THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Earl Spencer is the guest of Lord Aberdeen at Ottawa.

Mr. Justice Fournier, lately of the Supreme Court, is dead.

The Ottawa City Council has reduced the number of tavern licenses from 71 to 66.

Mrs. Buchanan, widow of the late Hon. Isaac Buchanan, died at Hamilton, aged 70 years.

At Monday night's meeting of the City Council of Guelph, Ont., the rate of taxation was struck at 25 mills.

Mr. O. F. Botsford, druggist, of Queen street west, Toronto, took his life by shooting himself on Saturday.

Mr. George Johnson, the Dominion statistician, has nearly completed all arrangements for taking the census of Manitoba this year.

The Cornelius Vanderbilt special, consisting of three cars, ran from Windsor to Niagara Falls, over the M. C. R., 111 miles, in 103 minutes on Thursday.

The Government has offered a reward of $500 for the arrest of "Almighty Voice," the Indian who murdered Sergt. Colebrooke, of the Northwest Mounted Police.

Owing to the money for the Militia camps not having been voted at the late session of the Dominion House, no camps can be held this year until the end of August or the beginning of September.

Constable Tinsley, of Brockville, who figured in the shooting tragedy at Brockville last March is to be presented with the Sanford gold medal by the Royal Canadian Humane Society, as a reward for his bravery.

Mr. Aemilius Jarvis and Mr. C. A. B. Brown, of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, left Toronto on Friday afternoon to meet the representatives of the Lincoln Park, Chicago Yacht Club, to decide on the date and place of the coming race between the Chicago and Toronto boats.

Lord Aberdeen proposes to present to Gatineau Point Roman Catholic church a new bell weighing one thousand pounds in appreciation of the service rendered to Lady Aberdeen at the recent accident that nearly resulted fatally. He has presented the three men who rescued Lady Aberdeen with twenty dollars each.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The "wheeling craze" is on the wane in London among the leaders of society.

The Marquis of Donegall and Earl Poulett are both in the Bankruptcy Court.

April returns of the British Board of Trade show an increase in imports of $7,350,000, and in exports of $5,850,000, as compared with April, 1895.

It is now stated that Baron Hirsch did not leave the Prince of Wales a million pounds, but ordered his I.O.U.'s for that amount to be destroyed.

It is understood in London that several of the directors of the South Africa Chartered Company will resign unless the resignation of Mr. Cecil Rhodes is accepted.

Members of the court circle at London assert that the Queen's health justifies the hope that she will be able to perform the duties of her position for a dozen years to come.

Two Philadelphians are making a proposal to the London, England, County Council to take over all the street railway lines and replace them with an electric system.

Referring in the House of Commons to the proposed fast Atlantic service, Mr. Chamberlain said that the negotiations with the Dominion Government were not yet completed.

The report that Mr. Cecil Rhodes and Mr. Alfred Beit have resigned is confirmed; but it is stated that the South African Chartered oCmpany has refused to accept the resignations.

The extradition of William Turner and William Dunlop, the two men arrested in London on the charge of having stolen jewelery from Mr. Burden, of New York, was granted on Friday.

Sir John Evans, Treasurer of the Royal Society, has accepted the presidency of the British Association for 1897, and will preside at the meeting of the association in Toronto next year.

Growing interest is taken in the approaching marriage of Princess Maud of Wales to Prince Charles of Denmark. The Royal family will put off their mourning for Prince Henry of Battenberg on the day of the ceremony.

The President of the Local Government Board, Mr. Henry Chaplin, in the House of Commons, promised to communicate with the Dominion Government to bring about more frequent inspection of the children who immigrated to Canada.

In the House of Commons Mr. Walter Long, who has charge of the Cattle Exclusion bill, stated that he could not accede to the request of the Dominion Government to appoint a commission to investigate the condition of Canadian cattle.

The Marquis of Northampton, who owns the greater part of Clerkenwell, squalid district, a vast polytechnic in- is building, in the heart of a desperately stitution, in which the humblest classes may obtain, without charge, mental and physical recreation.

The suit of Mrs. Langtry against the Union bank of London to recover the value of jewels belonging to her, and obtained from the bank on an order alleged to have been forged, was settled out of court yesterday, the bank paying ten thousand pounds.

UNITED STATES.

Preparations are now under way in Newark, N. J., to send a filibustering party to Cuba.

An international yacht race will be sailed at Toledo, beginning on the 24th of August.

Fire did $60,000 damage to several business houses and property of the Salvation Army at Elyria, Ohio, on Thursday.

