

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.

Archbishop Langevin will visit Rome. The Canadian team won £850 at Bismarck.

A new gas well has been struck at Fort Erie.

High Constable Hunter of Wentworth County, is dead.

Hon. Dr. Montague has gone to the Eastern States to recuperate.

Hamilton Beach residents are petitioning for annexation to the city.

Mr. William Chambers, an old soldier, died at Dresden at the age of 108 years.

Mr. Michael Benoit, General Manager of La Banque Nationale, has resigned.

Mr. J. A. Roy's safe was robbed of \$22,000 at Cornwall.

The Government is taking steps to bring the French treaty into operation.

Mr. Alex. Mousseau of Lavaltrie was killed by the explosion of a boiler in his creamery.

Reduced rates on hay shipped from Manitoba to Ontario have been offered by the C. P. R.

Sir Adolphe Caron is acting Premier during Mr. Mackenzie Bowell's visit to the North-West.

At Hamilton a lady of about 27 years, name unknown, stepped off a car, fell and died shortly after being picked up.

Mr. Murdoch McLeod, freight claims agent of the Grand Trunk at Montreal, is dead.

Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin, M.P., of Regina, was married at Ottawa to Miss Lizze Reid.

A dividend of 37 per cent. will be paid to the creditors of the Manitoba Commercial Bank.

Four important customs officials at Hamilton have received notice of superannuation.

Rev. Dr. Davis of Springfield, Mo., has accepted the pastorate of Emmanuel Church, Montreal.

The Canadian Pacific authorities have applications from Manitoba farmers for 2,000 men to work in the harvest fields.

The name of the Queen's Avenue Methodist Church has been changed to the "London Metropolitan Methodist Church."

The pedestal for the Macdonald memorial at Kingston will not be ready in time for the unveiling to take place on Labour day.

The Forty-Seventh Battalion has been thoroughly reorganized. There will now be only seven companies, instead of ten, as before.

The crop bulletin about to be issued by the Department of Agriculture of Manitoba will estimate the wheat crop at thirty million bushels.

Prof. McEachran, who has returned to Ottawa from the North-West, reports that the cattle business in Alberta is in a most flourishing condition.

Mr. William J. Robertson, who has just completed a term in Montreal Jail, is reported to have inherited \$75,000 from an aunt in Toronto.

James Wall has been committed for trial on a charge of shooting James Nealon at the Tremont House, Hamilton. Nealon is recovering.

Lieutenant-Governor Daly, of Nova Scotia, whose term of office expired on the first of this month, has been reappointed for a second term.

The Dominion Trades Congress will be held in London during the week commencing September 2. About one hundred and fifty delegates are expected.

Fourteen manuscripts have been submitted to the committee of the Dominion Education Association entrusted with the task of selecting a history of Canada.

Cash lake, more than one hundred and sixty miles from Ottawa, is expected to be the eastern terminus of the Ottawa, Arnprior, and Parry Sound railway for next winter.

The auditors of the suspended Banque du Peuple are preparing a statement of the financial position of the institution. It is said that hopes are entertained of a comparatively favorable settlement.

The steambarge Glenora has caused another and more serious break in the Cornwall Canal than was made by the propeller Ocean recently. Traffic will be delayed for some time.

Drowning accidents were numerous. At Ottawa three sons of Mr. Brophy and a son of Rev. Mr. Winfield were upset in a sailboat and drowned, a lad named Miall being rescued; and at Chatham three small boys were drowned while bathing.

The feature in the dry goods situation is the very strong tone developed in all lines of domestic and British and foreign manufactures, and the number of advances reported in lines for the fall and winter trade.

The general superintendent of the Canadian Pacific railway has received very favorable reports as to the condition of the crops in the provinces and territories. Hay, however, in most places in Ontario, is a total failure.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Queen has gone to Osborne.

Lady Frances Rose Gunning was arrested in London on a charge of forgery.

