

# 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.

Crop reports from northern Manitoba are gratifying.

The price of bread has been reduced to 11 cents a loaf at Ottawa.

The Presbyterian General Assembly will meet in Hamilton next year.

The capital of the Union Bank of Quebec will be increased to \$1,500,000.

Hamilton has closed a contract for coal for its public buildings at \$4 per ton.

Senator MacInnes offers Dundurn Park to Hamilton City Council for \$65,000.

A rich placer gold field has been struck at Two Year Creek, a branch of the Stikine.

Miners in the Klondike district are protesting against the existing trail and transportation facilities.

The Town Council of Louisville, Que., has decided to establish a municipal wine and cider factory.

At Guelph, David Irvine, a noted burglar, was sentenced to fourteen years in the Kingston Penitentiary.

Two Hamilton Klondikers have returned home disgusted with their efforts to reach the land of gold.

The Provincial Board of Health of Ontario has been notified of an outbreak of smallpox in New York State.

According to a report that has reached Vancouver, a transfer boat of the C. P. R. has been wrecked on the Skeena river.

Caterpillars are ravaging the fruit trees and berry bushes in the vicinity of Kingston. Whole orchards have been stripped.

Four per cent. 40 year city water bonds of St. John, N.B., sold for 106 1/2, the buyer being the Bank of New Brunswick.

Three men were killed by an explosion and fire at the Asbestos & Asbestic Company works near Danville, Quebec.

The Ontario Government has issued instructions for the seizure of all fruit in which there is any sign of San Jose scale.

At Kingston a vicious Newfoundland dog attacked the youngest son of Lieut. Col. Drury and tore the flesh from his face and jaw.

The absence of Senator Sutherland of Manitoba for two consecutive sessions has caused another vacancy in the Upper Chamber.

Edward Lynes, caretaker of the Berlin postoffice, has been arrested charged with stealing a registered letter containing money.

Lord Strathcona's herd of buffalo from Silver Heights, Winnipeg, has been safely landed at Banff in the Canadian National Park.

In connection with a fatality, the coroner's jury censured the Hull Electric railway for not properly protecting highway crossings.

The body of Fred. Cope, ex-Mayor of Vancouver, B.C., who was drowned last winter on his way to the Klondike has been recovered.

The body of young Patterson of Hamilton, who was drowned on August 31 last en route to the Klondike, has been found near Edmonton.

Mr. Archibald Blue, Director of the Ontario Government Mining Bureau, says that the recent strike of oil in Kent, Co., Ont., is the best made in late years.

Mrs. W. A. Mitchell, of Kingston, partook of some sliced cucumbers which caused such a violent illness that she burst a blood vessel and died of hemorrhage.

Charles Moyan, an old Toronto boy, who is now a gunner on the cruiser New York, writes to a friend in that city, "You will all hear of the end of the war in thirty or forty days."

A proposal is to be made to the City Council at St. John, N. B., to secure legislation to expropriate the property, privileges and franchises of the St. John Street Railway Company, to be conducted by the city in the interest of taxpayers.

The Ontario Government and the lessee of the binder twine plant at the Central Prison have made arrangements to add to the plant, at the lessee's expense, sufficiently to establish a rope walk, and rope will in future be made almost exclusively.

Mrs. Constantinides, wife of Dr. Constantinides, was stricken with apoplexy while walking in Toronto on Monday, and was taken home in an apparently dying condition. She has materially improved and her condition affords hope of recovery.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

John Trodd, the insane Englishman who shot a German Count in London, mistook the latter for Colonel John Hay, the American Minister.

Lord William Seymour, uncle of the Marquis of Hertford, has been gazetted commander of the British troops in Canada to succeed Lieut.-Gen. A. G. Montgomery Moore.

The Marquis of Lansdowne announces that all the officers implicated in the Transvaal raid, with the exception of Col. Rhodes and Major Wyloughby, will be reinstated in the army on half-pay.

