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.

The American Government will establish a Consular agency at Brantford.

A shipment of fresh fish from British Columbia to England has met with a ready sale.

Mr. Patrick McAndrews of Hamilton is dead from a dose of muriatic acid taken in mistake.

Mr. George Betts of Chatham, blew his brains out with a gun while temporarily insane.

The Finance Committee of the City Council of Kingston, Ont., has fixed the rate of taxation for this year at 17½ mills.

The Montreal Building Inspector is demolishing the new St. John's French Presbyterian church, as it is regarded as unsafe.

In the Dominion Government Savings Bank, the balance on deposit on March 31 was $17,097,755, while a month ago it was $17,112,739.

The International Radial Railway Co. gives notice in The Canada Gazette of an application to the Dominion Parliament for a charter.

The steamer Numidian, which arrived at Halifax on Sunday from Liverpool, brought 70 orphan boys, destined for Western Canada.

Mr. Matthew Miller was overpowreed by gas in the King street sewer at London and suffocated. Two other men working with him had narrow escapes.

Twelve of the most dangerous convicts in the Westminster, B. C., Penitentiary have been transferred to the Stony Mountain Penitentiary in Manitoba.

Newspaper slot machines are being tried in the Hamilton street cars. The machine contains a bundle of papers, and as a cent is dropped in a paper comes out.

Mrs. H. A. Davies obtained a verdict at Hamilton for $5,000 damages against Bracey Bros., & Co., for the loss of her husband who was killed while thawing out dynamite.

Mrs. Mack, a lady from New York, employed as clerk by Morrison, the alleged stamp counterfeiter, at Hamilton, has been taken into custody at the instance of United States secret service officers.

The trade and navigation returns will show that during the last three months of 1894 the exports of Ontario and Quebec to the United States amounted to $934,000 more than for the same period in 1893.

A Halifax despatch says the warships Pelican, Buzzard and Cleopatra are expected from Bermuda next week. After remaining a few days they go to Newfoundland on fishery protection service. The Tourmaline, now at St. John's, will be relieved by the Pelican.

George Keefer, consulting engineer of the company which is reclaiming lands on the Kootenay River, between Kootenay Lake and the international boundary line, has arrived at Nelson, B. C., and reports that the Kootenay Indians have driven off all of the company's men by force of arms.

The Board of Trade of British Columbia has forwarded to the Dominion Government a resolution asking that the sum of $425,000, the amount of damages claimed by the British Columbia sealers from the United States, be placed in the estimates, should the Imperial Government not advance that amount.

Mr. Justice Killam gave judgment at Winnipeg in the matter of a by-law passed by the Municipality of Louise prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors. The Judge held that the by-law was illegal, and an order was made that it be quashed without costs. This is in accordance with a recent decision of the Supreme Court, and some ten municipalities in Manitoba are affected.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Great Britain has recognized the Republic of Hawaii.

Sir Thomas Powell Buxton has been appointed Governor of South Australia, to succeed the Earl of Kintore.

Recently telephonic communication was held between the coast of Scotland and the Isle of Mull without the use of wires.

It is announced that the marriage of Lord William Beresford to the widowed Duchess of Marlborough will take place shortly.

The British Museum has withdrawn from public use in the library the works in its collection of which Oscar Wilde is the author.

A despatch from Glasgow says that William Henderson, the last survivor of the founders of the Anchor line of steamships, is dead.

Lord Rosebery is still suffering from intermittent attacks of insomnia, and his physicians continue to advise him to go abroad.

The Princess of Wales has abandoned her contemplated journey to Denmark and instead she has a family party at Sandringham.

There promises to be a good market for Canadian horses in England. On Thursday sixteen Canadian horses sold from one hundred and twenty to two hundred dollars each.

The London Speaker, which is reputed to be an inspired Government organ, declares that the French evacuation of Tunis must precede or accompany the English evacuation of Egypt.

What is known as the nursery tricycle is becoming common in London. It has two seats—one for the mistress and one for the maid and the baby. There are two sets of pedals.

Sir Henry James has introduced in the House of Commons a bill imposing a penalty for the utterance of any false statement regarding the character or conduct of any candidate for election to Parliament.

The Canadian Gazette says that Lord Rosebery intends to signalize his return to Parliament after his illness by the introduction of a bill to enable colonial judges to sit with the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Answer to the British ultimatum to Nicaragua has been received at the Foreign Office. It is understood that the reply is so satisfactory that the action which the Government threatened to take will not now be taken.

UNITED STATES.

James W. Scott of The Chicago Times-Herald, died of apoplexy at the Holland House, New York.

