THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

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 April 18.

Hon. John Costigan was banqueted by friends at Kingston.

Mr. John G. Lynd, C.P.R., baggageman at Guelph, died suddenly.

A very rich find of gold is reported in the Rainy Lake District of Manitoba.

The estimated expenditures for the London School Board this year are $92,890.

Winnipeg Scotchmen propose to erect a monument to the memory of Robert Burns.

The Premier has donated $1,000 to the Albert College extension fund.

A boy of twelve years, named Charles Morris, was killed by an electric car at Montreal.

Mr. John Kerr of Minto Township, a popular young farmer, was killed by a falling tree.

Ogilvie's elevator at Methven, Man., with fifteen thousand bushels of wheat, was burned Friday morning.

It has been decided that the Toronto Civic holiday shall take place on August 19th.

Mr. William Swartz, the Guelph smallpox patient, has been discharged from the hospital cured.

At a meeting in Montreal it was decided to carry out the proposal for an international exposition this year.

It is suggested that the thousand dollars surplus from the Ottawa carnival be devoted to the funds of the proposed free public library.

Insanity will be the defence in the case of Bertie Shortis, the Valleyfield homicide. Several of his relatives have suffered from the malady.

The Civic Finance Committee of Montreal have decided to cut off the Mayor's annual allowance of $2,000 on the alleged ground of economy.

To replace the wooden bridge on the Port Stanley R.R. with iron, the City Council of London will ask the Legislature for the power to issue debentures

On Monday night the City Council of Chatham, Ont., by a vote of 10 to 1, declared against the proposal to petition the Legislature for power to tax church property.

An order-in-Council has been passed sanctioning the retirement of Mr. Samuel Wilmott, superintendent of fish culture. He will be succeeded by Prof. Prince, the Commissoner of Fisheries.

Steps are being taken by the Dominion Department of Trade and Commerce to ascertain the terms on which a direct steamship service can be maintained between Canada and France and Belgium.

The First Methodist church at St. Thomas, Ont., was almost completely destroyed by fire on Thursday afternoon, only the walls and the tower remaining. The loss is estimated at $25,000, on which there was $15,000 insurance.

Owing to the report that some American vessels had been wrecked on Sable island, the Dominion Government sent the steamer Newfield there last week. She returned the other morning, and reports that there were no wrecks there this winter.

A special train of Chinamen passed through Ottawa on Tuesday on their way to Bermuda and the West Indies. They are the advance guard of a large number who are to pass over the Canadian Pacific railway from the West this year.

The Ontario Government has appointed the following gentlemen a commission to investigate the affairs of the University:—Chief Justice T. W. Taylor of Manitoba, ex-Judge Kingsmill, Judge Street, B. M. Britton, Q. C., and Prof. Campbell of Montreal.

Permission has been granted by the Governor-General to the Chippewa Indians to sue the Dominion Government for the recovery of 2,468 acres of land in Caradoc township, and a sum of money, alleged to have been wrongfully taken from them. The whole case involves more than $100,000.

Mr. J. S. Larke, the Canadian Commercial Agent in Australia, reports to the Dominion Government that trade between Canada and Australia may be developed very considerably if proper representations are made, and suitable goods shipped, though, as he points out, prices are very close.

A valuable deposit of hematic iron ore has been discovered in Belle Isle, Conception Bay, Newfoundland, which is practically on the surface, and is five feet deep. An arrangement has been made with the New Glasgow Iron and Coal Company for the working of the property during the coming summer.

Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Henderson, who live near the village of Hepworth, Ont., have been arrested on the charge of maltreating their daughter, who is 13 years of age, by tying the child's hands, and suspending her from a beam, and then beating her with a black snake whip and a leather strap to which a buckle is attached.

It is understood that Newfoundland will demand as the price of her entering Confederation that Canada build a tunnel under the Straits of Belle Isle, so as to give the island all rail connection with the Dominion, or failing that, the completion of the island railway to Belle Isle, and a ferry on the straits to make connection with a railway to Quebec.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Duchess of Leinster is reported to have died at Meatone.

Much surprise is expressed in certain circles in London that the Prince of Wales should have permitted his yacht Britannia to be raced on Sunday.

Gen. Neal Dow's ninety-first birthday was honored by a large gathering of temperance societies in London on Tuesday evening. Congratulatory messages were sent to the veteran.

A monster exhibition of colonial resources will be opened in Agricultural Hall, London, next July. General Booth of the Salvation Army will organize the exhibits of Canadian produce.

Importation of cattle into England from all European countries, Morocco, Natal, Portugal, Africa, and Zululand, is prohibited.