The owners of the British steamer Roman, which on February 27 last towed the disabled steamer La Champagne of the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique, into Halifax, have been awarded £15,000 salvage by the British Admiralty Court.

## UNITED STATES.

The yellow fever epidemic at McHenry, Miss., is abating.

Five men were killed in a mine disaster at Staats City, Mo.

The Masonic Grand Lodge at Seattle will recognize negro Masonic lodges. This is the first American lodge to do so.

John Herman Wenzel, late of Tavistock, Ontario, shot himself through the heart in Detroit. He was out of work and despondent.

A general order has been issued to the effect that no native of the Philippines shall be enlisted in the army of the United States.

A despatch from San Francisco announces the death there by suicide of "Sir Hugh W. Williams, Bart., F.G.S., M.I.C.E." No such name appears in the baronetage.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British Ambassador at Washington, has been notified that he will remain there another year to conclude certain matters of importance that he has in hand.

A murderer was lynched on the public square at Great Bend, Kansas, on Monday night by a mob. The victim was John Becker. He killed a girl 16 years of age on April 8.

The New York financial concerns have offered to subscribe for the entire \$200,000,000 of bonds authorized by the United States war revenue bill, or such part as may not be subscribed for by the public.

Anton Dreher, the millionaire brewer of Austria, it is stated, has announced that he intends establishing in Milwaukee a \$1,000,000 branch of his business. Dreher owns four big plants in Austria and Bohemia.

The death sentence of Salter D. Worden will be commuted to life imprisonment by the Governor of California.

Worden is the man who, during the great railroad strike of 1894 helped to wreck a Southern Pacific train, near Sacramento, killing an engineer and three soldiers. Insanity is the cause of this move.

The engineers, stokers and ordinary seamen who have been in service on the scout ships Yale and Harvard will refuse to go to sea on the vessels when they leave Newport News as auxiliary cruisers. These men were in the employ of the American Line when the steamers were leased by the Government and they signed articles of agreement for one year, but claim they did not enlist in the navy, and therefore cannot be compelled to go into service on a warship, especially as most of them are subjects of foreign powers.

## GENERAL.

Thirty lives were lost by the collapse of a building in Biot, France.

An English syndicate will work the iron deposits in Bay de Verde, a Newfoundland fishing settlement.

A revolution which has existed in Venezuela for the past six months is at an end, Hernandez, the leader of the rebels having been captured, and his forces defeated on Sunday night.

An English company with a million dollars capital has been formed to work the iron deposits of Bay de Verde, Newfoundland. These deposits are regarded as the best in the world.

The new German tariff excludes Canada from the most-favored-nation privileges. The inference is that Germany is attempting to revenge herself upon Canada for upsetting the Anglo-German treaty.

## AN INTELLIGENT SHEPHERD DOG.

Would Steal Sheep for His Master and Drive Them to a Secluded Place.

The Collie is a wonderful dog, the most intelligent and faithful of the race. I will tell you an anecdote illustrating the sagacity of this friend of the shepherd and his flock—thoroughly authentic, but marvelous beyond belief. It was long the custom in the Scottish Highlands, says Sheep Breeder, to mark the sheep by impressing with a hot iron a certain letter upon their faces. The shepherds of Tweeddale had for a long time been missing a few of the choicest of their flocks, and one day a black-faced ewe returned to her lamb from beyond the river, with the letter O burned over the T that was her owner's brand. A farmer living in a wild and secluded glen, shut in by crag and mountain, where the mist came down like darkness and the eagle screamed above the cataract, was known to use the letter O as his "firm."

