

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.

Parliament will meet on February 3rd.

The trolley system has been inaugurated on the Hamilton & Dundas Railway.

W. H. H. Graham, of Irvington, Ind., has been appointed United States Consul to Winnipeg.

Hon. Clifford Sifton has gone to Washington to see the United States Government on Yukon affairs.

It is expected that the Molsons Bank of Montreal, will extend its business by opening a branch at Vancouver, B. C.

Rev. Wm. MacGuaig is suing the City of Montreal for \$6,500 damages for delay in removing a smallpox patient from his hospital.

The new Baldwin locomotive recently purchased for the intercolonial railway has been brought back to Montreal, after a most satisfactory trial trip.

Policeman McLaughlin, of Ottawa, who shot and wounded an escaping thief, and who was charged with shooting with intent, has been acquitted.

The Dominion Government has decided to adopt the postal note system as it prevails in Great Britain for the transmission of currency through the mails.

Thomas Reynolds, a hostler employed at the Britannia Hotel, Hamilton, was found dead at the bottom of a ladder in the stable with his neck broken.

Mr. W. W. Ogilvie has sent a cheque for five hundred dollars to St. Boniface hospital, in addition to giving one thousand dollars to the Winnipeg General hospital.

A sale has just been negotiated of \$120,000 worth of London's 3 1/2 per cent. sewerage debentures at 98.95. The Confederation Life Insurance Company is the purchaser.

The wardens of the Dominion penitentiaries have been called to meet in Ottawa early in January to discuss prison matters in order, if possible, to have uniformity in the treatment of convicts.

Owing to the demands of the Yukon district on the Mounted Police, it is likely that the Dominion Government will abandon its declared intention to reduce the force, and, instead, augment it considerably.

Mr. E. D. Smith, the Winona fruit grower, intends to build an addition to his big storehouse for cold storage purposes, and will spend \$5,000 getting ready for the shipping of fruit to England next year on a large scale.

There is likely to be trouble between the Dominion Government and Newfoundland over the ownership of Labrador. Its shores have been annexed to Newfoundland for judicial reasons, and now the island would like to claim all.

Fire in the Watkins wing of the General hospital in Kingston, Ont., did damage on Friday to the extent of \$10,000. About forty patients were removed on stretchers and in chairs, and up to a late hour last night did not appear to have suffered by their hasty removal. The loss is more than covered by insurance.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The estate of the late actor, William Terriss is estimated at between £40,000 and £50,000.

Lady Millais, widow of Sir John Millais, the late president of the Royal Academy, is dead.

An anti-sugar bounty league was formed in England last week, under the presidency of Lord Stanmore.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is seriously ill, and his condition is causing his friends much anxiety.

Jackson, the English Arctic explorer, has altered his proposed route in the Polar regions, so as not to clash with Lieut. Peary's course.

Owing to the objection of Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, the reduction in postage on letters from Canada to other parts of the British Empire has been postponed.

A Mrs. Jarvis and her nine children, the youngest a baby, were burned to death in a four-roomed cottage, occupied by the Jarvis, and two other families in Dixie street, Bethnal Green, London.

UNITED STATES.

Seven lives were lost in the Chicago coliseum which was destroyed by fire on Friday.

The New York Sun says the United States pension rolls are "padded" beyond belief.

Charles A. Bolnay will be hanged at Bridgeport, Conn., April 14th, for the murder of Geo. M. Nichols.

The manufacturers of Fall River, Mass., have decided upon a reduction of wages, and the operatives appear to be in favor of opposition.

Evidence has been adduced to show that the gag, the whip, the dark cell and bread and water diet are in use in the Protestant Episcopal House of Mercy, for Girls, at Inwood, N.Y.

Representative Johnson, of North Dakota, says it cost the United States Government \$224,514 to make an unsuccessful claim for damages before the Paris Tribunal on the seal fisheries.

A despatch from Washington intimates that President McKinley will urge on Congress the early payment of the claims of the Canadian sealers awarded by the joint commission.