Rev. Alfred Dann, Canon of Limerick Cathedral, has been appointed assistant minister of St. Paul's Church, London.

Large Atlantic steamers are now berthed close to the wharf at Liverpool, and the troublesome tender is dispensed with.

The Right Rev. Anthony Wilson Thorold, D.D., Bishop of Winchester, is dead. He was in his seventy-first year.

The appointment of Gen. Lord Roberts to the command of her Majesty's forces in Ireland has received royal approval.

The sanitary condition of the White-chapel district of London has become extremely bad owing to the short water supply.

Fifteen thousand dollars has so far been subscribed for the testimonial to Dr. W. G. Grace started by the Daily Telegraph. "Squire Abingdon" Baird's race course and farm near Hull, on which he spent \$375,000, were sold recently for a little more than \$50,000.

Leprosy is increasing in Iceland in an alarming manner according to the Jesuit missionary, Father Sveinsson. Last year a Danish physician, sent by the Government, examined one-third of the island and found 141 lepers.

Five short-ograph poems by Robert Burns were sold recently in London for \$490; three long letters for \$370, and three short ones for \$105. At the same time seven letters of Sir Walter Scott were sold for about \$27.50 apiece.

Robert Coombes, the elder of the two boys charged with murdering their mother in a suburb of London, and a half-witted man named Fox have been committed for trial. Nathaniel, the younger boy, gave evidence of the crime.

In the inventory of Prof. John Stuart Blackie's estate the copyrights amount only to \$426; "Self Culture" is valued at \$250; "The Wisdom of Goethe" at \$100; "The Lays of the Highlands" at \$25; and "The Scottish Highlands" at only \$6.25.

There is reason to believe that Mr. J. L. Huddart's scheme for the fast Atlantic and Pacific mail services is making headway at last. Lord Ripon, before leaving the Colonial Office, left a memorandum strongly urging the matter upon Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, his successor.

A despatch from London says there is good authority for stating that the British Government has agreed to grant a subsidy, which, in conjunction with the aid granted by the Canadian and other Governments, will enable the Halifax and Bermuda cable to be extended to the West Indies.

The great wheel at Earl's Court, London, an imitation on a larger scale, of the Ferris wheel of the World's Fair at Chicago, stopped on Wednesday evening and imprisoned crowds of passengers. Several hours elapsed before the wheel could be moved, and it was not until next morning that the excited passengers were released.

UNITED STATES.

The Humane Society of Pittsburg has decided that young girls must cease selling papers on the streets.

An explosion of fire damp in a West-phalia mine killed 32 miners and injured over a hundred.

A strike of carpenters is threatened in Boston next September. They demand an eight hours' day and an increase of wages.

Kansas women say they will boycott all kinds of public reform and all other good works until men concede to them the ballot.

Decision has been given at Washington that there is no law to prevent the importation of bulls for the proposed Atlanta, Georgia, bull fight.

An Indian war has broken out in Idaho, and, after a white family of three had been killed, the settlers pursued and slew six of the Indians.

Cashier Wallen, of the Dime Savings Bank, Willimantic, Conn., has disappeared, and there is a shortage of at least twenty-six thousand dollars.

The latest project in electric railways is a line from Chicago to New York, which it is claimed, will reduce the time between those cities to ten hours.

Manager Break of the Detroit Railway Company, formerly of London, resigned his \$2,500 position from conscientious scruples against working on Sundays.

Charges of great cruelty are preferred against the officers having the management of the workhouse in Pittsburg, Pa., in which women are confined for minor offences. Some of the punishments inflicted by the matron and her assistants are ingeniously severe.

The investigations of the police at Chicago and elsewhere show that Holmes, with some associates, has been guilty of a long series of other crimes in addition to those already reported. The detective department of Toronto is in a position to complete its case, and will not trouble about any further evidence.