The glen was searched and 600 stolen sheep recovered. He confessed his crimes and was executed in the city of Edinburgh in 1773. Upon the pretense of buying he would visit the flocks in the vale of Tweed, accompanied by his Collie Yarrow, and point out those sheep that he wished him to drive home. Then he would ride off to his own glen, passing through every hamlet and calling at every inn on the way. Yarrow, concealed on some hillside among the heather, would wait for the darkness to come and hide his evil deeds from the light of the sun; then he would select every sheep that his master had pointed out to him and drive them rapidly by unfrequented paths over mountain and moor to his own dark glen, before the weather gleam of the eastern hills began to be tinged with the brightening dawn. There the "firm" was concealed by the letter O in an enclosure in the hollow of a hill, Yarrow keeping faithful guard outside, and never failing to notify his master of the approach of strangers.

## LARGEST PUBLIC DEBT.

The public debt of France is the largest in the world, and amounts to £1,600,000,000.

# Agricultural

## THINNING FRUIT.

When fruit growers, generally, recognize the fact that thinning fruit is as important as cultivation, pruning, etc., there will be not only more and better fruit grown, but there will not be so many "off years." All varieties that have a tendency to overbear should be thinned, and this is especially true of fruits that set in clusters. A tree, vine or shrub has only so much vital force, and if it expends it upon a limited amount of work, the work will be well done, whereas if the power is scattered over a great deal of surface, none of the work will be more than half done. No tree, says Wisconsin Farmer, should be permitted to be so loaded as to require propping or to cause the branches to bend materially, or the growth of the fruit will be checked and its quality injured. With the grape the desired result is reached by pruning back severely, and no one expects to have good grapes without it, but with fruit trees this is not practicable, and resort must be had to thinning. Every time a tree is permitted to overbear, its vitality is reduced to such a degree that it must rest for two or three years, or worse still, its growth is checked and it is permanently injured. Moreover, an overcrop requires the tree to mature, or at least try to mature, a much larger number of seeds, and seed production is the most exhausting work that vegetation has to perform. The seeds that a propped apple tree makes are a greater tax upon its vitality than it is to make the fruit. There have not been many extended experiments at experiment stations to ascertain precisely how great the advantage of severe thinning is, but there have been enough to make the fact that it is profitable, apparent. Such experiments have been tried in a limited way on a number of kinds of fruit trees, such as plums, apples, peaches, etc., and even currants are improved in quality when the tips of the fruit clusters are clipped off. In the case of currants it is not regarded as profitable to do the work, but the fact that it has been experimentally done with the results stated, is valuable because it proves the universality of the principle. In a great many commercial orchards, particularly in peach orchards, thinning is practiced as regularly as any other detail in management and is always found profitable. The advantages resulting from thinning are many. In the first place the size of the fruit is increased, it has a higher color and better flavor. In other words, the tree does better work when it is not overtaxed. Next, it reduces the amount of inferior fruit and windfalls. We often have a good deal of complaint about trees dropping their fruit, but the evil would be greatly diminished if thinning were regularly practiced. It is especially necessary in the case of all varieties that have short stems and grow in clusters, and on which, on this account, the individual fruits so crowd each other that they increase in size that they actually "pull each other," so to speak. Thinning also decreases the amount of rot, particularly in the case of peaches and plums, because the disease can spread less easily when the fruits do not touch each other. If the thinning is done by hand, those fruits that have been attacked by insects can be removed, and insect injuries are thus reduced. The vitality of the tree is spared by thinning, it is longer lived and is a more regular bearer. The better development of the fruit allowed to remain on the tree generally makes a larger total yield in bushes, and the better quality makes it bring a higher price per bushel. The Missouri Horticultural Society announced a couple of years ago its belief that if from a heavily loaded tree, a half or even three-fourths of the fruit were removed, the product in bushels would be greater than if all were permitted to remain, besides being of better quality. As to the time when the thinning should be done, the purpose being to prevent the tree from wasting its vital force, the earlier the fruit be taken off the better, provided it be delayed until the danger of dropping through lack of pollination, frost, etc., is past. Plums are usually thinned when about half grown and before the pits harden; peaches at about the same stage and apples when they are about the size of hickory nuts. It should be thorough enough to leave the individual fruits not less than four inches apart. If the reader doubts the advantages of thinning or thinks he has not time to attend to it, let him select a couple of trees and do a little experimenting. Let the trees selected be of the same variety and such as have set a large amount of fruit. Thin one of them quite severely, leaving not less than four inches between each fruit, and leave the other untouched as a check tree, and then watch the results. The results he may expect, are more and better fruit from the thinned tree, with a good crop next year as well as this year, when the unthinned tree will probably be resting.