Miss Leila Herbert, daughter of the

ex-Secretary of the United States Navy, committed suicide at Washington by jumping head-first from the third storey window of her father's residence. The owners of the mines in the Cripple Creek mining camp made their employees the present of one full day's wages on Christmas day, which amounted in the aggregate to ten thousand dollars.

The jury in the trial of George A. C. Orme, of Elmira, N. Y., rendered a verdict of not guilty of murder, the defence being that the man died from the effects of the "x" rays used in searching for the bullet.

The long strike of the Indiana window glass factory hands closed on Christmas eve. The men gained their point of one cent after a four months' strike which cost them in lost wages more than five hundred thousand dollars.

Twenty persons were injured at a crossing of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad between Passaic and Delaware, N. J. They were in a stage, which was struck by a train. Those fatally injured are Wm. Crane, Wm. Moran and Charles Swenkie, all of Passaic.

Business has been reasonably good throughout the United States during the past week. According to the commercial reports of Messrs. Dun and Messrs. Bradstreet, the holiday trade has been everywhere unusually heavy; and the wholesale trades—which usually are slack just before Christmas—have been kept well employed to meet the requirements of a very large demand. For the time of year the call for various lines of products has been unprecedentedly large. Altogether the actual condition of trade, and its immediate outlook, is considered by many of the leading men of business to be most satisfactory. The business failures in the United States for the month have been less than half of the number which occurred in the corresponding week of last year.

GENERAL.

Banks in Bombay, and Bengal, India, have increased the rate of discount from 6 to 7 per cent.

There has been a renewal of conflicts between Mussulmans and Christians on the Island of Crete.

Princess Hohenlohe, wife of the German Imperial Chancellor, is dead. She was sixty-eight years of age.

Racial animosities in Austria have extended to the army, and there have been many serious fights in the barracks.

Sixteen persons were killed as a result of the fire-damp explosion in the Kaiserstuhl II. pit at Dortmund, Prussia.

Count Esterhazy, who is said to be the "real traitor," and not Dreyfus, has been committed for trial by court martial.

It is now supposed that a friendly understanding exists between England and Germany over the seizure of Kiao-Chau bay.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has sent an address to the Government urging that the time has arrived to adopt the gold standard.

Serious strike disorders have occurred at Moreso, Spain, where a band of strikers attacked the non-strikers and many were wounded.

General Pando reports that the offer of autonomy to Cuba is rejected by the insurgents, and that the only way to finish the war is by war.

The dervishes have left Shendy and Metemeh that are marching against the Anglo-Egyptian forces, with Berber as their objective point.

It is reported that seventeen British warships are at Corea to support the protest against the King handing over the government of the country to Russia.

The Spanish press is urging the Government to take action to resist the "intolerable encroachments of the United States in the internal politics of Spain."

At Regla, a suburb of Havana, there was a sensational bull fight, in which girl bull fighters from Spain entered the ring and killed the bulls like regular professionals.

France claims that her African expedition has been an entire success, that she has captured Domziber and Meshraerrak without firing a shot, and that she is now mistress of the Nile.

As a Greek gunboat was leaving the Gulf of Ambracia on Friday a shot was fired at her by the Turks at Fort Prevesa, and Greece asks for an explanation of the unfriendly act.

The St. Petersburg Official Messenger formally announces the Czar's sanction of the appointment of Counselor Martens, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Professor of international law in the University of St. Petersburg, as umpire in the Anglo-Venezuelan arbitration.

A despatch from Rome says it has just come to light that the Princess de Carini, who is separated from her husband, has been treated with great cruelty. She has been shut up by her trustee for the last five years and has only just succeeded in sending a letter to the police revealing her imprisonment.

NEW CANCER CURE.

Dr. Hasse, a noted Prussian dermatologist, announces a new treatment and cure of cancer. In Virchow's Archives of Medicine he reports that he injects alcohol about the cancerous growth. His experience he thinks, encourages him to assume that his experiments bid fair to promise perfect cure and exemption from reappearance of the dread disease.

NOT IN SIGHT.

Percy Algernon—Aw, say, Miss Slydig, would you mind a man sitting beside you on that divan?