President Cleveland has filled his income tax paper for fifty thousand dollars, the full amount of his salary.

The New York Senate passed the bill extending the time for the completion of the New York Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Rev. Father Paradis, the Canadian missionary, and head of the repatriation scheme, is seriously ill at Lake Linden, Mich.

John Huffman, arrested at Buffalo on charges of theft preferred from St. Catharines, will return to Canada without formal extradition proceedings.

In the case of Daniel Werling, of Pittsburg, Pa., who murdered his wife last April, a pardon is to be asked, on the ground that the man was rendered insane by the Keeley treatment.

James Duffy, an ex-steward on the White Star Line, jumped from the Brooklyn bridge. He turned over several times as he went down, and struck the water on his side. He never rose.

Capt. Mahan, of the U.S. service, whose ship, the Chicago, is going out of commission has been offered several duties in connection with the Naval War College in Washington, which he will accept.

New York furriers claim that the smuggling of valuable furs by the agents of a Quebec furrier across the Canadian border has cost the United States Government $50,000 a year for the last three years.

Prof. Jas. E. Keeler, of the Alleghany observatory, announces that the ring of Saturn is made up of small bodies, and that the satellites of the inner edge of the ring move more rapidly than those of the outer edge.

The jury in the suit of Chas. W. McKeever, to recover damages for the loss of his daughter's life from the Atlantic Avenue Railway Company, brought in a verdict in Brooklyn, N. Y., on Saturday for four thousand dollars.

Perry, the noted train robber, with five other inmates of the Mattewan State Asylum, escaped from the institution at a late hour last night. They assaulted a keeper, and escaped through the scuttle. The names of the men are McGuire, O'Donnell, Quigley and Davis. All were dressed alike.

Chief Justice Fuller, in the United States Supreme Court, read the final decision in the income tax case. It was held that the tax on rents or landed investments or on the income from State, county, or municipal bonds was unconstitutional. Justice Field read the opinion of the minority, declaring that the whole law of 1894 is null and void.

Rev. I. J. Lansing accused President Cleveland of immoderate drinking in an address at the New England Conference at Salem, Mass., recently. Mr. Cleveland took the matter up and pitched into the clergyman as a scandalmonger, and several of the President's political opponents repudiate the rev. gentleman's statements. Mr. Lansing has withdrawn his offensive charges with apologies and regrets.

San Francisco is shocked at the second murder of a young woman in the Emmanuel Baptist Church. On Friday the mutilated remains of Minnie Williams were found in the minister's room, and yesterday morning the body of Blanche Lamont was found in a small room in the steeple. The two girls had been friends. Dr. George Gibson, pastor of the church, was taken into custody, and a young medical student, Theodore Durant, who was last seen with Miss Lamont near the church, is suspected, but the police are unable to find him.

GENERAL.

Floods have done great damage in Southern Hungary.

The Russian Government is enforcing the edict of 1893 against the Jews.

There is great fear that Japan will be afflicted with a cholera epidemic this year.

The appeal of Mme. Jouiaux, the Belgian poisoner, for a new trial, has been rejected.

There are disquieting rumors in Christiania of impending war between Norway and Sweden.

The Hungarian village of Toplitz, a well-known health resort, has been almost totally destroyed by fire.

A despatch from Simla says it is believed that Umra Khan is negotiating with the British force for terms of surrender.

Elizabeth Viererbe has died at Windberge, Germany, aged 93 years. She had been housemaid in one family for 79 years.

Col. Beattye and three men of the Chitral expedition were killed and two officers and seventeen men wounded in an attack on some hill villages.

The St. Petersburg police have discovered a plot to assassinate Governor-General von Schouvaloff, who was lately Russian Ambassador to Germany.

Li-Hung-Chang, while regretting the defeat of China, thinks that the cause of civilization will be advanced by it in the East, and is therefore not altogether regrettable.

Charles Shervington, an English soldier of fortune, has resigned the commander-in-chiefship of the Malagasy forces, and will leave Madagascar at once for England.

The sudden advent of warm weather in Germany has led to a rapid rise of the Rivers Elbe and Oder and their tributary streams, resulting in the inundation of large districts.

The Spanish Government has purchased the cruiser built at Kiel for China but not delivered because the Chinese Government failed to pay for it. The cruiser will be sent to Cuba.

Cholera has broken out in the lazaretto on the Island of Kamaran, off the west coast of Arabia, in a bay of the Red Sea. Thirty persons have been attacked, and there are several deaths daily.

