

# 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.

Manitoba crop reports continue encouraging.

The Manitoba Legislature has passed a law against Sunday street cars.

Root beer is proscribed by the Simcoe County W. C. T. U. as containing more than 2 per cent. of alcohol.

Ex-Treasurer Stock is one of the seventeen applicants for the position of County Treasurer of Wentworth.

Three young men were fined an aggregate of \$50 and costs at Galt for scratching plate glass windows with a diamond. Montreal militia will petition the Government to grant the usual twelve days' pay instead of cutting it down to eight.

Mr. Angers has appointed Mr. F. E. Jodery, of Montreal, inspector of fresh-made creamery butter intended for the British market.

Lieutenant-Governor Mackintosh has received permission to visit St. Paul, Minn., in connection with the North-West Exhibition.

The Dominion Bridge Company of Montreal was awarded the contract for the new bridge on the London & Port Stanley Railway.

Thomas Hayley of Guelph, was found beside the railway track with a number of serious wounds in his head. His recovery is doubtful.

The lowering of the water level by the construction of the Chicago drainage canal will be brought to the attention of the Dominion Government by the R. & O. Navigation Company.

Mr. Holland has resigned the position of General Manager of the Ontario Bank, and Mr. C. McGill, Manager of the Peterboro' branch of the bank for fifteen years, has been appointed to the position.

The Dominion Customs Department has decided to permit tourists to bring their bicycles free into Canada, requiring them to give an affidavit that they are their personal property, and are not for sale, and will be taken out of the country.

The committee in Ottawa to whom was referred the preparation of an address to Lady Thompson have prepared it, and it has been engrossed in purple and gold. It was signed by most of the Conservative members in Parliament.

The price of cheese is advancing in Ontario, and buyers now have to pay more money for the article owing to the talk of drought and the poor condition of the pastures, which, it is expected, will make a material difference in the flow of milk.

Judge Malhotra delivered judgment in the charges of boodling against Mayor Aubrey, of Hull, Que., disqualifying him for seven years, and sentencing him to pay a fine of \$983 and all costs of the court, which alone will exceed \$2,000.

The Coroner's jury charged with the duty of inquiring into the death of Charlotte Gosling, who was found dead at 12 Symes place in Toronto on the 10th of June, brought in a verdict last night of wilful murder against Stephen Wright and Mary Ann Clark.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

The International Railway Congress was opened in London by the Prince of Wales.

The Hon. Emily Jane Mercer, Dowager Marchioness of Lansdowne, mother of the present Marquis of Lansdowne, who was formerly Governor-General of Canada, is dead. She was seventy-six years of age.

The Berlin correspondent of the London Standard says that there is good reason to believe that Lord Salisbury's accession will lead to an entente between Germany, England, and Japan, and probably America later.

The London Times says that the Duke of Devonshire will preside over the Committee for the National and Imperial Defence which was recommended by the Hastings Committee, and is now first formally constituted.

Lord Salisbury has definitely undertaken the task of forming a ministry, and has announced several Cabinet appointments, including that of Mr. Chamberlain as Colonial Secretary, and that of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Wednesday in the Church of St. Raphael, Kingston-on-Thames, the Duke of Aosta, nephew of the King of Italy, was married to the Princess Helene of Orleans. The ceremony was very impressive, and was attended by representatives of the principal courts of Europe.

The Imperial authorities have forwarded to the Canadian Government a draft of the North Pacific Sealine bill, which was read a third time in the House of Lords. While it makes many concessions for which Canada contended, it fails in two important respects to meet what are regarded as the just demands of the sealers.

### UNITED STATES.

The fee of 25 cents collected on cars entering the United States from Canada has been declared illegal.

The local banks at Niagara Falls, N. Y., will charge a discount of one per cent. on Canadian currency after the first of July.

The next convention of the International Deep Waterways Association will be held in Cleveland in the latter part of September.

At Chicago the late Secretary of State's will was admitted to probate. It leaves everything to Mrs. Gresham, who is sole executrix. The estate is worth \$51,000.

The steamer Berlin, which left New York on Thursday, has on board one hundred Presbyterian pilgrims, who will visit the scenes of the early religious struggles in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe.

The Executive Committee of the Deep Waterway Association, having for its object ocean navigation into the great lakes, convened in Chicago on Tuesday. The idea was favoured of having a convention in

September next, when all points connected with the proposed canal could be thoroughly discussed.

### GENERAL.

Australian trade declined £8,000,000 last year.