Miss Slydig—Certainly not. But where's the man?

THE STRIKING ENGINEERS.

THE SECOND BALLOT ON THE EMPLOYERS' PROPOSALS.

Prolongation of the Strike—A General Lock-Out Probable—Pessimistic View of English Trade—A Devastating Industrial War.

A despatch from London says:—The striking engineers in their second ballot upon the proposals of the employers, are again rejecting the propositions made by the masters in the conference. The leaders of the strikers insured this result by combining two questions in the ballots. These questions were: "Are you in favor of the proposals of the masters in regard to their management of workshops?" and "Are you in favor of a working week of fifty-one hours?"

Naturally all the men support the latter question, against which the employers have all along contended, and upon which they are still unyielding in their opposition. The masters declare that they never offered such a compromise, and they are now formulating plans for a wide extension of their proposed lockout.

A London despatch to the New York Tribune says:—"Lord Londonderry at Newcastle has taken a pessimistic view of the condition of trade, supporting it by statistics showing the decline of exports and the increased competition from the United States, Germany, and Belgium, especially in machinery, and deploring the losses caused by the engineering strike. This view is generally shared by merchants and manufacturers, for the shipping trade is almost the only one which has had a prosperous year, and this exception was due to the immense shipments of wheat from America. Yet, though times are growing worse, the conflict between the engineers and the employers threatens to become even more deadly. The trades unions are rejecting the employers' ultimatum, and the lockout notices will probably be renewed early in the new year. The Engineers' Society has already received and expended half a million dollars from other trades unions apart from depleting its own resources, and this devastating industrial war will go on."

FIGHTING ON THE FRONTIER.

Some Very Sharp Criticism of the War Methods.

A despatch from Allahabad says:—The Pioneer publishes a scathing criticism of the recent fighting on the Indian frontier, and says the operations have ruined more than one reputation. The Pioneer asserts that the officers have disappointed expectations, and calls upon the Commander-in-Chief to weed out those who have signally failed to prove their fitness to command or perform staff duties. The paper asserts that the instances when the troops were well handled were few, while serious blunders were numerous and happy-go-lucky arrangements were the rule, resulting in a few hundred British troops and Sepoys, forming the rear guard, having again and again to fight most desperately to save their skins whole, while within two or three miles thousands of their comrades were doing absolutely nothing.

In conclusion, the Pioneer remarks: "The whole campaign shows carelessness and indifference for the safety of the rear guard and had disposal of the fighting strength. While the fortified enclosures and homesteads of the Afridis have been destroyed, the latter have had their revenge in the actual conflicts. If the Afridis are to be coerced, more skill is requisite, and the staff must be weeded forthwith, irrespective of personal feelings."

MAGNETIC PHENOMENON.

Experiments in Central Russia Show That—sometimes the Needle Points East and West.

A despatch from Moscow says:—Experiments that have been made by Russian and French savants in connection with the remarkable deflection of the magnetic needle over an immense area in Central Russia have given curious results. The observations were confined to the strip of country between Moscow and Kharkov, a distance of about 850 miles. The needle showed the greatest aberrations in the Province of Kursk, where in the north it was deflected 20 degrees. One hundred and fifty miles southeastward the deflection exceeded 95 degrees, the needle pointing east and west, instead of north and south. Engineers who are engaged building railroads in that part of the country are much interested in the experiments. They speculate as to how the magnetization will affect the durability of the rails. It is known that rails are usually more durable when laid north and south than in other directions, the greatest wear from magnetism being when they are laid due east and west.

BRAINS AND CLIMATE.

The weight of a man's brain has nothing to do with his mental power. It is a question of climate, not of intellect. The colder the climate the greater the size of the brain.

AN EARNEST BIDDER.

Daughter, do you think young Tompkins, means business? Of course, papa; I have just received his sealed proposal.

ARE FACING STARVATION.

PROVISIONS ARE RUNNING SHORT IN DAWSON CITY.

Miners Refuse to Leave the City For Fort Yukon—A Proposal That All Food Should Be Equally Shared—Interference of the North-West Police.

