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.

Repairs are being made to the Rideau rifle range.

Immense tracts of prairie land in Alberta are burning over.

Mr. A. Dawson has been appointed Police Magistrate of Winnipeg.

The Cataract Power Company offer to supply Hamilton with water for $13,000 a year.

Michael Wakeham, a stovemounter, of Hamilton, committed suicide by cutting his throat.

Lord Aberdeen has consented to open the Central Exhibition at Peterboro on the 22nd of September.

A number of female employees of the Canadian Colored Cotton Company at Hamilton are on strike.

The Canadian Express Company has secured connection with all points on the Erie and Huron Railway.

Mrs. Jones, of Brockville, has sold her famous herd of Jerseys to Mr. Hartz of Prince Edward Island.

The grain, root and hay crops in Port Hope and Peterboro' districts are reported as giving an excellent yield.

The peach crop in the district about St. Catharines will be a failure. Other fruits are generally abundant.

The by-law appointing Mr. E. G. Barrow City Engineer, at a salary of $2,000, was passed by the Hamilton City Council.

Engineer George H. White, of the T. H. & B., was killed near Welland by his engine being thrown into the ditch.

Winnipeg City Council has abandoned its intention to asphalt certain streets after advertising for tenders, and now the city is threatened with suits by contractors.

Mr. Ballantyne, of Stratford, after a visit to Manitoba thinks that the outlook for dairying in that Province is very good.

At St. Catharines the family of Mr. S. H. Mighton had a very narrow escape from the fire which destroyed the dwelling.

Winnipeg aldermen are dissatisfied with the census figures and will ask the Dominion Government to do the work over.

Manitoba's wheat crop, according to The Nor'Wester, will not equal last year's, a good deal of the grain being damaged by rust.

The 50th anniversary of the marriage of Sir Charles and Lady Tupper will be celebrated by a golden wedding on October 8.

For the first time on record the work of the Dominion Supreme Court is completed up to date, and all the judges are in readiness for the October lists.

The reports of forest fires in British Columbia state that many of the mining towns are in danger, and already immense loss has been caused to the farmers.

A pair of high-bred horses have been presented by a friend in Dublin to Lady Aberdeen, who so narrowly escaped drowning in the Gatineau, to replace the team lost in the accident.

Mr. John S. Middleman, of Birmingham, is in Ottawa for the purpose of interviewing the Government on the subject of the immigration of juveniles to this country.

The Montreal rolling mills, which were closed down for some time, have been restarted, and some four hundred men, who were beginning to feel the pinch of poverty, have found employment.

It is reported that Chief Archibald Skirving, of Ingersoll, will be appointed to the provincial detective service, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Provincial Detective McKee.

Mr. T. H. Lawry of Hamilton has entered an action for $10,000 damages against Mayor Tuckett and the Passmores, who recently assaulted him, alleging conspiracy on the part of the defendants.

Mr. F. A. Knapp, a Prescott barrister, is in Ottawa to interest the Minister of Marine on an ocean steamer which he has invented, which, he says, can make the voyage between the Labrador coast and England in twenty-seven hours.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Sir Peary Anderson, assistant Under-Secretary, in the Foreign Office, is dead.

The Cunard Steamship Company have ordered three 5,000-ton steamships to be built at Belfast.

Mr. Charles Dickens, son of the deceased novelist, died at Kensington from paralysis.

A doctor reports a case of cholera in South London. The officials are examining into the facts of the case.

The diseases of animals bill and the land rating bill, passed by the Imperial Parliament have received the Royal assent.

It is stated that the Imperial Government intends calling upon the Chartered South African Company to pay an indemnity for the Jameson raid.

The new Burmah railway loan of two millions and six hundred thousand pounds was placed on the market in London and subscribed for twenty times over.

Complaints are being made that the Martini-Henry ammunition of 1896, English issue fails to come up to the standard; but it passed the inspection of the Imperial Government.

The Queen, through United States Ambassador Bayard, has sent an expression of her gratitude to the citizens of Ocala, Fla., who recently planted and dedicated a magnolia tree to her Majesty.

Mr. Balfour announced in the House of Commons on Wednesday that he feared there would not be time this session to pass the Deceased Wife's Sister bill, but that efforts would be made for the passing of the Irish Land bill.

In spite of strong pressure brought to bear by Sir Donald Smith, the Imperial Government has finally refused to permit the Ulster Steamship Company to erect on the live stock wharf at Belfast a building in which to slaughter Canadian cattle.

Kansas City banks refuse to pay out any more gold.

Forest fires are sweeping the valleys in Washington Territory with terrible rapidity.