Doctors report that the Czarowitch is very low and his recovery is doubtful.

Subscriptions to the Newfoundland loan in London amounted to nearly double the sum required.

The Spanish Chamber of Deputies rejected by a vote of 69 to 53 a proposal to abolish the export duty on grain.

The Belgian Government will send an officer to Canada this year to buy horses for re-mounts and for the artillery.

Ten Jews were elected to the Italian Parliament at the first trial in the last election, the most prominent being the Minister of Finance, Sonnino.

Signor Cavallotti, whose charges in the Italian Chamber of Deputies against Premier Crispi were voted down, now threatens to prefer his charges in a court of law.

Details have been received of the terrible treatment of foreign missionaries in Chengtu, capital of the Province of Szechuen. France threatens to demand reparation.

The police raided two Mussulman schools of theology in Constantinople on Tuesday, and arrested many students who were found to have arms in their possession.

High officials in Shanghai, who are well informed, express the opinion that war between Russia and Japan over Corea will break out before the end of the next three months.

Newfoundland securities have dropped eight points in the London market since the failure of Confederation. The prospect of union with Canada advanced them that much.

In his speech at the opening of Parliament the Governor of Queensland suggests that Great Britain, Canada and Queensland join in laying the Pacific cable if the other colonies hesitate.

### ALL HIS AMBITIONS GRATIFIED.

Lord Rosebery Accomplished Everything He Ever Hoped to Do.

Lord Rosebery was prime minister of England for one year and four months. When Mr. Gladstone resigned on account of failing eyesight and advanced years, he recommended as his successor the liberal peer who had been secretary of state for foreign affairs in his cabinet. In becoming the leader of the liberal party, Lord Rosebery undertook, of course, the carrying out of liberal principles, commonly called the Newcastle programme. The chief aims of that programme were:—Home rule for Ireland, with home rule for other sections of the United Kingdom as sequences; reform of the house of Lords; pay for members of parliament; one man one vote, and various other reforms of more interest to British subjects than to outsiders.

Rosebery's administration has been respectable. It is not marked by any scandals, nor by any notable political triumphs. He had a small majority in the house of commons to begin with, and it kept narrowing until on a snap vote it disappeared altogether. Conforming to custom rather than to a political necessity, he resigned. The position of the home rule bill has not been improved. Indeed, the Irish measure had become impotent, and some openly declared that the bill had been practically shelved, and that Ireland had nothing to hope from the Rosebery government. It is even said that a section of the Irish parliamentary party made terms with the conservatives on the promises of some measures of relief under a new government.

### RADICALS DISTURBED HIM.

The question of the abolition of the house of lords was sprung upon Lord Rosebery. The radicals had been distrustful of him from the beginning. Being a peer himself, they suspected him of too much sympathy for a liberal chief with the chamber, which, through hereditary privilege, may utilize any or all of the legislation of the chamber chosen by the people. Lord Rosebery straddled this question. He made speeches in which he seemed to denounce the principle of a hereditary house of lords, and appeared to threaten an attack upon that body. But he did nothing. The plan by which he proposed to overcome the peers as an obstacle to progressive legislation was specious enough to keep the radicals from open revolt, but it did not comfort them.

Lord Rosebery can well afford to resign the cares of public office and spend the remainder of his days in peace and quiet, for, according to his own statement, he has accomplished all in life that he had ever hoped for. His ambitions have been fully satisfied for he once said that all the ambitions he had in life were to marry a rich woman, win the English Derby and become premier of England. His measure of success has been more than full, for in addition to all of these things he has twice won the Derby—last year with Ladas and recently with Sir Visto.

He was born in London, May 7, 1847, and is descended from an ancient Scottish family that was raised to the baronetage in 1661 and to a peerage of Scotland in 1700, the first earl having been a gentleman of the bed chamber of Prince George of Denmark, Queen Anne's husband. He took a prominent part in bringing about the union of England and Scotland. The present earl, who is a nephew of Lord Mahon, the historian, was educated at Eton and at Christ church, Oxford, where he attracted the attention of both Disraeli and Gladstone by his abilities, and he assumed his titles in March, 1868, through the death of his grandfather, the fourth earl, his father having died when he was 4 years old. At Eton he had been captain of the football team, and at Oxford he had been a football captain and an oarsman.

Lord Rosebery's wife, who died in 1890, was the richest heiress in England. She was Hannah, the only child of Baron Meyer de Rothschild, and had in her own right an income of \$500,000 a year.

When the stomach is satisfied the food is bitter.—Swedish.