## WRAPPING CHOICE FRUIT.

In this age of strong competition the farmer and fruit grower must be up-to-date and take advantage of each and everything that promises to give him a better price for his product than the average market price for an average crop. If the grower has a crop of extra fine fruit or vegetables it will certainly pay to spend some time and money in putting them on the market in the most attractive form. Take early tomatoes, peaches and plums for example; the choicest specimens can be wrapped carefully in tissue paper, put up in small packages and sold for a fancy price. Extra fine specimens of strawberries and other small fruits could be attractively packed in the ordinary wooden butter plate, for a novelty, after first covering the plate with tissue paper, or they could be packed in the ordinary basket or box, which should be new or clean, and by being made attractive bring a high price. In this day of large shipments of the ordinary grades of fruit and vegetables it will not pay to put a choice lot of stuff on the market in the ordinary way, for nine times out of ten it would only serve to bring up the price of the medium grades rather than gain for itself the extra price it deserved. On the other hand, the care and small expense necessary to put this extra fruit on the market so attractively packed that it will attract the attention it deserves, will be paid for many times over.

## SPRAYING FRUIT TREES.

For five weeks agents of the Ontario Department of Agriculture have been giving instruction in the spraying of fruit trees at thirty orchards in different parts of the Province. Reports sent to Dr. Orr, superintendent, in charge of this work, have just been received at the Department, to the effect that fungus is now appearing upon apple and pear trees, and threatens to do extensive injury to these crops unless checked at once by spraying. Insect enemies also are more numerous than usual this year. Apples, with the exception of the Spy, have set well, and where properly cared for, there is promise of a good crop. In spraying apple trees to check or prevent the spot, use the Bordeaux mixture, made as follows: Bordeaux Mixture.—Copper sulphate, 4 lbs.; lime, fresh, 4 lbs.; water, 40 gal. Suspend the copper sulphate in five gallons of water. This may be done by putting in a bag of coarse material, and hanging it so as to be covered by the water. Slack the lime in about the same quantity of water. Then mix the two, and add the remainder of the forty gallons of water. Warm water will dissolve the copper sulphate more readily than cold water. If the lime is at all dirty, strain the lime solution.

## HONESTY NOT THE BEST POLICY.

He was an honest young man, unused to the ways of society and making a call on one of the most stunning young ladies of the city. How I love beauty, she said. It seems to me I would give almost any other worldly possession in exchange for beauty. Don't mind if you're not handsome, he replied, it's much better to be kind and good. Then he went home wondering what had given him a chill.

## SUMMER SILLINESS.

At last I have discovered it, grinned the young man at the theater, before his best girl had yet time to remove her hat. You see before you an air ship.

Pardon me, but I see nothing of the kind. They look at the stage. It has wings and flies.

## SHAKESPEARE'S LIMITATION.

It beats me, mused the modern theatre-manager. This here William Shakespeare wrote the play of Hamlet, in which Ophelia gets drowned, yet he leaves the drowning scene out.

It does seem queer, observed the stage carpenter, with a touch of vanity; but maybe he didn't know how to make a tank.

## CONSIDERATE VOCALIST.

The birds are singing light and free With charm that never fails; They never struggle for high C Nor run chromatic scales.

# ABOUT MODERN SHRAPNEL

ITS OVERWHELMING EFFECT UPON A BODY OF TROOPS.

What Happened When a Single Projectile Suddenly Bursts Into Two Hundred Pieces—First Used in the British Service.