The death list of the victims killed by the Cincinnati explosion was increased to eleven. Several persons are still missing.

The annual report of the American and Canadian ship canals show that last year the "Soo" canal had the largest volume of business in its history.

In the United States Senate on Friday the bill for the erection of a bridge across the Detroit river was postponed until next session.

The wife of Oscar Lyons, a farmer living near Mayfield, Ky., a few days ago had five children at a birth, all of whom are doing well and likely to live.

The fishermen of Dunkirk, N.Y., are complaining of the free admission of Canadian fish into the United States, and are agitating for legislation to make fish dutiable.

James B. Duke, president of the American Tobacco Company, and a number of its directors have been indicted at New York on a charge of having formed a trust or monopoly of paper cigarettes.

J. Watson Hildreth, convicted at Rome, N.Y., of murder in the second degree for train-wrecking, was sentenced to imprisonment for life. His compaions, Platt and Hibbard, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the first degree, and were sentenced to imprisonment for forty years.

It is stated that President Cleveland, through Secretary Olney has informed the Spanish Minister at Washington that the United States will not permit the execution of the men taken on the steamer Competitor on the sentence of a court-martial. Intense irritation prevails in Spain, and a serious outcome of the action of the President is looked for.

Reports from the United States continue of a by no means satisfactory character. The exports of gold this week have so far produced no monetary disturbance, and this is regarded as an earnest of general confidence in the commercial and financial outlook. But with a few exceptions goods appear to have been largely over-produced; stocks are heavy, and many factories and workshops are on short time; the exception being an increase in the demand for boots and shoes in one district. A slight advance in price is reported in cottons and print cloths, but the average of prices all round is a shade weaker. The trade situation is not as good as it was a year ago, but there is a marked advance in bank clearings.

GENERAL

The Spanish Government has declined the Pope's meditation in Cuban affairs.

Negotiations are in progress between Japan and Russia looking to joint action in Corea.

The French excavators at Delphi have unearthed a life-sized bronze statue of a bearded man of the date of 500 B.C.

It is understood that the sentences passed upon the Johannesberg Reformers will be reduced to a small fine and imprisonment.

St. Petersburg society is agitated by the order of the Czarina forbidding ladies in waiting and servants in the palace from smoking.

Two correspondents of New York papers have been expelled from Cuba on the ground that they calumniated Captain-General Weyler.

President Kruger sympathizes with Colonial Secretary Chamberlain, and is convinced that he was quite unaware of the intrigues going on in Africa.

The advance of the Imperial troops for the relief of Buluwayo has been cancelled beyond Mafeking, on Earl Grey's statement that the back of the rebellion has been broken.

Earl Grey, who is in Buluwayo, says that the back of the Matabele rebellion is broken, and he hopes all disorder will have been crushed before the arrival of the Imperial troops.

A Gwelo despatch says that it will be impossible for the Rhodes column, en route from Salisbury to relieve Buluwayo, to leave for three weeks owing to the Shangani district being infested with rebels.

The Czar and the new Shah have exchanged telegrams of sympathy, the Shah declaring that it is his first duty to foster and develop the friendly relations which bound his beloved parent to the Russian Imperial family.

Immediately after the death of the Shah, the heir apparent, Muzaffer-ed-Din, was proclaimed Shah, and was recognized by Great Britain and Russia. There are great fears that the late Shah's eldest son will dispute Muzaffer-ed-Din's right to the throne.

Herr Strobach, anti-Semite, has been elected burgomaster of Vienna, in place of Dr. Leuger, who resigned at the request of Emperor Francis Joseph. Herr Strobach announced that he would resign at the proper moment in favor of Dr. Lueger.

A despatch from Shanghai says that the Russian Council threatens to forcibly seize a stretch of the foreshore of Chefoo, to which Great Britain has a long-standing claim. The British Minister has protested against the threatened seizure, and it is understood that China also objects.

It is rumoured that the young Norwegian explorer Estrup, whose body was found some time ago in a snow-filled ravine, died by his own hand as the result of an agreement with Lieut. Peary, the American explorer, the loser in a game of chance between the two having to commit suicide.

When Li-Hung-Chang was received in audience by the Czar he presented his Majesty with the order of the Double Dragon, studded with large brilliants, on behalf of the Emperor of China, and he also presented, on his own behalf, two bronze vases, more than two thousand years old.

King Humbert has donated four hundred thousand francs to the families of the soldiers killed and wounded in the African campaign, and one hundred thousand francs to the Red Cross Society for the benefit of the wounded.