## ARE HOPELESS WRETCHES.

### RUSSIA'S POLITICAL EXILES THE WORST USED IN HER DOMAIN.

Death Seems Preferable to Their Miserable Existence—They Frequently Try Suicide to End Their Sorrow—Many Reformers in Recent Years in the Treatment of All Other Classes of Criminals.

Russia stands pre-eminent as the most vast of all empires, modern or ancient. Yet in the minds of most persons there is a feeling that in spite of her large domains Russia is a country that has no wish for humane prison management, and that throughout the empire prison reform is unwelcome. Russians do not dispute that there is much truth lurking behind this feeling, but they deny that the Russians as a race are a cruel people. Yet in the same breath they practically admit that there is much in the Russian prison system which needs changing.

Stripped of all the sensational features which writers in the past have penned about Russian prisoners and prisons, it can be set down as a fact that Russia in dealing with her common, every-day prisoners is not at all inhuman as a rule. But when it comes to her political prisoners she is almost as barbarous as the most barbarous and uncivilized nation on the globe.

There has been but one man, aside from a Russian prisoner or official, to see the interior of the model prison of all Russia, and that man is the great French-Russian penologist Wrascoy. He visited the prison in the Viborg quarter in St. Petersburg not long ago and gave a graphic description of it to Mr. W. M. F. Round, of the Prison Association, when the International Prison Congress met in St. Petersburg a few years ago. In fact, Russia, as an absolute empire, is not apt to give much information about her prison system.

### RUSSIA IS SECRETIVE.

Students of penology know very little about what Russia is actually doing in the way of prison reform, but they know what she says she is doing. According to M. Wrascoy the Russian empire had seen the necessity for a prison for short-term convicts since 1860, when a wine warehouse of the epoch of Empress Anna, in the Viborg quarter the capital city of the empire had been built over for the purpose. But in time this prison fell into a state of entire disorganization, and, notwithstanding improvements made upon it, it at last could be no longer maintained.

In proceeding with the preliminary studies for the construction of a new prison in St. Petersburg, in conformity to the scale of punishments of the new Russian code, as told in the foregoing, it was necessary that the prison should be built on the cellular plan. Prison officials do not, as a rule, in other countries, like the cellular, or solitary imprisonment plan, as it induces nervousness and madness.

### BUILT BY CONVICTS.

By a freak of Russian justice, eminently proper, the convicts of the empire were put to work in demolishing the old building, which had been used as a prison, while they were also used to build the new structure. Then all the other prison and correctional institutions were put in requisition to make doors, windows, locks, bells, iron beds, kitchen utensils, furniture for the cells and the prison office, as well as the mattresses for the use of unfortunate inmates to follow in imprisonment the men who had built their prison home.

The prison itself consists of a large main building of stone and iron, which is flanked by a dozen smaller buildings. As it is situated on the river Neva, only a partial wall of stone surrounds it. The main or entrance building is two stories in height. In it are the quarters of the prison guards, the reception rooms, and the rooms of the officers of the institution. Then comes the prison itself. It is five stories in height and contains five tiers of cells, which are reached by light iron ornamental stairways and corridors.

### FOUR HUNDRED IN A TIER.

Each tier of cells numbers 400. Prisoners are garbed in a yellow cloth costume, and wear skull caps. They are always kept at work, usually on public improvements, from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m., with an hour's cessation from labor for dinner. Their food is coarse in the extreme, and consists mostly of dry bread, meat, vegetables and milk.

Prisoners do all the work of cleaning the institution, as well as in the kitchen and the bakery. They also run the prison's electric light system. There are three buildings connected with the prison which are known as hospital departments, while there is also a separate hospital building for those who are seized with infectious diseases.

### FIELD OF THE NOVELIST.

Next in the order of Russian prison system comes that of Siberia, that great field for the novelist and the playwright. Siberia, that is to say, the Asiatic portion of the Russian empire, is divided for administrative purposes into twelve governments, or provinces, which form Eastern Siberia, Central Siberia and the provinces of the Amour River. The Russian penal code as has already been told, places the punishments which are followed by civil death in two classes.

The victims of these punishments are transported to Siberia with hard labor for long terms or for life. Some of the convicts go to Central Siberia, where they are not condemned to obligatory labor. In the provinces of the Amour River, where all transportation is centralized, convicts are only sent to do forced labor. Those who have completed their punishment can remain where they are sent as convicts.