Millionaire John R. Rockefeller has made Cleveland, Ohio, a centennial gift of $1,009,000.

Ten lives were lost in a flood which followed a cloudburst in Frankfort, Ky., on Tuesday.

Gorman Swain killed his three youngest children and then suicided, near Attica, Mich., on Tuesday.

Herbert C. Spencer, of Lawrence, Kas., has the disease known as mental blindness. He has lost all memory.

"Billy" Ward, the noted minstrel, has become an evangelist. He attributes his conversion to the St. Louis cyclone.

George J. Gould, the New York millionaire, is preparing for an extended northern cruise on his yacht Atalanta.

John McMannus, sentenced 23 years ago to life imprisonment for murder, was liberated from Auburn prison on Monday.

Nicola Tesla, the electrical engineer, claims to have solved the problem of the long-distance transmissions of electricity.

Notices are posted that the Amoskeag Mills, Manchester, N. H., will close in August indefinitely. This will throw out 6,000 operatives.

John C. Howard, Deputy Town Marshal of Tulare, was hanged at San Francisco for the murder of an Italian in a political quarrel.

Etta Robbins, aged 24, has been jailed at Huntington, W. Va., for the murder of a father and his two daughters. She had attempted to kill a whole family.

Car barns, 250 cars and 50 horses, belonging to the Chicago City Railway Co., were destroyed by fire in Chicago on Saturday night, at a loss of $350,000.

The death is announced of Right Rev. Arthur Cleveland Coxe, Episcopal Bishop of Western New York, and a most conspicuous figure in the American church.

A strike of the various organizations constituting the Brotherhood of Tailors in New York has been officially declared. This will bring to a standpoint about twelve thousand strikers.

The system of importing women and girls for immoral and other unlawful purposes is to be investigated by Commissioner McDonough, of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics.

The paralytic stroke which prostrated Mr. Vanderbilt, sr., is said to have been the result of a violent altercation with his son, who persisted in his determination to marry Miss Grace Wilson, who is many years his senior.

The reports of the business agencies in New York continue week after week to be monotonously dull, and the current ones show no variety. The week commenced badly in the speculative markets, owing largely to the outflow of gold and decline in the Treasury reserve. Business—which is always quiet at this time of year—has been considerably further depressed by the general financial unrest. The produce markets have been much depressed; lard especially marked the lowest figures on record. The industrial outlook is gloomy, as owing to stoppage of works in different parts of the country the purchasing power of the people has already sensibly decreased, and no prospect of an early improvement appears to be in sight. The sales of wool this week are the smallest known for years.

GENERAL.

Over 1,300 Spanish soldiers in Cuba are dying with yellow fever.

It is reported at Singapore that native uprisings continue in the Island of Formosa.

Massacres are reported to have occurred at Orde, in which 25 Armenians were killed.

Reports of the crops in France are most favorable compared with the reports of last year.

M. Eugene Spuller, the French politician, journalist, and author is dead. He was sixty-one years of age.

It is estimated that it will take 50,000 Chinese troops to subdue the Mohammedan rebels at Tanrhue.

The British ship Sierra Parima, bound for Rangoon, has been wrecked on the Maldine Islands and all hands lost.

Mrs. Catharine Booth Clibborn, head of the Salvation Army organization in France, was knocked down on Wednesday in Paris, and seriously hurt.

The wife of Carmen Morales, of Monterey, Mexico, was assaulted and tied to a horse. The horse was then made to run away, and the woman was dragged to death.

A Turkish irade has been issued notifying the Council of Armenia and Patriarchate that they will be held responsible hereafter for any treason on the part of the Armenians.

Sir Frederick Carrington reports that his force carried the Matabele position in the Matoppo Hills after severe fighting, in which 80 of the enemy were killed. The British loss was three killed and eleven wounded.

A fire that broke out in Canae, Island of Crete, on Sunday, was mistaken as a signal for the Turks to massacre the Christians, and a panic ensued. Marines from the British and Austrian men-of-war lying off the port were landed before the error was discovered.

POKED HIS NOSE IN.

An experienced telegraph operator can, from listening to the sounds, understand a message on one kind of telegraph instrument without seeing it at all. One day an inspector walked into an office and began to question the clerk in charge. Suddenly a message began to arrive, and the clerk sat down to write it. The message was as follows:—

"Look out for squalls. The inspector is somewhere on the line, and will be poking his nose in everywhere."

The inspector smiled as he listened to the message, while the poor clerk looked quite helpless. His superior, however, went to the instrument and sent back the answer:—

"Too late! He has already poked his nose in here!"