While the Duke and Duchess of Saxe-Meiningen were traveling incognito in Italy they were held up by brigands near Rome, and robbed of fifty-five lire (about eleven dollars). The brigands two in number, were subsequently captured.

M. Courtois, an ex-police official in Brussels, Belgium, was arrested for the murder of Mme. Herry. A woman whose husband was some time ago imprisoned for defamation of Courtois character dropped dead when she heard of his arrest.

PRACTICAL FARMING.

OLD TIME HAYING.

In by-gone days the hay field was the great campaign ground for the farmer's annual plan. There he made his largest successes and established his records. It was there that his final measure was taken by his neighbors and fellow-workers. The contests with the scythe were as spirited as those with the sword, and much more innocent and beneficent. What pleasanter spectacle was ever born of toil than that of a stalwart team of mowers bearing down upon the rich burden before them with steady and equal swing and swish, their broad backs at the same angle, with every stroke a responsibility for which an account would be expected, throwing up with each forward swing of the blade fresh spoil from its dewy bottom, and adding it with workmanlike precision to the fast lengthening swath.

Many a man that the world knows of to-day has cut such a swath in his youth, and, when the grass was cleared away he found that he had conformed with special credit to all the canons of the craft, has experienced a deeper satisfaction than he has been able to derive since from his largest successes in the pulpit, at the bar, or in the counting-room. The musical "ting-a-ting" of the whetstone applied to the scythe will still sometimes float through the chambers of his soul to the exclusion of more pretentious sounds. Even the birds would acknowledge the gentle challenge. The wood thrush and its hermit cousin would respond with their most inspired efforts, and sometimes a belated bob-o-link would rise from his dewy ambush and pour forth his glorious treasures of song in token of appreciation and good fellowship.

The valuable lesson of doing one's best was there taught and learned. He was a sorry fellow indeed, who would not catch the spirit of emulation or yield to the influences of his environment, and his confessed lack of self-respect marked him for avoidance. There were thoroughness and precision in the work, and even grace was not lacking. The strokes had to be as true as those of a university crew, with this difference to be borne in mind, that if they failed to come up to the established standard, the raked-off field disclosed the disgraceful record to the observation and criticism of the whole community. With such discipline behind them, is it any wonder that so large a proportion of the country boys made successful men, freshening and strengthening every service in life with ability and steadfastness, and occupying with credit and distinction those broader fields not bounded by woodland and stream.

FEEDING CALVES ON SKIM MILK.

My way of feeding calves is this: Feed whole milk one week, then partly skimmed, gradually lessening the proportion of whole milk till by the time the calf is twelve days old it is all skimmed, writes C. P. Goodrich. But it is new and sweet and warm, having been, immediately after being drawn from the cow, run through separator and fed at once. As the cream is taken from the milk a little oil meal is added, dissolved in hot water. Two tablespoonfuls to a calf per day is sufficient. At first it is better not to feed as much as that From six to eight quarts of milk a day is given to each calf, according to the size and age. It is given in two or three feeds a day. Three feeds are better than two, only the noon feed has to be warmed. To avoid that trouble we usually feed but twice, morning and night, when the milk is warm from the cows. As soon as the calf will eat oats and bran it has all it will eat. Clover hay is fed. This skim milk feed is kept up till the calf is seven or eight months old. Fed in this way calves make a very large growth but do not become fat. This is just what we want for a dairy calf. We do not want to feed fattening foods, such as corn or Timothy hay. We do not want them to get the beef habit if we desire them, as cows, to turn all their food into milk and none into beef.

If we were feeding calves of a beef breed or beef type and were intending them for beef production we should feed somewhat differently. Whole milk would be fed longer—till the calf is from four to six weeks old. Some corn would be fed in addition to oil meal, oats and bran as soon as it would be eaten, and no objection would be made to Timothy hay. In fact I would want to make the calves fat, as well as grow fast. We used to think that the only way to raise good beef animals was to let the calves run with the cows for six or eight months, but we found that those fed as I have described by the time they were a year old were nearly, if not quite, as good.

VALUE OF A SET OF FARM SCALES.

Most farmers realize to a certain extent the value of a set of farm scales But few seem to think the value equal to their original cost. In many instances they have more than paid for themselves the first year.

A farmer sold seventy hogs to a shipper. Before delivering they were weighed upon the farmer's scales. When weighed upon the buyer's scales there was a discrepancy of over 1,200 pounds. After investigation it was found a 1,000 pound weight had not been counted, which would have amounted to $56.50 (at $5.65 per cwt., the selling price) and would have been lost but for the previous weighing.