### SECOND CLASS CONVICTS.

Eastern Central Siberia is used for second-class convicts. But this system of transportation should not be confounded with the French system. It is applied to criminals at common law, and consists of exile without forced labor, but a change of residence is prohibited. In the provinces

of Eastern Siberia, which reach to the Ural Mountains, transportation is concentrated. But this punishment is not pronounced by the courts.

It is applied by the councils of the communes, which form a fiscal union. Thus, when a member of the rural commune has been condemned to undergo a correctional punishment, he is placed at the disposal of the commune, which decides whether it will retake or exile him. In the latter case, he is transported to a province in Eastern Siberia for five years. At the end of that time he has the right to seek permission from any commune, and if granted, to re-enter Russia. But frequently he prefers to remain in Eastern Siberia, because the country is very rich and agriculture is extensive.

Transportation has existed to Siberia nearly 150 years. At first those who had been condemned for capital offences were pardoned and sent there, and Russia transported thither those condemned to hard labor, who went with their families after having undergone punishment with labor in European Russia. This transportation took place principally in the Province of Transbaikalia, because there were lands there rich in silver mines. Later gold mines were discovered. This tract is really what was known as ancient Dahouria, which forms part of the steppes of Mongolia, and whose population consisted formerly of Bouriates, a nomadic race.

When, in 1689, the Province of Dahouria, after a treaty with China, became a part of the Russian empire, the convicts were put to work in the mines.

### AN ISLAND COLONY.

There is also a Russian penal colony on the Island of Saghalien, situated at the extreme east of Siberia, at the mouth of the Amour River. It has a special Governor, who attends to the administration of the prison. No liberated colonists exist on the island.

When a Russian exile becomes a free prisoner he continues to receive food, rations, clothing, farming tools, cattle and horses. His food rations and his clothing are allowed him for two years, or until the two and one-half acres of land given him by the Government can be made to support him.

At the end of ten years the colonist passes from the condition of a transported colonist to the state of a free colonist. He can engage in commerce and all industrial pursuits, and can travel all over Siberia. But he cannot return to Russia proper without a pardon.

### MANY WOMEN THERE.

All women there sentenced to forced labor are sent to the island of Saghalien. Like the men, the women must undergo one-third of their punishment in prison, but the island is considered as a prison surrounded by floating walls, so that each prisoner, male or female, brought from Russia, is set at liberty in Saghalien, and his or her punishment consists only in obligatory work. The male convict has the right to construct a small house upon a small tract of land, and to work on his own account. The convict always receives a ration, and still further, his family, if it comes with him, receives a monthly payment for its support. Nothing is given to women who have no children, but each child has the right to nearly three rubles a month, or about \$1.80 to \$2.

The island of Saghalien contains about 68,000 square kilometres. That is to say, it is about the size of Greece. It is crossed by mountain ranges, and there are now about forty villages on the island. There is but one mode of punishment, and that is by whipping. The knot is no longer used, but a director of a prison on the island has the right to inflict not more than thirty blows at any one time on a prisoner, with an instrument which is a good deal like the English naval cat-o-nine-tails.

The idea that there is much cruelty to prisoners in Siberia is no longer true. A prison official who should attempt to be unnecessarily cruel would be murdered in these days.

### OPEN-AIR WORK.

Nearly all the work of Siberian convicts is performed in the open air. They are engaged principally in the establishment of roads, in the improvement of lands, the drainage of the soil, and the construction of buildings. Besides this there are the coal mines, where political prisoners are compelled to labor.

### WORST OF ALL.

The political prisoner is the worst used wretch on the face of the earth. Chained to a companion he is compelled to labor half-clad, in groups of five to twelve, with a half-shorn head, and clothes of gray cloth, and with one leg of white, which is his badge of hopeless doom. He has no rights. While there is some hope for all other Siberian prisoners, there is none for him except in death.

It is little wonder that the detection of a political conspirator in Russia means usually the suicide of the victim. Death is preferable to the life of a political prisoner in Siberia.

### CARRIED ON ONE SHIP.

All prisoners are transported from European Russia to Siberia by the Russian war steamship, of 3,800 tons burden, the Nizimi-Novgorod. The route is from Odessa through the Suez Canal and around Asia. The steamer carries 652 convicts at a trip, and she has a complement of sixty-two men and eighty guards. The old horror of a two-year march from European Russia to Siberia is thus obviated.

On the ship, fore and aft, on either side, on the upper and lower decks and 'tween decks have been built long parallel lines of cages or compartments. The cages are of unequal length, but are seven and a half feet in height. Each contains a plain wooden bench for a bed.