WHAT UNCLE SAM IS AT.

ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT THE BUSY YANKEE.

Neighborly Interest in His Doings—Matters of Moment and Mirth Gathered from His Daily Record.

Gold has been discovered in Woodbury, Vt.

A Connecticut school boy ate 16 mince pies on a wager.

After many years of absence salmon are found in the Delaware River.

Paper boats will soon be put on the market by a Dover, N. H., form.

Cape Colony has ordered young orange trees from California for experimental purposes.

More than thirty-seven thousand girls are engaged in the telephone service in the United States.

The new Connecticut forest map shows that over one-third of the State is given up to woods.

Twelve people sat down at an Etna, N. H., dinner table recently whose united ages were 950 years.

A Burlington, Vt., man gives his baby an airing by towing the child's carriage behind his bicycle.

A New York genius is constructing a bicycle for which the weight of the rider will furnish the motive power.

A poor man of St. Joseph, Mo., has fallen heir to a fortune of $150,000 left by an uncle killed in the St. Louis tornado.

The fact that White Sulphur Springs, Mont., is a splendid antidote for the tobacco habit, is attracting the attention of slaves of the weed.

A flawless stone weighing eight tons, two and a half feet at base and twenty-two feet long, was taken from a quarry in Eureka, Vt., the other day.

Bath now boasts of three canary birds hatched out of one egg. The little fellows were about the size of bumblebees, but are alive and growing.

Otisfield, Me., claims one of the largest oaks to be found in the state. This majestic tree measured 14 feet 7 1-2 inches in diameter, measured one foot from the ground.

Jeremiah Head, a wise English authority, admits the ability of Alabama to produce iron cheaper than England, but thinks freight charges will prevent serious competition.

It has been found impossible to build a lighthouse on Diamond Shoal, off Hatteras, but the Government will put in a lightship at once, and she will be the strongest ever made.

A bear being raised on North Island, Cal., disappeared. The whole island was beat over for him, when the tired party found him asleep in a bedchamber of a residence, where he had gone to sleep on a pillow beneath the bed.

In a lot of old paper stock received lately at a mill in Andover, Conn., was a Bible, the inscription of which reads: "This Bible was used in the pulpit by Rev. Steven West, pastor in Stockbridge, Mass., from 1759-1818."

An Oklahoma editor expresses his thanks for a basket of oranges thus: "We have received a basket of oranges from our friend, Gus Bradley, for which he will please accept our compliments, some of which are nearly six inches in diameter."

Since trees have been extensvely planted in Southern California the rainfall of the region has become much more uniform and favourable to agriculture. But there are other parts of the state in which the sawmills are wiping out the forests.

Mrs. Ebenezer Humphrey has presented to the town of Oxford, N.H., the original warrant issued by King James of England for the collection of the town tax. It was issued to H. C. Gray, King's collector, and is dated December 31, 1671.

Joseph B. Porter, of Canton, Vt., has lately come into possession of a handmade wooden plough which is more than 176 years old and is still in a good state of preservation. It was built in 1720 by Jonathan Belcher, one of the early settlers of Randolph, for his own private use.

Richard Coker, who became famous about thirty years ago as a boy soprano in the choir of Trinity church, in New York, adopted the name of Della Rosa when he grew up and became well known as a baritone. Some time ago he inherited a fortund, and is now living in London.

A Boise, Idaho, man having advertised he would not be responsible for debts contracted by his wife, she retorts that "He never paid any of my bills for my clothes or anything else in the nineteen years I have been married to him. He is now walking around town with a suit of clothes on that I paid $15 for."

An enterprising bicycle dealer in Brooklyn is offering a novel inducement to would-be purchasers. He gives a building lot in a small town ont he Jersey coast to each phrchaser of a wheel. The lot, of course, is neither large nor valuable; but as an advertisement the scheme is said to be working admirably.

The Rev. Henry H. Bogert, rector of the Episcopal Church of the Advent, Bensonhurst, Long Island, declares that, in his opinion, all broad churchmen are dishonest; and in order to give a personal point to his remark he declares further that Bishop Potter and Dr. Huntington, of Grace Church, in New York, are broad churchmen.

At the public library at Macon, Ga., there is a barometer made simply of a thin strip of cedar and a thin strip of white pine, placed together and stuck perpendicularly in a base rest of wood. When it is going to rain, the strips bend down and when it is to be dry they stand rigidly stiff and straight. It is said to indicate coming storms unfailingly.

In a barn at New Bedford, Mass., are two animals which are very rare, in one feature, at least. One of them is a ram, which has four large and well defined horns on his head, and wool and hair growing together on his body. The other is a "billy goat," and he has four horns, two growing together from the top of his head, and arching backward, and the other two growing from the sides of his head and branching sideways.

