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.

Mayor Stewart of Hamilton has gone to Europe.

Paving companies are squabbling over a contract in London.

The Merchants' Bank has imported $100,000 in gold from New York.

It has been decided to enlarge the St. Vincent de Paul hospital at Brockville.

The late Mr. W. O. Wykoff of Carlton Island left an estate of a million dollars but no will.

A large pilgrimage left Montreal on Saturday for Lourdes. France, on board the Labrador.

Alex. Wilson, a young local preacher of Chatham, who is charged with a number of thefts, has lost his reason.

Col. Henderson, City Solicitor and Treasurer of Belleville, dropped dead in his office.

A copy of William Lyon Mackenzie's history of the rebellion is in possession of Inspector Smith of Hamilton.

Manitoba Patrons and Prohibitionists have passed a motion in favor of the immediate enfranchisement of women.

The Sir John Macdonald statue for the city of Kingston has been shipped from England. It will be unveiled on Labour Day.

The final returns of the second election for the selection of the county seat of Nipissing give North Bay a majority of eight votes.

Messrs. Frank Baker and George Barr of Aultville bravely rescued a fishing party whose boat had upset in the St. Lawrence River.

At Guelph the Norway Iron & Steel Company's building, in course of erection, was blown down and three men hurt. Mr. Tuck was seriously injured.

There is said to be an organized gang of thieves following Barnum's circus and operating in farm houses in the country during the attendance of the occupants at the show.

Mrs. Prince of Ancaster, who was picked up on the roadside nearly dead a few days ago, is recovering, but her memory is a perfect blank, and she can throw no light on the mystrious affair.

Kingston's National Council of Women is waging war against the practice of putting immoral pictures in cigarette and tobacco packages for sale; also against the time-honored prize chewing gum.

The Canadian trade returns for the past twelve months are now complete, and they show that the decrease in Canadian imports and exports was not nearly as great as might be expected during the late depression.

A Chatham despatch reports that a trunk containing human bones has been fished out of Mitchell's Bay. The Attorney-General's department has been communicated with in regard to the matter.

A Beach train stuck on the grade near the Barton street bridge, Hamilton, and the regular train from the north ran into it. Fortunately, the engineer had time to reduce speed before the collision.

Sir Adolphe Caron has entered an action for twenty-five thousand dollars damages against the Montreal Herald on the ground that he has been libelled by that journal in connection with recent political events.

Mr. Stewart Jones' barn in Grantham Township was burned, with a lot of live stock. A colored man named Hogan employed by Mr. Jones is missing, and it is feared that he set the premises on fire, and committed suicide by drowning in the canal near by.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The salaries of the Marquis of Salisbury's nineteen Cabinet Ministers amount to £95,000 ($475,000) per annum.

It is regarded as certain that the Duke of Connaught will be the new Commander-in-Chief, in succession to the Duke of Cambridge.

A report is gaining currency in London that Prince Edward, the baby child of the Duke and Duchess of York, is deaf and dumb.

The Queen has decided to go to the Isle of Wight, in opposition to her physicians, who recommendde her Highland residence at Balmoral.

It is stated that Prince Adolphus of Teck, who married the daughter of the Duke of Westminster, is a candidate for the throne of Bulgaria.

Mr. Henry Irving, Mr. Walter Besant, and sixteen others went to Windsor on Thursday and were knighted by the Queen.

Lady Lisgar, widow of Baron Lisgar, who as Sir John Young was Governor-General of Canada from 1868 to 1872, is dead.

Capt. Whitechurch has been awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery during the siege of Chitral, when, under a galling fire from Umra Khan's troops, he fought his way back to the fort, with Capt. Baird, who was wounded, on his back.

The English Maybrick Association will soon present a petition to Sir Matthew White-Ridley, the new Home Secretary, asking him to reopen the Maybrick case. Mrs. Maybrick is undergoing life imprisonment for poisoning her husband.

At the National Rifle Association meet at Bisley, England, on Saturday, Private Hayhurst, of the 13th Battalion, Hamilton, Ont., won her Majesty the Queen's prize. This is the highest honour to which British marksmen can attain. It had never before been won by a member of the Canadian team.

UNITED STATES.

The War Department of the United States has decided to abandon Fort Pembina.

A committee of Cincinnati citizens presented a magnificent silver service to the U. S. cruiser Cincinnati.

A New York and Brooklyn syndicate will, it is said erect a twelve-storey iron hotel on the site of the old Delaware house, in Albany.