Architects are already at work on building plans for the Paris Exposition of 1900, the total expense of which is expected to be about $20,000,000. The bill asking for the necessary appropriations will be introduced in the Chamber early in June.

Mr. H. D. Neill of Brantford, who has just arrived in New York, says that in Havana, where he had been for some weeks, the situation was extremely uncomfortable, especially to foreigners. He was followed by the Government spies, who hounded his every movement. The war or revolutionary movement was growing rapidly, and is undoubtedly extending over the whole island, and the Spanish recognized the fact only too well.

THE PRICE OF SILVER.

The Advance in the Price of the White Metal is Substantial and Encouraging.

The advance in the price of silver will be welcomed in all districts endowed with any considerable deposits of silver ores. The mining operators and miners of Nelson, Trail Creek, Slocan, Kaslo, and other districts in British Columbia will be glad to hear of it. So likewise will the owners of silver mining properties in the Rainy River, Thunder Bay, and Algoma districts in Ontario. The advance is substantial and encouraging, being all the way from 56⅞c. to 68⅞c., or 12c. an ounce, which is 21 per cent. of the former price. If this advance holds, its effect will be to increase production in British Columbia and give new life to silver mining in the Thunder Bay district. Despite the great downfall of silver in consequence of the panic of 1893 in the United States, the repeal of the purchase clause of the Sherman Act, and the closing of the Indian mints, the British Columbians did not cease to produce it, as did the miners of Colorado and other silver States On the contrary, the production of the white metal has been slowly but

STEADILY INCREASING

in the Pacific Province. Its ores would possibly be worth working for the lead alone which they contain, though lead has also been low-priced. But the rich mines of Kootenay contain high-grade ores, not only of silver lead, but also of gold and silver. The fall in silver, or the correlative rise in gold, gave a great impulse to the production of the latter metal. It was the keener search for gold which led to the larger production of silver, almost as an incidental of gold-mining, since British Columbia is well furnished with both minerals. But while mining industry has developed in British Columbia, it has declined, so far as silver is concerned, in the Thunder Bay region. The great blow to silver in 1893 caused a cessation of the mining of it in that region. It may be that the present price will not warrant its resumption there on a very large scale. If it will pay the Thunder Bay operators to mine and ship or smelt the ore when the bullion sells at 66 7-8c. an ounce, much more will it pay the silver kings of the Western States, and the increased production may cause another reaction in the price. But it is to be remembered that the cheapness of silver, while it is connected with a decline in the use of the white metal for monetary purposes, has been followed by an increase of its use in the arts.

SOLID SILVERWARE

is now afforded by many persons who formerly used plated silverware. Probably, too, the price of silver was unduly depressed below its actual worth, on account of the monetary ban under which it fell. If so, the present advance may hold. It must be admitted that the events which seem to be immediately responsible for that advance do not of themselves seem sufficient to sustain a permanent advance. The fact that Germany and England are not averse to the holding of another international monetary conference to consider what can be done for silver, and the certainty that an immense amount of silver will be required to pay the war indemnity that Japan will exact from China, can hardly do more than give a momentary impulse to the silver market. It is to be hoped that the rise is one of the symptoms and effects of a general process of improvement that is pervading everything and penetrating everywhere.

FACTS IN FEW WORDS.

There are over 113,000,000 women in India.

The Bank of England was founded in 1694 and the Bank of Scotland in 1695.

Paris actresses wear paper lace, which by night, looks as beautiful and delicate as the best of real lace, while it costs but a trifle.

The counsel in a recent case before a London court in which the firm of Dombey & Son was interested was Mr. Dickens, son of the famous novelist.

Euphrates Esclapius Endymion McJimsey is the name of a clerk in the recorder's office of Marysville, Mo. He signs his name with a rubber stamp.

Some of the tops with which Chinamen amuse themselves are as large as barrels. It takes three men to spin one, and it gives off a sound that may be heard several hundred yards.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, if bad fish were sold to the poor, the fishmonger was decorated with a necklace of his unsavory commodity, and then perched on a stand in the market.

A nice little snap, in the way of business, came to the sheriff of Monroe Co., Minn. He followed a man 5,000 miles to arrest him for stealing a $40 bicycle. After spending $1,100 he caught the man and recovered the wheel.

There are no fewer than 103 cathedrals in the United Kingdom. Of these 48 are Roman Catholic cathedrals, 36 Church of England, 15 belong to the Church of Ireland and 7 to the Episcopal church of Scotland.

It is announced that an egg of the great auk will soon be offered for sale in England. Two of these eggs, which turned up recently, sold for 175 and 260 guineas respectively. Another one was sold in London a year ago for 300 guineas.