The Falls of Foyers, one of the most picturesque spots of Loch Ness, have been sold to a company for the manufacture of aluminum.

In the British House of Commons on Friday a motion by Mr. Allan in favor of the payment of members was passed by 176 votes to 158.

The British tank steamer Delaware has arrived in the River Mersey, having on board the crew of the steamer Donau, which was abandoned in mid-ocean, after having been on fire for thirty-six hours.

The bronzework for the monument to be erected in Montreal to the memory of Sir John Macdonald has been completed, and is ready to be shipped from London on the first steamer after the opening of navigation.

Dr. Barnardo has sailed from England for Canada with two hundred and fifty lads under his care. One hundred children from the Strangeway Home, in Manchester, and one hundred and forty Scottish orphan lads will leave in a short time for Canada.

UNITED STATES.

The Spanish Minister in Washington has resigned.

President Cleveland was 58 years of age on Monday.

It is stated that the expenses of the Lexow Committee investigation in New York amount to about $75,000.

Senator Frye hopes Spain will not apologize on account of the Allianca difficulty, so that the United States may be afforded an excuse for seizing Cuba.

The steamer Lucania, from Liverpool, at New York on Saturday, brought £262,000 in gold bars, and the Steamer Gascogne, from Havre, brought 4,000,000 francs.

The New York grand jury has returned indictments for manslaughter against the owner of the house which recently collapsed in Orchard street, and against the contractors and district inspector.

It is announced that negotiations are on foot between the General Electric, Westinghouse Electric, Western Electric and other electric companies for the pooling of interests.

Hon. Richard Vaux died at Philadelphia, aged 74. He achieved social fame by dancing with Queen Victoria at a court ball, being the only American, it is said, who ever had that distinguished honor.

The indications of improvement in the the trade situation across the line, if not very definite, are encouraging. The weather is better, more hands are being engaged, and money is in larger business demand. Cotton goods are in more active demand, and prices have advanced in the South for coarse grades of goods, but not for the choice kinds. Strikes in the textile mills and in other directions are still hampering the development of business. The demand for wool has lessened. Such advance as there is in trade is especially noticeable in the cities of New York, Boston, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, and centres along the Ohio river, even as far west as the city of Kansas. Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul tell a similar story, and report an increase in the rates for money, with a growing demand for loans. Bank clearings in the States show a gain over last week, and a gain of 13 per cent. compared with the corresponding week last year.

GENERAL.

Prince Waldemar, reigning Prince of Lippe-Detmold is dead.

The Danish Minister of the Interior has prohibited the importation of cattle, sheep, and goats from the Netherlands

The Duke of Aosta, nephew of the King of Italy, was formally betrothed on Monday evening to Princess Helene of Orleans.

It is reported that the insurgents entered the city of Lima on Sunday after heavy fighting

The Village of Bollara, Italy, was overwhelmed by a landslide extending over two-thirds of a mile.

An equestrian statue of St. Wenceslaus, who was Duke of Bohemia, and was put to death in 941, has been erected in Prague.

Gen. von Werder, German Ambassador to Russia, has been recalled. It is reported he will be succeeded by Count Herbert Bismarck.

Grand Duke George of Russia, brother of the Czar, has arrived at Algiers from Livadia, where he will remain some time for the benefit of his health.

It is reported that China has a secret arrangement with Russia whereby the latter is to intervene if Japan insists upon any territorial cession as the price of peace.

A despatch from Tiflis states that the Russian military administration contemplates forming special regiments out of the Mohammedan volunteers in Transcaucasia.

A deputation of Newfoundland churchmen have gone to England with a view of raising funds to meet the needs of the Church and the general poverty of the people.

Letters found upon the rebels captured at the recent attack upon Bocas del Toro disclose the fact that high officials in Nicaragua contributed funds and arms to the rebels.

Advices have been received at Calcutta that the British detachment which is marching to Chitral has been attacked by the natives and defeated. One officer and several privates were killed.

The Pall Mall Gazette says that the resignation of the Spanish Cabinet arose from a difference of opinion among the Ministers as to the method of proceeding against the newspapers which have attacked the army.

There is reason to expect that Belgium soon will remove its prohibition of Canadian cattle, as the results of Consular inquiries disproving the existence of disease have been communicated by the British Government to the Belgian Cabinet.

Among the cabin passengers who arrived at New York on the Ward Line steamer Seguaranca, from Havana, were several prominent Cuban planters, who were forced, they say, to flee the country to escape outrages perpetrated by Government troops in the disaffected districts of Cuba.