Without any known reason for the act, Charles A. Kimball, a New York broker, committed suicide by turning on the gas in his room.

Arrangements are being made for a convention in Pittsburg, Pa., for the study of the Bible prophecies in regard to the second coming of Christ.

A Kankakee man tried to drown a cat by wading out into the river and putting it under the water. The cat came back, but the man took cramps and was drowned.

William Brusseau, the accomplice of Mrs. Nellie Pope in the murder of Dr. Horace N. Pope in Detroit last February, was sentenced to twenty-five years' imprisonment.

Four swarms of bees have taken possession of the Methodist church in East San Jose, Cal., and it is estimated that there are at least 300 pounds of honey between the outer and inner walls.

Inspector De Barry, of Buffalo, has apprehended half a dozen more Canadian plumbers who went to Buffalo in response to advertisements or solicitations to fill the places of strikers who refused to return to work.

Recorder Goff, of New York, on Thursday sentenced Maria Barberi, who murdered her lover Catalod, to die in the electric chair during the week beginning August 19. If this sentence is carried out, she will be the first woman to undergo execution by electricity.

Commercial summaries from the agencies of Messrs. Dun and Bradstreet report the late favourable business conditions as being unexpectedly well maintained for this usually dull period of the year. Generally the demand keeps up, and more important still is the steady advance of wages in several lines of industry. Though we are now in the midst of what is known as the "holiday season," trade all round is much in excess of what it was one year ago. There has been a weakening in the price of some commodities, but a more than compensating advance in others, and where there has been no actual increase quotations are reported as being well maintained. Among the adverse conditions are poorer wheat prospects, shipments of gold to Europe, less favourable United States Treasury returns, and some rather serious strikes.

GENERAL.

Black flags in Formosa compelled the Japanese troops to retreat after a stubborn battle.

Warrants for the arrest of Union Bank directors of Newfoundland have been issued.

One hundred and forty-eight lives were lost by the sinking of the steamer Maria P. in collision with the Ortigia in the Gulf of Spezzia.

The Paris Memorial Diplomatique announces that the Duke of Saxe-Coburg (the Duke of Edinburgh) will resign his dukedom next October.

There has been serious bread rioting in the city of Zamora, Spain. Several gendarmes were injured, and one spectator was killed.

The New South Wales Parliament is considering a bill to restrict not only the entrance of Chinese, as at present, but Japanese and Kanakas as well.

News has been received in Auckland from Samoa, to the effect that the natives are again in an unsettled state, preparing a big convention to decide on peace or war.

A party of five English tourists ascending the Ortler mountain in the Tyrol, without a guide, were thrown from a precipice, and all were injured, two of them dangerously.

Fighting of a very determined character is reported from Cuba, where the insurgents compelled a force of Spanish troops commanded by General Campos to retreat.

The anniversary of the declaration of war with France was enthusiastically celebrated at Berlin University, and anniversaries of the various battles will be celebrated throughout Germany.

The representatives of England, France, and the United States at Pekin are demanding reparation for the ill-treatment of missionaries and the destruction of foreign property in the Province of Szi-Chuan.

It is said that the Oceanica Steamship Company, of Sydney, N. S. W., will seek colonial aid for the construction of new and fast steamers to run on its line to San Francisco. There is talk guaranteeing a mail service of twenty-eight days from Auckland to London.

Baron Adolphe Van Der Smissen, brother of the famous General Van Der Smissen, of the Belgian army, committed suicide at Brussels by blowing out his brains with a revolver. Another of the General's brothers committed suicide in June with the same revolver.

Navies of the World Compared.

Some interesting statistics have been compiled recently concerning the number and the types of war vessels of the leading navies of the world. The tables show that England has at the present time some 43 battleships, 12 coast defenders, and 18 armoured cruisers, and 10 battleships building. The French navy contains 43 armoured vessels built, and 20 authorized building. Russia has 40 such vessels, Germany 32, and Italy 18. These navies have, in addition, many unarmoured vessels. The number of war vessels in the service of England, including protected cruisers, ordinary cruisers, gunboats, and torpedo vessels, exclusive of torpedo boats, is 238, and some 48 additional ones authorized and building. The French navy contains in all 147 vessels, with 24 building. Germany has altogether 39, Russia 32, and Italy 72. Torpedo boats have come to take a very important part in naval warfare. France has 217 torpedo boats in service, and 42 authorized and building; England has 165 and 64 respectively; Italy 178 and 11; Russia 163 and 14; and Germany 119. The comparison between the United States and foreign navies afforded by this table is very significant. At present the United States has 3 torpedo boats and 3 building.