Another farmer sold five cows to a local butcher at 3 cents per pound, guessing their average weight to be 900 pounds. When delivering them a neighbor induced him to weight them upon his scales. Their average was found to be 1,130 pounds, a loss of 130 pounds to each cow, or a loss of $19.50 upon the whole number.

Then there is a great advantage in being able to tell the rate of grain when fattening stock and when selling potatoes, hay, straw, grain etc.; from the farm. Guesswork is poor business at best. Competition has placed the price of scales within the reach of the average farmer, and it is his privilege to take advantage of it.

STICK TO GOOD HORSES.

All farmers will not completely abandon horse raising, but if there is to be any profit in the business it will come from the production of horses with good action and compact build. It is worse than folly not to use the best breeding stock. Choice animals, both male and female, can be had at reasonable figures. The offspring of these parents, carefully fed and properly trained, will always be in demand. Competent horsemen look for a gradual improvement in prices, but larger amounts will not be paid for inferior stock. The animals must have merit, and that kind can be raised almost as cheaply as scrubs, after foundation stock is secured.

PROTECTING FRUIT TREES.

Do not fool away your time making decoctions of paint, copperas or any similar compound. Weave together eight laths so they will be one-eighth of an inch apart and fasten them about the tree. This will afford protection from rabbits, borers, sheep, mice and sunscald, and will last a long time at a cost of a half-cent a year. I have used this protection for 12 years and have not lost a single tree. — A. J. Phillips.

DONT'S FOR BICYCLE RIDERS.

A Few Hints Which Riders of the Silent Steed Would Do Well to Remember.

Don't expect to accomplish everything in a day.

Don't be afraid to ride a diamond-frame wheel.

Don't go into a century run without training for it.

Don't forget that the race is won in the last sprint.

Don't begin to ride for at least an hour after meals.

Don't occupy more than your own share of the road.

Don't drink cold fluids when overheated from riding.

Don't lack confidence in yourself when learning to ride.

Don't lose sight of the fact that you were once a novice.

Don't lose sight of the fact that you must pedal straight.

Don't race until you have prepared yourself for the strain.

Don't think of doing any road riding on your racing machine.

Don't pass a wheelman in distress without offering assistance.

Don't ride so long that you return home thoroughly exhausted.

Don't put all the force of your pedaling in the downward push.

Don't wait until you become tired before turning about for home.

Don't rush out of the road before you know how to ride properly.

Don't blame the other fellow for every collision you happen to be in.

Don't forget that others have as much right on the road as yourself.

Don't ride more than a mile at a time if a greater distance tires you.

Don't try to do too much at the start particularly if you are a woman.

Don't allow your leg to get perfectly straight at any time while riding.

Don't have your saddle so far to the rear that your position is not easy.

Don't jump off your wheel and throw yourself down on the damp grass.

Don't forget there are instructors who will make a competent rider of you.

Don't think you are entitled to any more of the road than any other rider.

Don't go out on a long run without being prepared for accidents to the wheel.

Don't think you can get a high-grade wheel for anything but a high-grade price.

Don't forget that in a collision between a wheel and a wagon the wagon never suffers.

Don't drink the common drinking water in the different towns you pass through.

Don't drink cold water. Gargle the throat and rinse the mouth with it when thirsty.

Don't lose sight of the fact that the bicycle is a great developer of physical beauty.

Don't permit a feeling of nervous apprehension to affect you when learning to ride.

Don't be afraid of the man who pulls out ahead of you at the beginning of the race.

Don't make any sacrifice to secure lightness of the wheel. Lightness means less rigidity.

Don't fail to remember that those ahead cannot hear you coming unless you ring your bell.

Don't imagine you are an expert until you can manage the wheel without putting your hands on the bars.

THE HUMAN EYE.

You are either left-eyed or right-eyed, unless you are the one person out of every fifteen who has eyes of equal strength. You also belong to the small minority of one out of every ten persons if your left eye is stronger than your right. As a rule, just as people are right-handed, they are right-eyed. This is probably due to the generally greater use of the organs of the right side of the body, as, for example, a sportsman, using his right arms and shoulder, uses his right eye to sight his gun, thereby strengthening it with exercise. Old sea captains, after long use of the telescope, find their right eye much stronger than the left. This law is confirmed by the experience of aurists. If a person who has ears of equal hearing has cause to use one ear more than the other for a long period, the ear brought into requisition is found to be much strengthened, and the ear which is not used loses its hearing in a corresponding degree.

LEAP YEAR.