NO PUBLIC LIFE IN CHINA.

VIEWS OF A GENTLEMAN RETURNED FROM THE ORIENT.

Japanese Are a Warlike People—The Chinese Have no Fight in Them—Japan Could Take the Whole Country—Millions of Chinese Know Nothing About the War—Pictures of Japanese Life.

"How could a small people of twenty million beat to her knees a great nation of four hundred million? Well, the reason is very simple. The Japanese are a warlike people. Every man, woman and child is a patriot. Many private soldiers who are denied opportunity of going to the front have committed suicide. Two sick generals, finding themselves debarred from engaging in the war, put an end to themselves. The little children in the streets of Japan play at soldiers all the time. The women have displayed a passionate eagerness to help as nurses, and in other ways in the war. The Chinese, on the contrary, have no fight at all in them. They like best of all to cultivate their patches of land in peace. They are without the warlike instinct. They had no commanders, no spirit, and they are beaten to their knees."

So says an Australian by birth, Mr. J.F. Hamilton, who has travelled through a good deal of Japan and China, has studied the characteristics of each people, has mingled with all classes, (speaking their language as he does), and he is, therefore, able to converse entertainingly upon these two curious nationalities, with their immemorial customs and civilization.

"I have just come from Shanghai," said Mr. Hamilton, recently, in the course of a chat at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, and am going on to New York.

"The war is over. Japan could take the whole country, if she wanted to.

CHINA IS PROSTRATE.

She would have to yield to any demand, however exorbitant. Japan may have her difficulty now, when the fight is over. She may ask too much; the European powers may intervene; and there may be more fighting.

"The Chinese are quite without the military instinct. Shortly after the war had broke out I was entertained by the son of Mr. Denby, the United States Minister to China, and this gentleman showed me a circular from the government to the governors, stating that war had broken out between the two countries; that the Chinese army was formed, not for defensive purposes, but to keep order among the Chinese themselves; that the Japanese army and navy, on the contrary, had been modelled, the former upon Germany, and the latter upon England; that it was to be expected that the Japanese would conquer; that—well, it could not be helped.

"Moreover, long after the war was on, millions of Chinese knew nothing whatever about it. They had not heard a word. They did not want to hear, either.

"Remember," said Mr. Hamilton, "that the Japanese are thoroughly imbued with the military spirit. I have seen it amongst all classes. They are thoroughly modernized. Their ships are handled as British men-of-war would be handled in action. Their armies are led as the German army would be led. They have first-rate daily papers and the modern methods of disseminating news; the people are educated, and intelligence is wide-spread. The Mikado, whom I have frequently seen, and who rides about quite freely in the streets of Tokio, wears European dress as do all the the officers of state. The ladies were seized with this craze for European dress three years ago, but that passed away as fevers do, and now you see them in their

GRACEFUL NATIONAL COSTUMES.

I was at the Mikado's ball recently, and out of more than one thousand ladies present I did not see six dressed in European costume. The Japanese are a fine, polite, generous people. European's leave the country with reluctance, and I know several men connected with banks and insurance offices who, when they received notice to transfer to other countries, refused to leave."

Mr. Hamilton thinks the war, in spite of the great loss, will prove a blessing to the Chinese. "I think it will have the effect of opening up the country. What China needs is railways and the strong breath of modern commerce. She has been sealed up for thousands of years."

Here is one of the effects of this sealing up:—

"Take Pekin, for an example of what is called immemorial civilization. There are not at this day in that city the simplest sanitary regulations, and as the streets are used for every necessary object you may guess what state they are in. As this is the practice to-day, so it has been the case for, I suppose, over a thousand years. There is not the slightest sanitary accommodation, and the people live in a state of incredible filth. Men have been drowned in the holes in the streets of Pekin. The smells are intolerable."

On the other hand, let Chinamen have all the credit which is due: "The Chinaman is temperate.

HE LIVES PEACEABLY.

He has one legal wife, to whom he is good, and the law allows him to take as many other women as he thinks he can keep. The legal wife he may put away according to law if she prove childless. He simply desires to be let alone.

"No man can see the Emperor of China except a minister of a foreign power, or a man of equal rank thereto, and even then it is under such restrictions as make the interview humiliating. The government of China is quite apart from the people. The people have no share in it, take no interest in it, do not know what it will do, what it has done—in short, there is no public life in the country at all."

Mr. Hamilton thinks the war may improve all this. "It will let in a flood of light upon the Chinese mind. I cannot but think it a blessing in disguise, although a blessing well disguised."