BAPTISM OF A CZAR'S SON

SOMETHING THAT NICHOLAS II. HOPES TO SEE SOON.

Ceremonies at the Christening—Anointment With Oil Brought From Constantinople—Baby Grand Dukes Shown Without Clothes at Their First Public Function.

The young Czarina of Russia is superintending just now the preparation of a layette, and all the world is interested in the expected advent of an heir to the Russian throne.

Elaborate ceremonies always surround the birth of a royal child in Russia, perhaps more conspicuously than elsewhere. The christening, according to the ritual in the Greek Church, must take place as soon as possible after the birth. The baby's christening robes are marvels of the needleworker's art. The first godfather, who is always a high and mighty person, gives the child a gold cross inlaid with jewels, and the godmother provides the little white shirt which is used before the ceremony is completed. The occasion requires gifts from all persons connected with the court. These gifts are often the toys most likely to amuse a tiny infant, although many are suitable for a grown child. Other gifts may be lands or jewels.

AT THE CHRISTENING

the child is carried in the arms of its godmother to the church or chapel. A crowd

THE CZARINA OF RUSSIA.

of royalty and nobility, glittering in brilliant uniforms and gala toilets, fill the body of the church and stand grouped round the font. The priests wear magnificent robes with gold crosses, and sacred banners are borne before them. Two deacons carry a portrait of Christ or the Virgin Mary.

The godfathers give the priest nine wax candles, which are lighted and fastened across the font. The priest incenses the godfathers and godmothers and consecrates the water with many ceremonies. Then a procession is formed round the font by those taking part in the ceremony, each one bearing a lighted wax taper. The name of the child is given in writing to the priest, who puts the paper on an image which he holds on the child's breast, meanwhile saying a prayer. When the priest asks if the child forsakes the devil and his works, the godparents turn their backs to the font to show their horror and aversion to the question and answer "yes." They again face the font, and the priest takes the child, which is quite naked, and, holding it by the head, so his thumb and finger stop the ears, dips it three times in the water, pronouncing the words: "I baptize thee in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

THE CHRISM,

or baptismal unction, which is called the seal of the gift of the Holy Ghost, immediately follows baptism. In performing this ceremony the priest anoints the child with holy oil; on the eyes, in order that it may see only good; on the ears, that these may admit only what is pure; on the mouth, that it may speak as becomes a Christian; on the hand, that it may do no wrong, and on the feet, that they may tread only in paths of virtue. At the end of this ceremony, the shirt, which the godmother has provided, is put on the child by the priest, who says: "Thou art as clean and as clear from original sin as this shirt; thou art baptized, thou art sanctified, thou art washed, in the name of the Trinity." The cross, which has been given by the godfather, the child is under obligation to wear all its life. If the cross be not found upon the child at death, the priest says to the godparents, the child may not have Christian burial, even though he be the son of a hundred kings. A particular saint is also assigned to the child, whose image he is charged to cherish with special devotion.

Holy oil, or chrism, which is used at royal baptisms, coronations, and consecration of churches, is prepared with elaborate ceremony. There is a copper vase, overlaid with pearl and called the alabaster, in which is kept the original oil sent from Constantinople when Christianity was introduced into Russia. A few drops are taken to prepare the chrism and are replaced with other oil, so the quantity never decreases. Wine, roses, lavender, balsams, and spices are mixed with the oil.

Forty days after the birth of the child, its mother, the Empress, is churched, and the infant is received visibly into Christ's church by the giving of

ITS FIRST SACRAMENT.

When the royal gates are opened during mass, the deacon appears with the chalice. The baby is carried to the steps, and the priest coming forward, puts a drop of wine into its mouth with a spoon, saying: "The servant of God communicates in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost."

There is no such ceremony as confirmation in the Russian church, but the child continues to receive the sacrament from its baptism, twice a year, at Easter and on its saint's day, until it is seven years old, when it is brought to the confession on Good Friday.