Business in the United States is well maintained for this season of the year, and what is called the "midsummer dullness" is less in evidence than usual. While business is small compared with the past two or three months, it is enough to encourage the opening of many works in various directions, and permit of advances in wages. Some serious strikes, however, are happening, and though "labour troubles" on a large scale are scarcely feared, such a possibility is felt to be within reach. Reports of injury to wheat are believed to be much exaggerated. Cotton is steady, iron and steel are advancing, copper also is dearer. Cotton and woollen goods are in better demand, and wool is scarce in the eastern markets. As a rule, the tendency of prices is upward, and the business outlook good.

GENERAL.

The Porte has granted amnesty to all Armenian political prisoners.

The Khedive, it is announced, will pay a visit to St. Petersburg after leaving Constantinople.

Australia has a population of less than 5,000,000, but economists declare it could support 100,000,000.

Spain is preparing to send very heavy reinforcements to her army in Cuba at an early date.

Russia is moving large bodies of troops toward the frontiers of Manchuria and Corea.

The Japanese will demand £7,500,000 additional indemnity from China for abandoning Liao Tung.

In India every resident must, under penalty of fine, have his name written up at the entrance to his house.

Kleven pupils of the Canadian College at Rome, having finished their studies, started for Canada on Monday.

The immigration of Russian Hebrews is being turned from the Argentine Republic to the western United States.

Serious fighting is reported in Cuba, and it is said that General de Cadenas has been outmaneuvered by the insurgent leader.

It is announced that Japan has adopted a policy of delay in her foreign affairs, in the hope of getting the support of the Salisbury Government against Russia.

The German Consul at Tangiers has been paid the sum of fifty thousand dollars as indemnity upon the part of Morocco for the murder of a German trader named Rockstron.

As a result of the general elections in New South Wales, the Government have a majority, including the Labour party of thirty-six votes. The Free Trade party will be strong in the new house.

The Bulgarian Government has been making secret enquiries into the murder of ex-Premier Stambuloff, and as a result it is claimed the facts elicited show that the crime was an act of private vengeance.

The Empress of Austria has paid the expenses of the Austrian post, Mme. Johanna Ambrosini, at a German bathing resort for four weeks, and also sent her for four weeks to the mountains of Switzerland.

Germany does not make appropriations to cut down weeds for lazy farmers, but its schools are provided with wall maps representing weeds in their natural colors, and showing how their seeds are scattered. German farmers are taught to make war on all weeds with a minimum of labour.

EEL FISHERIES 250 YEARS OLD

The Curious Trap of the Norman Colonists in Canada Still in Use.

There are eel fisheries on the St. Lawrence River, on the Canadian side, that have been in operation ever since the Norman colonists came to Canada 250 years ago, and are conducted to-day exactly as they were in the days of the colonists. They are the most productive eel fisheries in the world, and are objects of much curiosity to tourists on the St. Lawrence during the early fall season, when the fisheries are in operation.

The sheltered bays and estuaries of the St. Lawrence, with wide, muddy beaches, are where the best eel fisheries are. From high water mark to low water mark on these beaches a wicket fence, made by weaving trimmed saplings, about an inch in diameter, very snugly among upright stakes, is set in the mud. These stakes are four feet high and set a foot and a half apart. The fence is made in panels of ten feet in length for convenience in removing and repairing. Each panel is a rough frame of two beams held together by cross-pieces nailed from one beam to the other, and two and one-half feet long. One beam is punctured with holes at a distance to correspond with the space between the stakes of the woven work, and into these holes the stakes are driven. In the parallel beam three holes are bored, slanting. Three braces are run from the top of each panel, the lower ends of the braces being held by the slanting hole in the opposite beam, the upper end of each brace having a hole bored in it which fits over the tops of the stakes.

These panels are wadded to each other at the ends, making a fence across the beach, sometimes 500 yards long. At intervals of four feet a stake is driven into the ground along the fence and reaching high above it. These stakes support a net that is fastened to the top of the fence, and rises to the tips of the stakes. This net, the fence being entirely under water when the fishing is done, is to prevent the eels when coming down with the tide from passing over the weir and escaping. There are various openings in the fence, to which the eels, as they return toward the sea, are led by ingeniously placed wings, which terminate in strong boxes, three feet wide, three feet high, and six feet long.