The leap year which is with us is, however, to a certain extent peculiar, since another will not occur for eight years. Such an interval has occurred twice before in the history of Scotland, and only once in the history of England, and two centuries will elapse before it occurs again. The last year of the present century, 1900, will not be a leap year, but 2000, the last year of the succeeding century, will. The year 2100, will again be a common year, so that the next period of seven consecutive common years will be between 2096 and 2104.

The rule by which this seemingly arbitrary interference with an established order of things is regulated is comparatively simple, but its history is in many respects both curious and interesting. As every one knows, the earth revolves around its axis, and also travels round the sun, the one revolution causing the alternation of day and night, the other that of the seasons. From the earliest times men have made use of both these series of changes as a means of reckoning time, and had there been a simple numerical relation between them there need never have been any trouble with leap years and such devices.

Unfortunately, however, this is not at present the case. The number of revolutions which the earth makes when it goes once around the sun, instead of being a whole number, is a number and diamond stars that lit her rich red hair. a fraction or, in other words, the earth goes round the sun in 365 days, 5 hrs., 48 min., and 46 sec., or 365.2422 days. This is not, however, discovered in a day. Various guesses were made at the proper length of the year, and calendars were drawn up in accordance with them. But in the course of time the error accumulated, with the result that the seasons changed places, and the vernal equinox, instead of remaining at a fixed place in the calendar, moved backward or forward, according as the approximation was in excess or defect, and extra days had to be intercalated or omitted to set things right.

By the time of Julius Ceasar the Roman year, which consisted of 355 days, had worked loose by three months, so that the winter months had been carried back into autumn. In order to prevent such confusion in future, with the aid of Sosigenes, he fixed the length of the year at 365 1-4 days, or three years of 365 days, followed by one of 366. At the same time, to bring back the equinox to its proper place, he intercalated ninety days into the current year of 355 days, making it 645 days—probably the longest year on record. This was the Julian calendar, and to it we owe to this day the leap year which comes every fourth year.

But the approximation on which the calendar was based, though much more accurate and convenient than any that had preceded it, gave too long a year by the difference between 365.25 and 365.2422, the error amounting to a day in 128 years. In the course of the centuries the equinox gradually receded toward the beginning of the year. Ceasar had fixed it on March 25; by the time of the council of Nice, held in 325, it fell on the 21st of March, and by 1582 it had receded to March 11. In order to restore the equinox to the position it occupied in 325, when the council of Nice had drawn up regulations for the fixing of Easter, Pope Gregory, in 1582, directed ten days to be suppressed, and as the error was found to amount to three days in 400 years, he laid down that in future the last year of every century should be an ordinary year, unless it is divisible by 400, in which case it was to be a leap year. Thus 1900 will be an ordinary year, but 2000 will be a leap year.

Pope Gregory's correction gives an average year of 365.2425 days, or twenty-six seconds longer than the true year. These odd seconds will amount to a whole year in 3323 years, and it has been proposed to allow for this error by providing that the year 4000 and all its multiples, shall be common years. But this would be pedantic foresight, and it is unnecessary to discuss the question whether the year 4000 ought or ought not to be a leap year. In ages yet to come, when the friction of the tides has so retarded the rotation of the earth that 365 days make a year, leap years will be unnecessary. But that is a still remoter contingency, and in the meantime Pope Gregory's calendar is likely to remain in its present form.

BOERS AND ENGLISH.

An Instance of the Hatred of the Boers Toward the English.

The hatred of the Transvaal Boers toward the English seems to be even stronger than the similar sentiment which the North American Indian once cherished toward the white man.

A traveller in that part of the world —himself an Englishman—relates that as he was passing through the Rand district he sat on the seat of the Boer driver of a stage-coach. The vehicle was drawn by a team of sixteen mules, and the Boer had the assistance of a Kaffir at the reins, while he, the Boer, held the whip.

The Englishman noticed that the Boer never touched with his whip any of the mules except one poor little creature, the leader on the whip side. This poor creature the Boer constantly lashed, though he seemed to be doing his work well enough.

At the slightest pause, or at any sticking in a rut or hard pull, away went the lash at this one little mule, until the Englishman could stand it no longer.

"Why do you whip only that one poor little mule?" he asked.

The Boer smiled indulgently.

"Oh," he answered, "he's von Englismon. I lick him for de whole lot—dat's fun!"

There was really nothing more for the traveller to say, under the circumstances. He could only feel a stronger sympathy for the unfortunate "Englis" mule.

SPITEFUL.

I cannot understand why my husband should give me a finer present every year we are married.

I suppose he does it to compensate you for growing old.