A word as to the life of Europeans in the East. Mr. Hamilton has heard stories about their excesses. "They are not true. Before a European is sent out to any banking or insurance institution, to any form of commercial life, he is first of all examined by a doctor. If he is strong enough and has other qualifications, all is well; but, mark this, he has to sign an agreement to the effect that if he misconducts himself in any way, gives way to drink, or to wrong conduct, he is to consider himself dismissed. At first, there is no doubt Europeans gave way to license, being removed from the restraints of European life. But rectitude and sober living mark the foreign life, both in China and Japan."

THE IDEAL WIFE.

A Search for the Best Definition Not Much of a Success.

A London paper recently offered a prize for the best definition of "The Ideal Wife." The prize has been awarded to the author of the following:

My ideal wife is a true woman, with a loving disposition, one who can cook you a good dinner, mend and make, and nurse her husband and children when ill. One who doesn't worry over trifles, or meet troubles half way. One who will not be wanting money for a new bonnet every time the fashion changes, and yet will keep herself neat and nice after she is married, just as she did before.

One who will live within her husband's income, and save for a rainy day.

One who will meet you with a smile and a kiss when you return tired from work, and have tea all ready in a nice tidy kitchen or parlor. Such a wife I shall call a treasure if I am lucky enough to get her.

Another correspondent writes: As I already possess an ideal wife, I had better describe her.

Without being beautiful, she is really nice, pleasant and happy. My equal in vigor, health and mind. Not a "new woman," but a thorough domestic helpmate.

As our family is large, her economy is great, and her skill with the sewing-machine marvelous.

Her voice is melodious; her affection and faith unbounded. She can discuss the news of the day equally well with the last new bonnet. If I win the guinea I shall give it to her. She deserves it. A postcard is too small to enumerate her virtues.

Still another writes: If I marry, my wife must be tall, well made, with small hands and feet, auburn hair, violet eyes, penciled eyebrows, long lashes, a well-shaped nose, perfect teeth, and peach-like complexion. She must be able to play the piano, harp, flute, cornet, banjo and guitar. She must be able to speak French, German, Italian, Russian, Spanish, Greek, Latin and English

She must be able to ride a horse, bicycle and tricycle. She must be able to shoot, fence, box, row, punt, scull, swim, dive, skate, play golf, cricket, foot ball, tennis, quoits, billiards, whist, nap and cribbage. She must sing well and be able to whistle.

She must be able to cook, sew, make pastry, scrub, sweep, chop wood and light fires, make beds and other domestic duties.

A fourth writes: I like a feminine woman, and in these days, when the gentle sex compete for honors at the universites and what not, it is time for men who want wives, in the old sense of the term, to raise an ideal of their own. Almost daily we hear of ladies taking degrees. I grant some men would like to marry a female M.D. I am not among the number.

Give me a womanly wife who will sympathise with me in all my difficulties, who will cheer me with her honest advice, who will beguile me with her affection; not a manly woman, who would bore me with argument, weary me with her politics, or boast of her degree.

Patriotism Carried to Extremes.

The Japan Weekly Gazette relates an incident that throws no little light on the peculiarities of the Japanese mind, and proves the intense and somewhat savage patriotism that still exists among the people of that Empire. On Feb. 3, it says, a telegram dated Wei-Hai-Wei reached the wife of Major Gen. Otera Yasumumi at her home in Yotsuma, near Yokohama. It announced the death of her husband, and added: "He met an honorable fate; you have nothing to regret." The woman read the dispatch and said, simply: "No, I feel no regrets. A soldier must expect to die on the field of battle." She showed the message to her husband's mother, and she, too, read it unmoved. "What!" she exclaimed; "is Yasuzumi dead? We can never offer enough excuses to the Emperor that my son should have been taken away before he could be useful to the State."

If heroism of this kind is common in Japan, it would seem that the old samouri instinct survives unchanged by the introduction of railways and telegraphs.

Siberian Prisons.

Mr. Harry De Windt, who has traveled exensively in Siberia, in lecturing recently on "The Prisons of Siberia" in London, said that there are about 230 prisons of that country, two-thirds of which are resting places along the great post road to the Pacific. To these about 17,000 persons a year have been sent from Russia during the last 15 years. The silver mines of Nertchinsk, near the Chinese frontier, and the only ones where convicts are employed. The prisons there are clean and substantially built; the food and clothing good and sufficient. The condition of the miners is substantially the same as that of English miners, except that they do less work.

His Motto.

Jinks—There's a man whose motto is Pay as you go.

Winks—An excellent motto. Who is he?

Jinks—He's a railroad president, and never gives passes.