Miss Maud Davis, who is teaching in Elliotsville, Me., says she has a very nice school house to teach in and some very bright pupils, but the black flies are so thick that she is obliged to build a smudge in the stove and fill the room full of smoke. When it gets too thick they all adjourn to the open air and start a new smudge. She says she has been in the smoke so much that she has taken on a fine colour, like that of smoked ham.

Mr. and Mrs. Jud Luse, living with relatives in Kansas City, are crazy on the subject of religion, and almost physical wrecks because of their refusal to take any food. Ever since they became insane they have refused to work or accept aid, saying that the Lord would provide until the end of the world came. Luse refused to accept the wages due him from the St. Joseph Street Car Company, for which he worked, and the demented couple have starved themselves until they are scarcely able to stand.

NOT TOO CRAZY TO THINK.

Valuable Inventions Thought Out by Patients in Lunatic Asylums.

"A lunatic asylum is about the last place any one would search in for ingenious and valuable inventions, isn't it?" said the resident physician of one of the largest of these institutions, according to a writer in London Answers. "We have a patient in this asylum now who believes he is shut up in the old Fleet prison for the national debt. In the hope of raising the money to pay this trifle off and obtain his release he has for the last two years devoted his poor brains to inventing things. Strange to say, among a host of utterly absurd ideas he actually has produced two which are really practicable. His friends and I have supplied him with such harmless materials as he requires, and he has just finished a simple automatic contrivance for the head of a lawn tennis racquet, to pick up the balls and abolish stooping. It acts pretty well, and I'm so convinced there's money in it that I've advised his friends to secure a patent for him in case he becomes cured. His other invention is of a different kind, being a really efficacious preventive of seasickness.

"It's very simple; two of its components are in every kitchen and the rest in every chemist's shop. I have successfully tested it myself on two occasions recently when crossing the channel in very stormy weather.

MADE HIM A RICH MAN.

"As an instance of the cleverness of lunatics, it may interest you to know that a very valuable improvement connected with machinery, and now in daily use everywhere, was invented by the inmate of an asylum well known to every one by name. As he is now quite cured, and is a somewhat prominent man, I won't mention any details; but his invention, designed and modelled as a diversion while absolutely insane, has since brought him in thousands of pounds.

HIS FLYING MACHINE.

"A lunatic at an asylum where I was once assistant physician invented a flying machine, and had a unique method of suspending it in midair. 'Atmospheric pressure being fifteen pounds to the square inch,' he said, 'I have simply to exhaust all the air from above my airship by an enormous air-pump fixed over the whole deck, and the air pressure underneath will hold the ship up.' I told him he'd need another air pump on top of the first one to exhaust the air that would be pressing that pump down, and another above that, and so on, ad lib.; but he declared he once made a model which worked splendidly. He said: 'It flew about in the room like a bird. Unfortunately, the window happened to be open at the top, and so it flew out, and so I lost it,' he lamented.

"The chaplain of an asylum in the north once told me of a madman there who had a plan for laying a cable round the world in two days. His idea was to send up a powerful balloon to the highest possible altitude, with a cable attached. By the revolution of the earth on its axis the cable, he declared, would be laid completely round the earth in twenty-four hours."

A TIGER'S SPRING.

Thirteen Shots in His Carcass and Killed a Man.

The strength of a tiger in its dying struggle is said to be almost fabulous, writes Miss Marryatt, in a letter from India, and she goes on to describe a very distressing occurrence which took place in the Bandypoor jungle, by which Captain H——, aide-de-camp to the governor of Madras, lost his life.

Captain H——, whilst staying at the bungalow, on a journey to or from the hills, heard that a large tiger which had done great mischief in the neighborhood was still lurking in the surrounding jungle. This was grand news for a sportsman, and he lost no time in sallying forth in search of the beast. According to the statements of the natives who accompanied him, the captain soon found himself face to face with this monarch of the Indian forests.

The tiger was on one side of a small stream, and Captain H—— on the other, and it was afterward ascertained that he had actually fired at the brute thirteen times before it sprang with amazing strength across the stream—amazing, when it is taken into consideration that Captain H—— was in general a most successful shot.

Seizing the unfortunate man before he had time to elude the attack, the brute crushed him so frightfully that he was only carried back to the bungalow to die. A doctor was procured as soon as possible, but nothing could save his life. The tiger must have fallen back almost instantly and died, as he was found on the spot with the thirteen shots in his carcass.

JUST THE THING.