The social functions attendant upon a birth in the royal family are very elaborate. They last several days. All the riches of the court and nobility are displayed. At night the illuminations transform the capitals. Lamps are removed from the street posts, and in their places shine illuminated stars and circles. All house fronts, roofs, and chimneys are outlined with lights. The trees are full of festoons of Chinese lanterns, and from every limb hang globes of glass in red, yellow, blue, and green, each formed and hung so as to resemble fruit. The houses of the nobility look like fairy palaces. The gardens are ablaze with light, and everywhere appear the burning monograms of the Emperor and Empress.

On the day the child dons its first shoes the Czarina gives 300 or 400 pairs to be distributed among the poor children of St. Petersburg. These are ordinary shoes, of course, not a bit like the royal baby's which are of white leather, embroidered with gold.

The nurse of a royal Russian child is always gorgeous in her apparel. She wears a rich velvet skirt with two broad bands of gold round it, a blue velvet apron, also trimmed with gold, a bodice of black velvet, fastened with silver buttons, and round her neck a golden chain. This is the dress for ordinary days. For state occasions there are other costumes even more elaborate.

ANTIDOTE FOR SNAKE BITE.

Prof. Fraser's Interesting Series of Experiments with the Reptiles.

Prof. Fraser, of Edinburgh, has just given to the Royal Society there the results of his experiments on snake-poison. After years of labor he has discovered a genuine antidote, which he calls antivenine. He has been collecting snake-poison from India, Africa, America and Australia; but it was only in the end of last year that he accumulated enough to begin his systematic experiments on the lower animals. He has it in a dried and powdered form in carefully sealed little bottles. It is peculiar-looking stuff, something like brown sugar, but not so sticky.

The first discovery from his careful experiments was that there is a great "toleration" for snake-poison. Having ascertained the minimum dose required to cause the death of an animal, by starting below that amount and gradually increasing his dose, leaving an interval of ten days or a fortnight between each successive one, he got up as high as fifty times the amount of the minimum lethal dose without causing any bad effects to the animal. In fact, its general health seemed to improve, as he had the animal weighed once and sometimes twice every day; and all the time he was administering the venom there was a steady increase in weight. In the meantime, he has now carried it further than fifty times the minimum lethal dose; but still, when he has reached that point the animal was recieving in a single dose, without being affected, enough to kill fifty animals of the same size and weight.

At present Prof. Fraser is immunizing a horse, but he has not got sufficient venom to complete the experiment. He has only nine grammes, and he still requires thirty, but the Indian Government is trying hard to procure the venom for him, and he expects to have it soon. When the horse has been immunized he expects to secure enough antivenine from it to allow of its being tested chemically, so as to find out the substances which antagonize the venom. When he discovers these he can prepare the antivenine chemically and send the antidote to India in small bottles. This discovery will be of very great practical importance to India, because fully 20,000 of the population are annually killed by snake-bite.

The Government has been trying to reduce this mortality by offering a reward for snakes' heads; but it seems to have no effect in the way of reducing their numbers, for the natives breed the snakes in order to secure the reward. There would be quite sufficient time to administer the antivenine, as death does not ensue until from three to twenty-four hours after a bite. Prof. Fraser has made a remarkable discovery, as one of the successful results of a quarter of a century's careful laboratory work.

Filters and Pure Water.

The comforting notion popularly entertained that water which has been boiled and filtered is absolutely safe for drinking purposes, has been rudely assailed by Professor Ray Lankester at the Royal Institution. That brilliant scientist makes the startling statement that such water as good old Father Thames supplies is actually safer to drink, though teeming with microbes, that pure spring or lake water! A domestic filter, it appears, is worse than useless, unless it is boiled and sterilized every twenty-four hours. We have been accustomed to boil our water, but to boil our filter will be a new departure in domestic economy. The explanation of the professor's astonishing statements is that the harmless bacteria which abound in ordinary drinking water are the sworn foes of the typhoid and cholera germs, and promptly kill them off whenever they intrude themselves into their society, but both these microbes can live and flourish in pure distilled water, from which their inveterate enemies have been banished. "People have been adding something like a hundredfold," said the the professor genially, "to the bacteria in their water by filtering it." Thoroughly sterilized water, after passing through a new filter only in use a week, has been found to contain two hundred thousand bacteria to the cubic centimetre. The moral of Professor Lankester's lectures is that a little knowledge is a dangerous and unreliable thing.

A SOUTHERN HANGING.

EXECUTED IN SIGHT OF A HYMN-SINGING NEGRO MOB.

Bravery of Their Victim's Wife—Her All-Night Battle on a Mississippi Trading Boat in Defence of Her Husband and Child.