A despatch from Skaguay, Alaska, says:—John Lindsay, of Olympia, Washington, who has just arrived from Dawson City, says there will surely be starvation there this winter. He examined into the food situation thoroughly, he says, and after satisfying himself there would be starvation, he sold his outfit, and, in company with Frank Ballaine, of Olympia; Tom Storey, of Victoria, B. C., and Bob Glynn, of Seattle, started out on foot, each man drawing a sled carrying about 140 pounds of provisions. Lindsay says the Dawson people believe there is no great amount of food at Fort Yukon as has been alleged. The river rose sufficiently and remained open long enough to enable the food to have been brought from Fort Yukon had there been any there.

The people of Dawson, believing there was not an ample food supply at Fort Yukon, refused to go there, preferring to remain at Dawson. Not more than 300 or 400 people took advantage of the transport company's offer, to take the people to Fort Yukon for nothing. When the miners at Dawson found no more provisions would reach the town by the river route they announced that a meeting would be held to take steps for apportioning the provisions in town. Those who had plenty must share with those who had none, Capt. Constantin, of the North-West Mounted Police, interfered, and told the miners that no such thing would be permitted. The meeting was not held.

Lindsay says the output of the miners will be greatly curtailed this winter, because of a scarcity of fuel and light. Coal oil sold for forty-five dollars a gallon, and candles are as high as one hundred and fifty dollars a box of one hundred. Even if men were able to work their claims they cannot get light to do so.

These statements are borne out by all returning Klondikers, quite a number of whom have reached here during the past week. Few of them had ever taken as gloomy a view of the situation as does Mr. Lindsay.

LOOKING AHEAD.

A Large Influx of Immigrants Expected Next Year.

A despatch from Ottawa, says:—Mr. Smart, Deputy Minister of the Department of the Interior, expects a good immigration season to open early in 1898. In an interview he said: "Our campaign will go on all winter through, and when spring comes we look to see an influx such as has never been seen in late years. The gold fields of the Yukon will bring thousands of foreigners to our Canadian shores, but this is not the class specially referred to. It is more the incoming of farmers for the western country, men who will settle down there, many of them with their families, to build up homesteads for their children after them. It may be said that many of these have already seen with their own eyes the chances which our western country affords, while others have taken the reports of delegates specially sent to spy out the land. The Yorktown and Swan River districts are likely to receive a very large proportion of the new population. Railway companies are already preparing for a heavy traffic as soon as winter is over."

SHOT DEAD BY POLICE.

Supremacy of the Law Asserted by Revolvers.

A despatch from Dubois, Pa., says:—Chief of Police Blair, and a dozen deputies made an effort on Thursday morning to capture Stephen Spellan, who brutally murdered Michael Rahar the previous night, and then barricaded himself in the house, and opened fire on the officers as soon as he saw them approaching, shooting Chief Blair. Later he wounded officers Casey, Butterborough and Almont. The remaining officers pressed forward and forced the door. As they entered Spellan fled, the officers following and firing their revolvers as they ran. Spellan, in desperation, halted and returned the fire. The officers fired another volley, and the murderer fell wounded with four bullets in his body. The wounded officers will recover.

SAVING SIXPENCE.

Patrick, a thrifty tradesman in the neighborhood of the Dublin docks, was as the story goes, a man who never spent a penny more than he needed to spend; but he was, nevertheless, as good a man at the mking of an Irish bull as any that lived between Bantry and Ballycastle.

Having one day urgent occasion to send a letter to Glasnevin, Patrick called a messenger and asked him his price for going such a distance.

"It'll be a shillin'," said the man.

"Twice too much!" said Patrick. Let it be sixpence.

Niver, answered the messenger. The way is that lonely that I'd never go it under a shillin'.

"Lonely, is it?" said Patrick, scratching his head. Faith an' ye're right. Now, man, I'll tell ye what we'll do; make it sixpence, an' I'll go wid ye to kape ye company!

MILE HIGH VIEW.