The Government of New Zealand has agreed to be represented at the suggested international monetary conference, and has also decided to accept the proposal to send delegates to the commission which is to consider the plans for laying the Pacific cable.

Friday was the anniversary of the birth of William the First of Germany, and the present Emperor addressed a decree to the Chancellor of the Exchequer hoping that provision would be made for the veterans of the Franco-Prussian war who are in need.

An interesting Latin inscription has been discovered at Kourba, in Tunis. It gives an account of the defence of the town in 49 B. C. by Pompey's party against Julius Caesar, and contains a military term hitherto unknown, posteious, meaning a gate for a sortie.

While the British squadron was weighing anchor in the harbor of Wei Hai Wei during a fierce gale a heavy sea swept over the forecastle of the flagship Centurion, drowning a seaman named Edwards. During the confusion which followed the Alacrity came into collision with the Centurion and seriously damaged her bow plates. Both ships drifted dangerously near the lee shore, but managed to get clear and steam out to sea.

YOUNG BEAR AT OXFORD.

Exciting Time at the Famous College Caused by an Escaped Animal.

One of the faculty at Christ Church College, Oxford, England, recently had shipped to him a young bear from Mount Lebanon, Syria. When the box in which it was transported was opened at Oxford the animal leaped out and ran at once into the chapel where service was being held.

Just as he arrived at the door the stout verger happened to come from within, and the moment he saw the impish-looking creature running into his domain he made a tremendous flourish with his silver wand, and, darting into the chapel, ensconced himself in a tall pew, the door of which he bolted. Tiglath (as the bear was called), being scared by the wand, turned from the chapel and scampered frantically about the large quadrangle, putting to flight the numerous parties of dogs which in those days made the spot their afternoon rendezvous. After a sharp chase a gown was thrown over Tig and he was with difficulty secured.

During the struggle he got one of the fingers of his new master into his mouth and began vigorously sucking it, with that mumbling noise for which bears are remarkable. Thus he was lead back to the student's rooms, walking all the way on his hind legs and sucking the finger with all his might. A collar was put around his neck and Tig became a prisoner. His good nature and amusing tricks soon made him a prime favorite with the undergraduates; a cap and gown were made, attired in which (to the great scandal of the dons), he accompanied his master to breakfasts and parties, where he contributed greatly to the amusement of the company and partook of good things, his favorite viands being muffins and ices.

He was in general of an amiable disposition, but subject to fits of rage, during which his violence was extreme, but a kind word and finger to suck soon brought him around. He was most impatient of solitude, and would cry for hours when left alone, particularly if it were dark. On one occasion he was kept in college till after the gates were locked and there was no possibility of getting him out without the porter seeing him, when there would have been a fine of 10 shillings to pay the next morning. Tig was therefore tied up in the courtyard, but his cries were so great that his master had him brought into his room and chained to the bed post, where he remained quiet till daylight, then awoke his master by licking his face, and presumably put his hind legs under the blankets.

Chinese Scale of Rewards.

We see from the columns of The North China Herald that the Shanghai Taotai has issued a proclamation offering a reward of 100,000 Tis. to any one who succeeds in defeating the enemy, causing a loss to them of several thousand men, and a similar sum whenever a Japanese iron-clad is destroyed or captured, the reward for vessels of smaller size being cut down by one-half. The troops holding an important position who succeed in beating off the enemy will be rewarded with 30,000 Tis., and a similar sum will be given in the event of a Japanese converted cruiser being destroyed, while the reward for the destruction of a torpedo boat will be 20,000 Tis. The destruction of a ship's boat belonging to the enemy, and the killing of ten or more of the crew, will be rewarded with 1,000 Tis., and any one presenting the heads of Japanese bandits will be given 50 Tis. apiece. Generals and Colonels of battalions who have succeeded in defeating the enemy will not only be rewarded according to the above scale, but their names will also be submitted to the throne for extraordinary promotions.

Lucky Poor Relations.

Poor relations have rarely had such a windfall as that reported from Bordeaux. It is stated that a merchant in the said town died intestate and without any direct descendants. His fortune, amounting to 22,000,000f., or £880,000 sterling, is accordingly to be divided among a certain number of humble families, the members of which live in Cognac and Jarnac. Among those entitled to shares in the estate are two barbers, a cooper, a shoemaker and several laborers, all of whom were distantly related to the rich merchant of Bordeaux.

NORTH POLE BY BALLOON

FROM THE NORWEGIAN ISLANDS TO BEHRING SOUND.

A 2,200-Mile Ride in the Sky—Six Days and Six Nights—Andree's Novel Airship Will Be Operated on a New Plan Which Other Aeronauts Indorse.

