatch from Winnipeg says:—According to the December crop bulletin issued by the Provincial Agricultural Department, the total cereal production in Manitoba this year was 32,404,625 bushels, of which 18,261,950 were wheat, 10,629,513 oats, 3,183,602 barley, 247,836 flax, 48,314 rye, and 33,386 peas. The averages per acre were: Wheat 14.14 bushels, oats 22.7, barley 20.77. The oat and barley crops were failures. Three and a quarter million bushels of potatoes and roots were also grown, potatoes averaging 149 bushels per acre, and roots 199. The estimated wheat yield of the August bulletin was not realized, owing to a blight which attacked the grain just before maturity.

The number of beef cattle exported from the province this season was fifteen thousand. There were also sixteen thousand five hundred stockers shipped to the United States as shown by the Customs returns; total export from the province, thirty-one thousand five hundred. The number of hogs shipped out of Manitoba on foot or dressed was twelve thousand five hundred. The number received by Winnipeg packers and butchers was twenty-five thousand total, thirty-seven thousand five hundred. Poultry disposed of by farmers was as follows:—Turkeys, 47,540; geese and ducks, 20,000; chickens, 184,055. These find a ready market in the province.

The season has been favourable for all parties interested in the manufacture of butter and cheese. The products of creameries and cheese factories under the supervision of the dairy superintendent have been uniformly good, and packed so as to meet the requirements of the market. Home dairies have also kept well in line in the manufacture of good butter. There has been a ready sale of all dairy products at remunerative prices. The following is a summary of production and prices:—Butter, creamery, 9.7-179 pounds, 18c., value \$177,692.22; dairy butter 1,410,285 pounds, 13.3c., value \$188,625.62; total, 2,397,464 pounds; value, \$366,317.84. Cheese, factory, 987,007 pounds, 8.1-2c., value \$83,895.59; total value of dairy products, \$450,213.43.

It is estimated that 1,370,685 acres of land are ready for cropping next spring an increase of more than 400,000 acres compared with the figures a year ago.

EFFECT OF ALTITUDE.

Explanation of the Restorative Effect of Mountain Air.

The mountain air has the following effect: Suppose a weakly or even a consumptive patient goes up into the mountains. His badly nourished condition renders his tissues an easy prey to the microbes which have contrived to effect a lodgment under the insular conditions of his present life. But when he breathes an air less richly supplied with oxygen his blood is not able to absorb enough for its requirements; a "reaction" is set up; new corpuscles are formed, which gradually acquire the normal amount of haemoglobin, and thus a host of recruits is added to the pigmy carriers, the work of transference of oxygen is much more effectively performed and the result is the better nutrition of the body. It resists the assaults of the destructive microbes; they no longer increase and multiply, but dwindle—perhaps are slaughtered, for such things do occur, by the army of defense. When the patient descends to a lower altitude the red corpuscles decrease in number, but the good effects remain and the quality of the blood is now much more satisfactory than it was before the visit to the health resort.

Mountain sickness also is connected with the quantity of oxygen. This is due to asphyxia of the tissues, which are unable to obtain a sufficient supply, at a time owing to muscular exertion, it is most needed, in consequence of the diminution in amount of that element at considerable altitudes. This malady, no doubt, often comes from want of proper training but even the most experienced climbers have felt it at great elevations. At the top of Mont Blanc almost half the atmosphere by weight lies below our feet, which of course implies a greatly diminished supply of oxygen. Mr. Whympere and his guides suffered severely when encamped at about 16,600 feet in the Andes, and Sir Martin Conway found in the Karakoram Himalayas the effect was always perceptible at this height while at about 20,000 feet the lassitude and difficulty of breathing became painful. Thus, of oxygen, like of many other good things one may have too much, as was already well known, but one may also have too little.

POWER OF MUSIC.

Did I ever meet Lumtum, the famous musician? Well, I should say yes! Often! Had a very pleasant visit with him only the other day. He's a charming conversationalist. Talked to me for an hour.

What about?

Other famous musicians—Plunk-plunk and Tootle, mostly.

What did he say about them?

He said they were two of the best living exponents of the elevating and ennobling influence of music—that if they were not musicians he was quite certain they would be murderers, highway robbers and pirates.