The eels appear in the St. Lawrence with the tides of late September or early October. If the tide comes in the last week of September the eel fishing will be good for a few weeks, but if it doesn't come until the first week in October there will be only three weeks' fishing, for the eels never run after the third week in October. If the tide is attended with high winds the fishing is always superior. It is no uncommon thing for one of these weirs to capture 3,000 eels in one run, but 1,500 is the average catch. One fall 100,000 eels were caught at the mouth of the Riviere Quello alone. Sometimes the eels are packed in the boxes so tightly that they are with difficulty removed, and the pressure of eels from within has frequently been so great as to spring the heavy planks. The eels at these fisheries are almost uniformly of two pounds weight, although specimens weighing nearly ten pounds have been taken. The eels are packed in barrels whole and salted and in fifteen days are ready for market. The farmers who live along these shores make more from their water front by eel fishing than they do from their farms, although fishing never lasts more than one month.

The Suez Canal.

There are some interesting points in the Suez Canal figures for 1894. The year's receipts amounted to 76,951,000 fr., and, after deducting expenses, interest, and sinking fund, there remains a balance of 40,367,000 fr. The report states that 3352 ships, of 8,039,175 tons, passed through the canal last year, conveying 185,980 passengers. Of these vessels 185 had not previously made the passage, and 3180 passed through at night by the aid of the electric light. The average time of transit was 19 hours 55 minutes. The average tonnage per ship is steadily increasing, and is now 2393. Forty-five passages were made by 11 ships with petroleum in bulk. After speaking of the dredging operations, etc., the report touches on the rise in the rate of exchange with Asiatic countries the greater activity of transports, and the increase of 76,000,000 fr. in the English trade with the Far East. Jute, raw cotton and wool figure in this increase. Australian trade has also improved, especially the export of butter and fruit. The Messageries Maritimes packets will now make one hundred and twenty-six voyages annually instead of 100. Of the 3352 ships using the canal, 2386 were English, 296 German, 191 Dutch, 185 French, 78 Australian, 63 Italian, 41 Norwegian, 35 Russian, 33 Turkish, 28 Spanish, 6 Japanese, 5 American, 2 Egyptian, 2 Portuguese, and 2 Nicaraguan.

THE FIEND'S EARLY LIFE

A WIERD STORY OF MURDERER HOLMES' YOUNGER DAYS.

Born and Bred Among the Hills of New Hampshire—Married When Very Young to a Bright Young Woman—Sudden Disappearance from Home—His Real Name is Herman E. Mudgett—In an Asylum for a Number of Years, He Says—His Arrest in Boston

The following very interesting story of Holmes' early career is reprinted from the Philadelphia Press:—

Up among the hills of New Hampshire, where the sterility of the soil and the rigours of the climate produce a hardy community, inured to toil and noted for the simplicity and spirituality of its everyday life, there developed into manhood about twenty years ago a youth to whom the path of evil seemed to be unknown.

His life was as simple and as commonplace as a plain New England lad could find it bred upon a farm. From infancy up to the period of engaging in life's struggles his associations were pure. The breath of evil had never crossed the threshold of this rustic home. An atmosphere of peace and a spirit of deeply moral reverence pervaded it, and within the shadow of this wholesome influence a character was formed in which it seems almost impossible for the seeds of depravity ever to have been implanted.

By nature the child reared in such surroundings bore the early stamp of piety. His boyhood was especially marked for the absence of the usual mischievous propensities which boyhood is prone to. He was what the community, and particularly the maternal portion of it, would designate a good boy. He had no vicious traits. If report is to be credited, the conduct of his youth was marked by obedience and deference to his parents, and an estimable deportment at the little village school he attended not far from his home.

HIS EARLY MARRIAGE.