A balloonist a mile above the earth commands a field vision, 96 miles in radius.

RUSSIA'S FRIENDSHIP.

CHINA TURNING TO HER NEIGHBOR ON THE NORTH.

Anti-British Newspaper Articles—The St. Petersburg Novosti Opposes British Influence—Checking German.

A despatch from Peking says:—The Chinese Government has granted Russia permission to winter a squadron at Port Arthur. Great Britain demands a quid pro quo, if concessions have been made to other powers. It has been suggested that the Japanese and British occupy Wei Hai Wei jointly. The situation at Kiao Chou Bay is unchanged. Germany remains unyielding and the Chinese counsels are divided as to whether it should be peace or war with Germany. China regards Russia as her only friend, and is asking her advice alone. In spite of official denials, it is regarded as proved that Port Arthur and Kiao Chou Bay were promised to Russia by a secret treaty. British influence is nil, having suffered greatly through the failure of the loan negotiations. China is now negotiating alone with Russia. The latter demands the dismissal of the British railroad engineers in North China, and it is probable that the demand will be granted. The German drill instructors will be dismissed at the expiration of their contracts and will be replaced by Russians. Russian officers have already been appointed to drill the armies of North China.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—In a strongly anti-British article on Thursday, the Novosti says:—"In consequence of the pretension of England to compensate herself for the Russian occupation of Port Arthur by the acquisition of Port Hamilton or Lazareff, and in view of the possibility of the disturbing action of Japan, Europe stands on the brink of grave diplomatic complications. It is, therefore, well to recall that the reinforcement of the German squadron in the Pacific permits Russia, France and Germany effectively to prevent a disturbance of the balance of power between the three powers on one hand, and Great Britain and Japan on the other, such as might be produced by violent seizures of territory." In conclusion, the Novosti expresses the hope that the isolation of Great Britain in regard to the other European powers will "paralyze her action sufficiently to permit the preservation of peace from the dangers threatening it at the present moment."

The greatest reticence is maintained here in Government circles. The censorship has forbidden the press to attack Germany on account of the occupation of Kiao-Chau. Emperor Nicholas presided on Thursday at a special meeting of the Council at Alexander Palace, including the Grand Dukes and the chief military and naval authorities. The Chinese situation was discussed, and it is rumored that Grand Duke Alexander Michaelovitch advised the immediate strengthening of the Russian squadron in China.

RUSSIAN NIHILISTS.

Two Men in Bow Street Police Court Charged With Advocating the Assassination of the Czar.

A despatch from London says:—Vladimir Bourtzeff, editor of The Naro do Voletz, will of the people, the Russian who was arrested at the British Museum, and remanded at Bow Street Police Court on December 16, charged with endeavoring to persuade several persons on various occasions to assassinate the Czar, was brought up on remand on Thursday, in company with a man named Weirzbecki, printer of the paper mentioned, who had since been arrested. An incriminating article in The Naro do Voletz was produced in court, in it the writer declared the policy of the Russian revolutionists was the same as that of the Terrorists of twenty years ago, and pointed out that Czar Nicholas had already reigned three years, at a period when the revolutionist campaign ought to be summed up in the word "regicide." If he had been assassinated on the day of the funeral of Czar Alexander II., the article continues, either a revolution would have broken out or a liberal constitution would have been declared. Each new autocrat, according to the writer, ought to have been given a year, and if he had not granted a constitution at the end of that period he ought to have been attacked without pity. Detective Melville testified regarding his visit to Bourtzeff's room, and the finding of documents relating to Nihilism, the assassination of Alexander II., the death of Stepanik, and to the present Czar. Both prisoners were remanded. Bourtzeff escaped from Siberia, to Constantinople, where the Russian police tried to seize him on board a British steamer, but the captain of the vessel prevented them from so doing.

COLDLY CRITICAL.

What a lot of cheap skates, groaned the ice pond, as the boys in the neighborhood made their first appearance for the season on its glittering surface.

A GUARANTEE.

There's one amusing thing, I've noticed about self-made men. And what's that? You get a manufacturer's guarantee with every one of them.