Patron—See here, landlord, look at this sirloin steak your waiter has brought me, just when I wanted a steak in the worst way.

Landlord—Then I think, sir, that that steak exactly fills the bill.

SOME RICH GOLD MINES.

C. P. R. ENGINEER ON THE WEALTH OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

More Railways Wanted—The Need of Coke Felt by the Miners—Crow's Nest Pass Railway—He Recommended the Line for Government Aid.

Mr. P. A. Peterson, chief engineer of the C.P.R., who has just returned to Montreal from a trip to British Columbia, in speaking of mining there, said:—"From what I have seen and heard I consider that British Columbia is probably the finest gold mining country in the world. What the miners need is coke for smelting purposes, and this they have not got. The country is mountainous, the distances to be travelled are long and the rates of transportation are high. I know of one case in which coke was imported from England. I mention this to show what faith there is in the outcome of gold mining in British Columbia. One saw iron pipes and all sorts of material piled up at the railway stations; saw heavily laden waggons at every turn; saw every indication of serious work with the one end in view of developing these great industries. The notable thing about the gold mines of British Columbia is that they are not confined to one section, but are scattered over the country for hundreds of miles.

CROW'S NEST PASS RAILWAY.

"What is needed is a railway through the Crow's Nest Pass, which would tap the finest coal-producing region in the world and by means of which the miners would get their coke, which is indispensable and the lack of which causes them at present to labour under serious difficulties. The lack of such a road retards a development which would be remarkable if all the necessary facilities were provided. But that so much is being done without these facilities is a proof that there is a well-grounded faith in the future of the Province which is destined to become the wealthiest Province in Confederation. The C. P. R. has always been favorable to the idea of building this road, but of course it is also a matter for the Local and the Dominion Governments to interest themselves in. Proper communication and the providing of facilities and necessary material for the prosecution of the several enterprises which are now under way are matters in which the country as a whole is interested, for, assuredly, if the mining industry be benefited by the providing of these things the Dominion as a whole would reap,

DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY,

the benefit of the outlay attendant upon such provision. There are many persons holding back until better facilities be provided. I know several gentlemen myself who have properties, for example, in Rossland, who are simply waiting for the railway in order that they may develop them. The long haulages, the high rate of transportation, and the difficulty of obtaining coke are bound to have their retarding effects, although, as I say, with such facilities as exist remarkable energy and enthusiasm are being shown."

"Is there any chance of the C. P. R. taking the initiative in the building of the railway?"

"Well, the C. P. R. would need assistance in such an undertaking. The Dominion Government has given subsidies to railways which are of general benefit, and it is not too much to say that such a railway as I have mentioned would be in the nature of a national benefit, leading, as it would, to the rapid opening and development of the finest Province in the Dominion."

ANOTHER RAILWAY NEEDED.

Mr. Peterson also mentioned that there was a desire for a railway north from a point contiguous to Ashcroft to the Cariboo country. This undertaking would also, he said, be justified by results, for he was informed that fully one thousand horses were kept on the road drawing freight. People were settling all the time, the country was being opened up and the heavy rates for the transportation of freight told heavily upon the people, who needed simply the encouragement of communication generally all over the line.

Mr. Peterson had hopeful things to report:—The crops looked well and promised an abundant harvest. On the way down Mr. Peterson met two French engineers who had been sent over by French capitalists to report on the gold region around Rat Portage and Rainy Lake. While they did not anticipate their report and while they had not arrived at final conclusions, these gentlemen said sufficient to give Mr. Peterson the idea that they were favorably impressed with what they had seen and that their report was likely to be exceedingly favorable.

BROKE UP THE BAND.

The success of a boy in silencing a street band is recorded by the Philadelphia Record:

A German band of four pieces started to play "Annie Rooney." A crowd of urchins, attracted by the music, soon gathered around. Then a mischievous-looking boy appeared on the scene sucking a lemon. He waited until the band was in the midst of the tune and then squeezed through the crowd, and, standing in the midst of the musicians, began sucking the lemon with all his might.

The effect was instantaneous, the sounds issuing from the brass instruments, became feeble, and at last they ceased altogether, and the four Germans, whose mouths were dripping moisture and all puckered up, made a break for the little fellow, threatening him with terrible punishment. The boy made his way through the crowd, however, and soon showed a clean pair of heels.

STATUE OF VICTORIA.

Queen Victoria is to see herself in bronze. A heroic statue of H. R. H. is to be placed at the junction of Queen Victoria street and the Victoria embankment, Blackfriars—one of the busiest spots of the City of London. The statue is the work of the late C. B. Birch, the English sculptor.