As the years multiplied and time drifted by at a lazy pace, the little New Hampshire village took delight in the nuptials which united this promising boy, now close to man's estate, to a bright young woman of that locality. The wedded pair were very young. The groom was little more than 18, and the bride was younger. A new career opened to the young man, who had been the model youth of the place, but at its very threshold he found a heavy obstacle in his path. He was poor.

His life had been spent within the shadow of the old homestead, and his days had been given to toil on a farm. Life presented no opportunities within the narrow horizon of a New England village that promised either advancement or riches, and the soul of this young benedict sighed for other fields. An ambition filled him to become a physician, and with commendable grit and determination he pushed out in the world to win the reward of his hopes. He secured an opportunity to study medicine in the university at Ann Arbor, Michigan, by toiling for his tuition and thither he went.

When he went away full of determination to carve a path for himself in the world he bore the stamp of a homely-clad rustic. He knew nothing of the world, except that he hoped to conquer it. He carried with him only the parting affection, and the blessing of those dear old parents, who, nightly, in the observance of family prayers, invoked the protection of Providence for him when he had gone. He left behind the sweet piety of the home of his birth and boyhood.

HIS RETURN HOME.

After the lapse of an interval, which seemed like an age to a longing wife, the good young man of the New Hampshire village returned to it. He was no longer a homely-clad rustic. He had been transformed. A marked feature of his attire was a silk hat of fashionable shape and his apparel bore a stamp of quality that the New Hampshire hills were not familiar with. Fortune seemed to have cast an eye of favour on the upright youth, and the village was proud to own him.

He went back to Michigan, and again returned to New Hampshire, to settle down to the quiet and respectable occupation of a rural physician. A few years he lived with his wife within the shadow of his parents' home. He had become changed somewhat. From a quiet, reserved, and somewhat proud boy, he became a man of surprising activity, as the later developments of his career give the fullest assurance of, and in many ways became a totally different character.

One day while his wife was about to become a mother, he disappeared from the New Hampshire village as suddenly and completely as a faint star vanishes in the sky. The child was born but the father never came back, and he was

MOURNED AS DEAD.

To-day that father lies pent in a dismal cell in Moyamensing prison. His name is Herman E. Mudgett. This is a true record of the early life of the man who under the name of H. H. Holmes furnishes to the gaze of the world a phase of criminality that is unfathomable. This conspirator and supposed murderer reveals at this period of his life traits of villainy that are appalling. Turning to his parentage, his home life, the traits of his boyhood, and all his early associations, a phenomenon of character presents itself that is hard to analyze.

There is no taint of criminality in the family of this man. His parents show none of the mental phases which criminologists class among the indirect causes of depravity in the development of criminal lines. It is said that if a visit were made to the Mudgett homestead in Gilmanton, N. H., and enquiry made among all the traceable connections of the family of the man now imprisoned pending the investigation of desperate crimes, nothing would be met with but pious, God-fearing people. It is inexplicable that a man guilty of the criminal atrocities that are laid to the account of Holmes, whose right name is Mudgett, should have such a family origin.

A THEORY.

A theory has been advanced that Mudgett's first step in crime was due to poverty.

In the course of his attendance at medical lectures he must at some time have been obliged to provide himself with a cadaver. It has been suggested that perhaps his first false step was the theft of a corpse from a graveyard, and that under evil influences he may have been led into an undertaking to swindle insurance companies by the substitution of dead bodies. Once started in the path of crime, he was unable to extricate himself, or, perhaps, still goaded by pecuniary necessity, he plunged deeper. The depth to which he has gone, the authorities are now desperately trying to discover.

In the New Hampshire village to-day where Mudgett was born his identity with the man now imprisoned under the name of H. H. Holmes is doubted by some of the old residents. It is said that his father, who is bordering on eighty years of age, believes him, even at this time, to be dead.