S. A. Andree, the distinguished Swedish civil engineer and scientific aeronaut, will start next year on a balloon journey to the North Pole, under the auspices of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science and with the financial support of a number of Swedish gentlemen.

Chimerical as such an undertaking seems to be, its projectors believe it will be a success with most important results.

In a lecture before the Royal Swedish Academy recently Mr. Andree outlined his plans. He declared that the science of balloon construction and of steering a balloon during the last four years has advanced so far as almost to solve the practicability of aerial navagation.

His plans to establish headquarters at the Norwegian Islands on the north-west coast of Spitzbergen. Here a house or shed of sufficient size to cover a balloon of 22 metres, or 72.6 feet in diameter when filled with gas, will be erected, and from this point the balloon journey to the North Pole will commence. The greatest expert in the world on balloon construction and aerial voyages, the celebrated balloon manufacturer, the late L. Gabriel Yon, of Paris, in a letter to Mr. Andree indorsed the plan as entirely practicable, and advised him to use a balloon of 22 metres in diameter, to be constructed of two-fold silk covers, and said that a balloon of this size and construction would

FLOAT FOR THIRTY DAYS

without refilling. As an indorsement of Mr. Yon's statement, Henri Giffard, Poisenilles and Graham, who are well-known aeronauts, computed that the balloon would lose comparatively a small amount of gas in a month.

The gas used for balloons is now manufactured and for sale, and can be transported any distance in cylinders; 1,700 to 1,800 cylinders are sufficient to fill a polar balloon such as Mr. Andree will use and can without any difficulty be transported to Spitzbergen. As it might be somewhat dangerous to fill a balloon in the open air, Mr. Andree will erect a portable shed to cover the balloon when being filled.

The balloon under construction will be of such carrying power as to support a large, strongly built gondola. The gondola will contain a dark room for photographic purposes, a sleeping room for three persons, and will be provided with a system of sails for steering. The gondola will be suspended from the balloon in such a way that in case of disaster it can be instantly detached.

An interesting feature of the projected trip is that the balloon will not rise higher over the earth on an average than 825 feet. This will be accomplished by means of drag-lines, constructed of cocoa fibre, thus permitting them to float on water. The ballon can therefore be kept at the same distance from the earth in passing either over ice or water.

The balloon will also be provided with a great number of

FREE HANGING BALLAST LINES.

The object of these is that in case the balloon from some cause or other suddenly sinks to a great depth as soon as the ballast line touches the ground the balloon will be relieved of a corresponding weight and the sinking will stop before the gondola touches the ground.

The journey, as now planned, will be in a direct line from Spitzbergen over the North Pole to Behring Sound, a distance of about 2,294 miles, and will not, it is expected, occupy more than six days, which is a fifth part of the time the balloon can float without refilling.

Geographical and meteorological observations en route will be made by a competent scientist. Photographs will be taken of the country as the balloon floats forward, and these will be taken in double sets. One set will be developed on board the balloon in case the travellers meet with accident and have to take to the gondola. The balloon will also be provided with Davy's safety lamps, and an electric storage battery for cooking, etc.

In the polar regions during the month of July the sun, both by night and day, is above the horizon, so that the Arctic regions are peculiarly fitted for a long aerial voyage. The lowest temperature at Spitzbergen in July, 1883, was a few degrees above the zero point.

Another advantage of ballooning in the Arctic regions is the absence of vegetation, and thus the drag-lines will pass along evenly and without obstruction. Still another advantage is the absence of electrical storms; no record has ever been made of lightning or thunder in this part of the globe. It has been suggested that a heavy snow fall would destroy the balloon, and this would certainly be a misfortune. But from records made in July at Spitzbergen this danger is not to be feared.

THE TOTAL COST

of the expenditure will be about $40,000, and this amount has already been subscribed. King Oscar of Sweden takes a great interest in the proposed balloon journey, and will no doubt materially aid Mr. Andree.

Baron Nordenskjold, the famous polar traveller and discoverer of the Northwest Passage, has strongly recommended the expedition to the Royal Academy, and has stated the practical way of reaching the North Pole is by means of a balloon. From his large experience of polar and arctic meteorological conditions, he is satisfied that Andree's plan will be successful. As the distance from Spitzbergen to the North Pole is only about seven hundred miles, with a south wind, the expedition should in a few hours see more of the polar regions than would be discovered in several centuries by old methods of exploration.