At one side of the cages are placed iron rings, to which prisoners are chained. All wear wrist and ankle chains. For fear of attempts at suicide nothing that can cut is given the prisoners on shipboard. When a prisoner wants a drink of water he can take it through a soft rubber tube which hangs in his cell.

Once a day he is allowed to go on deck with a closely chained half dozen or so of companions, for exercise during thirty minutes or so.

### BOILED TO ORDER.

But it is in the manner of keeping him in subjection that Russia has outdone herself. In each cell is a pipe filled with little holes. If a prisoner is unruly all the commander of a ship has to do is to turn on a flood of boiling water in the pipes, and the unruly wretch is quickly brought to subjection.

## ROBBERS LOOT A BANK.

### THE DARING WORK OF TWO MASKED THIEVES.

Beat the Cashier at Rainy Lake City Into Unconsciousness and Escaped with \$30,000 Through a Crowd of Bewildered Citizens.

Rainy Lake City, Minn., is intensely excited over a daring and successful robbery of the bank late Thursday evening by two masked men, who, after a desperate struggle with the cashier, in which he was finally beaten into insensibility, secured \$30,000 and escaped through a crowd of bewildered citizens who had been attracted to the bank by the struggle and pistol shots. Several posses have taken up the search, and there is some hope of overtaking the desperate robbers.

Just before the hour of closing Cashier Johnson was alone in the bank, when suddenly two masked men appeared upon the scene and rushed behind the counter with revolvers in their hands. The cashier made a dash for his revolver, but before he reached it one of the robbers was upon him. Then followed a desperate struggle, during which the masked man shot twice at Johnson, who was all the time struggling to get where he could reach his revolver. Just as he was within a foot of the drawer where it lay the second robber came to the assistance of his companion and dealt the cashier

### SEVERAL HEAVY BLOWS

on the head with the butt end of his weapon. Mr. Johnson struggled for a few minutes longer, and then, being weak from the loss of blood and seeing that it would only be courting death to make any more fight, he gave up. As he sank to the floor one of the men struck him a heavy blow in the face, rendering him unconscious, and when he regained consciousness he found himself bound hand and foot and lying under the counter.

The robbers, who still wore their masks, then locked the door, as several people had been attracted by the pistol shots, and proceeded to go through the vault, the inner door of which was locked. They demanded that Mr. Johnson open this. He refused, hoping to thus gain time in order that the citizens might come to the rescue. His refusal angered the robbers, and one of them knocked him down and kicked him in the side several times as he lay on the floor.

By this time there was quite a crowd outside the bank. The two robbers hurriedly filled the front part of the safe with powder and touched it off, blowing the safe to pieces and scattering the silver all over the place.

### THE PACKAGES OF BILLS

were all wrapped in paper and for that reason were uninjured. These packages, the contents amounting in all to almost \$30,000, the robbers hurriedly stowed away in their pockets, and with drawn guns made a dash for the street. The boldness of their movement staggered the spectators and for a moment no one was capable of making a move. By the time the people had regained their nerve the robbers had made their escape, and when search was made for them no trace could be found.

A posse was at once formed and is now searching for the men. Telegrams have been sent to arrest the men, whose description is given. It is believed that the robbers are headed for the Lake Superior country in order to get on some passing steamer.

Mr. Johnson's whole body is badly bruised. He is not dangerously hurt, but it was not the fault of the robbers, who undoubtedly intended to kill him.

### The Duke of Cambridge.



Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, whose retirement is announced.

### The Story of Waterloo.

The most remarkable celebration ever held in Alliance, Ohio, was that of the eightieth anniversary of the battle of Waterloo. James R. Green was a midshipman on an English war vessel in the harbor of Antwerp eighty years ago. Securing a furlough from his captain, he started across Belgium, and on June 18, 1815, stood on an eminence two miles to the right of the plain of Waterloo, and through a sea glass watched the fearful struggle that day for supremacy between the veteran soldiers of France under Napoleon and the British army, with their Prussian allies, under the leadership of the Duke of Wellington and Blucher. Mr. Green, who is now 97 years old, graphically recounted his experience of that day eighty years ago. Referring to Napoleon, he said: "He was a great military genius, but a more cruel tyrant never lived. He caused more sorrow and suffering during his career than any ten rulers in civilized history."

### Artistic Appreciation.

Painter (with dignity)—I am an artist, madam.  
Madam (effusively)—Oh, you poor man. Here's a quarter to buy you something to eat.