The disappearance of Mudgett from his New Hampshire home fifteen years ago has a sequel. One stormy night in November last a stranger climbed the frozen hills near where the village lies and hastened to the door of a cottage. The night was dark and cold, and the stranger was given shelter. It was Mudgett. Within the cottage at which he called were the wife of his youth and the child he had never seen, since grown to be a stout lad.

He said he had been incarcerated in an asylum as a pauper lunatic for a number of years. He had

LOST ALL MEMORY

and all trace of the past through this peculiar misfortune, he said, when by some inexplicable circumstance his reason and his memory returned to him in an instant, and he was brought back to himself. The return of his faculties was like the flash of a light, he said, and it brought him back to the old days when he left his New England home.

His wife, who had become divorced, but who had not remarried, was overwhelmed by the surprise, it is said, and became hysterical with joy. The strange story of the sudden stroke of insanity was implicitly believed, not only by the long-deserted wife, but by the people of the village, Tilton, in which she was living last November.

After relating this story, Mudgett declined to accept the hospitality of his wife's home on that cold and gloomy night, when he returned as suddenly as though a meteor had dropped from the sky. He said he must hasten to the village of Gilmanton, to see his parents. He left that night, and the next time he was heard of he was in Boston. He was fleeing from arrest and was searching for a hiding-place when he visited the home of his deserted wife and son. He was subsequently traced to Boston, where the detectives finally closed in upon him, and brought him to this city during the investigation of the Pitzel insurance conspiracy. The irony of fate overtook him. If he had divined to no one his intention of visiting his old home in New Hampshire, he might have been secure there to-day, hiding from the world, where he was only known as Holmes. But he told his associates in the West where he was going, and he was tracked there by the officers of the law.

THE MICROBE FIEND.

There is a Russian Doctor Who Finds the Air Contains 400,000 Germs to the Cubic Yard.

It seems nowadays that when a scientist desires a little recreation or to fill in some spare time, he polishes up his microscope, sharpens his pencil and begins a vigorous search after microbes. His hunt is always sure of being successful—judging from past results—no matter where he looks for them, for they have been found in clothing, books, carpets and furniture, while in the mouth and throat of every human being they are said to exist in incredible numbers.

The latest contributor to the rapidly growing mass of information regarding microbes is a Russian bacteriologist, Dr. Maximovitch, whose researches have been made in the rooms and corridors of St. Petersburg hospitals. The cold weather which freezes the Russian capital during more than half the year seems to have had a favourable effect upon the fecundity of bacteria, judging from the figures given out by this learned scientist.

It is a matter of common belief that the air of habitations contains an extraordinary quantity of microbes, but a quantity which varies continually, for when the air is perfectly still the number may be reduced to almost zero. But when the air was agitated and filled with dust by dry sweeping and dusting, Dr. Maximovitch found that it contained about 400,000 bacteria to the cubic yard. He therefore concluded that there must be even a greater quantity of microbes where the dust came from the floor. That his theory was correct is shown by the startling results of his investigations.

In the rooms which were exceptionally well cared for and swept daily the doctor found in the floor from 11,000,000 to 34,000,000 microbes per square yard of surface. In the neglected corridors, however, and those which were cleaned at longer intervals, the scientist discovered that there lurked 290,000,000 of these "critters" in every square yard. A gramme of dust (about three-tenths of an ounce avoirdupois) taken from these latter rooms contained, so the doctor asserts, at least 66,000,000 microbes.

It is reassuring to know that most of these microbes are harmless, but after comforting the reader with this statement, the Russian savant again alarms him by saying that in this hospital dust many microbes of tuberculosis and pneumonia were encountered, and that there is every reason to believe that such and other contagious diseases may therefore be transmitted through the medium of the impalpable dust which floats in the atmosphere.

Self-Respect.

Mr. Drinker—Waiter, another bottle, say, waiter!

Waiter—Yes, sah!

Mr. Drinker—Say-ar-is my nose getting red?

Waiter—Y-e-s, sah. It is, sah; sorry to say, sah.

Mr. Drinker—Hum! That won't do. Never do at all. Send out and get me a yachting cap.