Dr. Nils Ekholm, probably the best informed meteorologist in Europe and one of the members of the Swedish Spitzbergen expedition in 1882 '83, says that the wind currents are favorable during the summer months for a balloon voyage. The only danger he fears is that on reaching the North Pole, or the centre of the polar regions, a perfect calm may be found to prevail; but experience has proved that such a centre is usually surrounded by wind currents blowing outward.

Mr. Andree has a European reputation as a scientific aerial traveller. He is not an enthusiast, but a practical, cool-headed man of science, who has made many experimental tests, besides many balloon journeys. In his balloon Svea last November he travelled from Gothenburg on the west coast of Sweden to the Island of Gotland, in the Baltic, a distance of over 245 English miles, covering the distance in five hours.

JAPAN PAYS CHEERFULLY.

The People do Not Object to Putting up Money for War.

A despatch from Tokio says:—The temper of the Japanese nation has been significantly displayed in connection with an additional grant of 100,000,000 yen for the prosecution of the war. The original war budget passed unanimously by the Diet in its extraordinary session last October amounted to 150,000,000 yen. Two issues of bonds have already been made. A further issue of 44,000,000 yen has to be made and the nation may at any moment find itself paying into the Treasury about twenty million yen monthly. The strain does not appear to be felt as yet, partly because a large proportion of the expenditures is made with the country, and partly because the banks have co-operated earnestly and skilfully to avert public inconvenience. Recently when the peace envoys arrived in Hiroshina, the House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution declaring their belief that the end of the war was still remote and that they were prepared to grant

ANY SUM OF MONEY

needed to prosecute the champaign. The Government submitted to the Diet a few days ago a supplementary war budget amounting to 100,000,000 yen. Without question or discussion the budget was handed to the standing committee charged with the duty of examining and reporting upon all such measures. Two days later the committee presented its report. It curtly stated that enquiries addressed to the Government delegates, who always attend committee meetings for the purpose of answering questions, has established the Government's resolve to conduct the war so earnestly and vigorously as to secure lasting peace for the Orient, and that, consequently, there could be no question about the advisability of granting the appropriation required. When the president called for a show of hands every member rose in his place and the budget was passed unanimously amid a storm of cheers. In the upper House the procedure was identical. There is no peace party in Japan.

THE EXCESSES COMMITTED

by Japanese troops at Port Arthur pained the Japanese more than they pained Europeans. No steps were taken to punish the soldiers or degrade the generals. Such things cannot be done in time of battle. The only practicable way of reassuring the world was to show that the same soldiers could control the passion of revenge under the same provocation. Wei-Hai-Wei offered the necessary opportunity. In Shan-Tung, as in the Lao-Tung peninsula, the Chinese behaved with pitiless savagery. Wherever they caught Japanese they tortured and mutilated them. On one occasion, surprising a party of 30 Japanese scouts cooking their midday meal, 300 Chinamen tied up any that retained signs of life after a severe struggle, and tore from their bodies everything that could be torn. A few hours later the main body of the division to which the unfortunate men belonged, marched by and saw the terribly disfigured corpses, but there was no attempt at retaliation. Not a single instance of cruelty or needless slaughter is recorded against the Japanese. On the contrary, we hear of common soldiers treating women tenderly, and of a captain who carried a baby in his arms through the thick of a combat. What is more, the principles of civilized nations in warfare are evidently obtaining recognition throughout the whole East, owing to Japanese examples.

Using Wire Fence for Telephoning

A short item on the use of the wire fence for telephoning on sheep farms in Australia, which has been going the rounds has elicted so many inquiries for further information that E. Aeggle, who has been a pioneer in the utilization, has written from Australia to a scientific journal telling just how it is done. On his property there are about 600 posts to the mile of fencings the wire of which is run through augur hole in the ordinary way. The rust that forms on the wire makes a sufficently thick skin to insulate it from slight moisture. (The climate is very dry, the rainfall being only 8 to 9 inches, so that insulation is not of the vital importance it would be in a moister climate.) At the straining posts the rust is filed off the wire at either side, and a piece of clean wire is tightly screwed or keyed on to carry the current around the post; at knots or loop joints a similar connection is made. The ordinary long-distance microphone transmitter is used at either end, with magneto call bells and receivers. One of the most admirable points about this simple service is that by means of a portable instrument a connection can be made by the herder when out on the run, and messages can be sent direct to the homestead. On the farm mentioned by Mr. Aeggle the longest service is sixteen miles, but one run has a continuous service of twenty-eight miles, and there is no reason why the system should not be worked on much longer stretches. Mr. Aeggle found the cost of his telephone service to be about 60c a mile, and since he showed the way many hundreds of miles of station fences throughout Australia have been brought into requisition for the purpose.