The town of Mayersville, Miss., will henceforth be famous as the scene of a triple hanging, under most dramatic circumstances. Heretofore it has been noted as having the largest proportion of black to whites of any place in the United States. The proportion is actually 16 to 1. The execution of the three negroes in the Issaquena County Court-House yard reduced the proportion somewhat, and the town and all the country for miles around whites and blacks, armed to the teeth, and anticipating an outbreak, had a public holiday, which will go down to history as marked by most exciting scenes.

On Wednesday, July 3, crowds of negroes had gathered in Mayersville from every county in the State, and from Louisiana and Arkansas as well. For days prior to the hanging ugly rumors had got abroad of an attempt at rescue, and this coupled with the desperate character of the men, their two attempts at escape, and the presence of so many blacks, led to extraordinary precautions to guard against a surprise. Every white man in the town was armed, and joined a posse of mounted citizens, who escorted the prisoners to the gallows and kept the crowd at a distance.

The condemned were Grant Wilson, Griffin Hubbard and Bob Purvis, and they had been convicted of the murder of a white trader, King by name.

Never was there a more impressive scene at a scaffold. Erected in

A BEAUTIFUL GROVE

of cottonwood trees, overlooking the Mississippi River, with a cleared open space fenced in, it resembled more some festival where speech-making and sports were in order. But it was an exhibition of the majesty of the law, and was intended as a lesson to the thousands gathered there.

The gallows was built with the drop for the prisoners instead of a weight. Before the black cap was placed on them the doomed men were given five minutes to address the crowd. This they did in the language of a revival meeting, admitting their sentence was just, but saying they were going straight to heaven. Purvis smilingly shouted to a friend that they would be there for the Fourth of July. As the black cap was drawn over their heads the negro Wilson started to sing a darkey hymn. The refrain was taken up by the crowd and the thousands of negroes grouped before the gallows rasied their voices in a wild and hysterical chant. Just as the last of the plaintive notes died away the drop fell and all three murderers fell simultaneously into the great unknown.

The murder of King was the first murder in that section in twenty years of a white man by a black man. King, who was a native of New York, had for some years run a trading boat on the Mississippi River. It was his practice to stock his floating store in St. Louis and then drop down the river, stopping at the plantations en route. He had been at Carolina Landing some days when the attack was made which cost him his life.

On this trip he was accompanied by his wife and infant child, the former, a slender, auburn-haired, gray-eyed little woman of about twenty years. On the evening of the murder the assassins, Wilson, Hubbard and Purvis, with one or two others from the adjoining plantation, visited the boat and made some small purchases. They went ashore about 9 o'clock and King seated himself on the counter near the bow of the boat. Griffin Hubbard, who was armed with a shot gun charged with bird shot, without warning, fired twice in rapid succession at

THE UNSUSPECTING VICTIM.

Supposing King to be dead the murderers rushed on board the boat, but met an unexpected adversary in Mrs. King, who had seized her husband's pistol, extinguished the lights and opened fire. The negroes hastily retreated and closed the door. Exerting all her strength the plucky little woman lifted her husband to his bed and then awaited a renewal of the attack. A fussillade from the shore was directed against the little craft, which was riddled with bullets, but none of them struck the little heroine. The negroes then tried to break down the door with an axe, but Mrs. King, with her revolver, drove them off. Her infant, which was ill, had been dragging itself after her along the floor as she moved about, and she was obliged to tie it in a chair, in spite of its screams, in order to fight.

Exasperated by their failure the negroes tried to force the scuttle and again hacked at the door. In this attack Mrs. King almost killed Purvis by a bullet through his hat. She did hit Grant and then they retreated.

All that night Mrs. King was on guard, giving what attention she could to her wounded husband and to her child. The next day she visited the store on the plantation, but, finding only one white man there and a number of negroes, she was afraid to tell her terrible story, and returned again to the boat and to another night of sleepless vigilance. It was not until 11 o'clock on the second day, when the proprietor of another trading boat and a friend of her husband chanced to visit her boat, and her brave battle to save her husband and child became known. The story sent a thrill of horror through all the neighborhood, and a strong posse was soon on the track of the murderers. The men were captured and quickly convicted. King died from his wounds two days after the shooting.

Begin Army Life Early.

Military education is commenced at an earlier age in Turkey than in any other civilized country. Before the aspirant for military honors is 12 years old he has received a preliminary course of instruction.