One of the most effective of modern projectiles is the shrapnel. It is one of the forms of case shot. The others were the old-fashioned grape and canister. A case shot may be said to be a collection of missiles in a case, which breaks up either in the gun or at some point in flight, thus setting free its death dealing particles.

As soon as the case is broken, each of these particles goes on a separate path, and it's a sorry day for the man struck by one of them. All of these falling upon a piece of level ground would mark out an irregular oval, whose area varies with differing conditions. It has been found that the best point to burst the shrapnel is about six yards above an enemy in front of the enemy.

## THE SHRAPNEL.

Colonel Shrapnel, of the British service, first invented shrapnel in 1803. This early form consisted simply of a spherical shell filled with bullets and bursting charge of powder in the space between. This was a crude invention which scattered the fragments too much and was liable to go off when not expected and not to do so when desired. This form was improved upon, and the modern shrapnel can be considered the most dangerous of all life destroying projectiles. It consists of three parts—the tube, the base and the head. The powder charge is in the base, which is firmly attached to the body either by electric welding or by screwing. Leading from the base through the centre of the body is a tube which is also filled with powder, which is ignited by the fuse at the point of the shrapnel, and carries the fire to the main charge. Between two hundred and three hundred bullets rest upon a diaphragm just over the powder charge. These are held in place by a matrix of resin which is melted and poured upon the bullets when in place. A skeleton of cast iron containing receptacles for each bullet is sometimes used instead of the resin.

The head is put on in the same manner as the base, and when the fuse is inserted the projectile is ready for use. Some shrapnels have the bursting charge in the head instead of the base. The fuse used is rather complicated. It is a time fuse and in actual test has shown its reliability. These fuses are slight modifications of those used a few years ago.

## ITS HIGH COST.

It can readily be seen that one great objection to the shrapnel is its high cost. The fuse alone costs about \$2.50. The same gun is usually supplied with three styles of ammunition—the solid shot, the shell and the shrapnel. Some batteries are also supplied with canister for use at close quarters. The bullets in the canister have a wider dispersion, because the case breaks up in the gun.

The shell is used to destroy inanimate objects as well as animate ones. It consists of a hollow cast iron shell, with a fuse and bursting charge of powder. The famous shot fired during the cutting of the cables at Cienfuegos is a good example of its use. The Spaniards having taken refuge in and behind a lighthouse a shell was fired, which striking it fairly, burst and utterly destroyed the structure, killing many of the soldiers.

## ADVANTAGE AGAINST ANIMATE OBJECTS ALONE.

But against men in battle formation the shrapnel is the more effective. It sends a perfect shower of missiles which falling in the midst of a company, would almost annihilate it. Many tests have been made to show this.

Shrapnel fired from a gun a mile away in one instance, and a mile and two-thirds in the other, were made to strike a board target one inch thick. The fuses were set off by the contact, and burst the projectile into two or three hundred parts, each of which was capable of dealing death to any living thing in its path. Screens were placed at indicated distances from the target. These may be considered as representing a battalion of infantry in column of companies. From the number of hits upon all of them the efficiency of action may be judged.

In one shot 152 hits were made by a single shrapnel. In another 215 hits are recorded, but these are not so well scattered. Imagine, then, the effect of a well placed shrapnel upon a group of men such as is here represented.

The reader can readily understand why wars are now waged at greater distances and why hand to hand conflicts are almost unheard of. It is reported that the shrapnel of the British simply annihilated the hordes of dervishes during the recent advance up the Nile. Napoleon said that Providence is on the side of the heavier battalions. Battalions are heavier by reason not only of more men, but in having better armament—for instance, a bountiful supply of shrapnel.

## LAZIEST PEOPLE.

The Svantians, who live in the inaccessible mountain range between the Black and Caspian Seas, are probably the laziest people in the world. They have made no advance toward civilization in 2,500 years. It is their invariable rule to observe holidays four times a week, with Saints' days a sexta.