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.

A London West Methodist minister, Rev. Richard Hobbs, denounces skating as "an evil pastime."

The London Y. M. C. A. Hall, costing $30,000, was opened with a New Year's reception.

The Manitoba winter is becoming uncertain. A regular thaw, with rain is reported at Winnipeg.

Tenders have been received at the Department of Railways and Canals for new pier work at Port Dalhousie.

General Manager Hays and other officials of the Grand Trunk inspected the company's new car shops at London.

The cattle which were destroyed at Belford, Que., on November 7 were suffering from tuberculosis and not pleuropneumonia, as reported.

Detective Silas H. Carpenter of the Canadian secret service has been appointed chief of the Montreal detective force to succeed Chief Cullen.

The Hamilton Iron & Steel Company has closed down the smelting works for a while, it having a plentiful supply of material on hand.

Robert Glass, a ten-year-old London boy was rescued from drowning in the Thames by a companion named Lewis Fedderson, nine years old.

The will of the late Lieut.-Governor Fraser was probated at Frederickton. The estate is entered at $11,500, which is bequeathed to the deceased's family and near relatives.

Mr. David MacLaren, of Ottawa, who is going to Australia on a business trip, will make enquiries while there as to the trade requirements of the southern colonies.

Major Kitson, the new commandant of the Royal Military College, Kingston, in company with Major-General Gascoigne, on Thursday morning had a long interview with the Governor-General.

Land Commissioner Hamilton of the C.P.R. says that the sales of Manitoba lands exceed all records the past few months. The demand is good and farmers are paying up well.

The Canadian-Australian Royal Mail steamship line, the vessels of which ply between British Columbia and the Australian colonies, is about to place a new steamer of 4,250 tons register on the route.

Word has been received from London announcing the serious illness of Lieutenant-Governor Kirkpatrick. He will undergo an operation in a fortnight, and Mrs. Kirkpatrick will leave Toronto immediately to join her husband.

Mr. Gildersleeve, general manager of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company, believes that navigation could be prolonged two or three weeks at each end of the season by employing powerful ice-breakers on the river.

The C.P.R. Company propose to inaugurate their entrance into Hamilton and Buffalo by placing two trains on the road of exceptionally fine workmanship, which will make the journey in very fast time.

Mr. Alex. Abbey, one of the oldest and most respected residents of Port Dalhousie, Ont., died on Sunday, aged 85. He had lived in Port Dalhousie and followed his occupation of shipbuilding for upwards of half a century.

Sir James Grant, who was physician to the Princess Louise during her residence in Canada, and who recently was granted the honor of a long interview with her Majesty, says he places no credence in the report in a New York paper as to the alarming state of the Queen's health.

There is a movement on foot among a number of Toronto sporting men to make a pool for the purpose of sending Champion Jake Gaudaur and Eddie Durnan, Ned Hanlan's nephew, abroad. It is proposed that enough money be raised to send the pair to England, and probably Australia, and give them all the backing they want.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Sir Charles Tupper has postponed the date of his departure from England for Canada until February 4.

Sir Alexander Milne, Admiral of the British fleet, is dead. He was ninety years of age.

Lord William Beresford met with a serious accident on the hunting field last Wednesday, and now lies in a precarious condition.

It is believed that the question of closer relations with the colonies will occupy a portion of the Queen's speech at the opening of the Imperial Parliament.

There was a large meeting held at the Mansion House, in Dublin on Tuesday afternoon, at which resolutions were passed demanding that the Imperial Government remedy the financial injustice done to Ireland.

Senator L. de Soveral, the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been made Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George for the services he rendered to Great Britain in the settlement of the dispute between England and Brazil as to the ownership of the smaller of the two islands of Trinidad, which Portugal, as arbitrator, awarded to Brazil.

UNITED STATES.

The Bank of Superior, Wis., has closed its doors.

Isaac Zuker, convicted in New York of arson in the first degree was sentenced on Wednesday to thirty-six years in prison.

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher on Sunday morning fell and broke her hip. As she is eighty-four years of age her recovery is doubtful.

Newark, N J., is in darkness. Both sections of the People's Electric Light and Power Company's plant have been destroyed by fire.

President Cleveland has pardoned James Burwell, alias Charles Sherwood, convicted of bringing counterfeit bills into the United States from Canada.

Contracts for the construction of two Japanese cruisers were signed at Washington by representatives of the Union Iron Works of San Francisco and Cramp & Sons.

H. C. Henry, the millionaire contractor, has secured the contract to build the approaches to the Great Northern Railroad tunnel through the Cascade Mountains. It will take six months to do the work.

The steamer Commodore cleared at the Jacksonville, Fla., Custom house on Thursday evening with a cargo of arms and ammunition for the Cuban insurgents. Clearance papers were issued notwithstanding that a formal protest was made by the Spanish Consul.

Commercial reports from the leading business agencies of New York speak of general quiet in all lines of trade. In addition to the usual holiday dullness, depression has been somewhat added to by the numerous failures of banks and loan companies. These failures have been principally in the West, and the result has been to create a feeling in some quarters of distrust and suspicion which the circumstances are not considered to warrant. The number of commercial failures for the year just ended have been more numerous than in any previous year except 1893.

GENERAL.

M. Clemenceau, the distinguished French statesman, is seriously ill.

Plentiful rains are reported to have fallen over large areas of India.

The Porte has received serious news of military disaffection in the provinces.

One of the Coreans who was recently arrested at Seoul on the charge of attempting to restore the King to the palace from the Russian Legation is reported to have been executed without a trial.

The trial of Sofia of the alleged assassins of Stambuloff, formerly Premier of Bulgaria, was concluded on Wednesday. Two of the prisoners were found guilty, and given short sentences. The third was acquitted.

Senor Canovas del Castillo, the Spanish Premier, says that Spain would not accept the intervention of the United States in Cuba nor introduce reforms until the rebellion is confined to the eastern portion of the island.

Gen. Weyler, in a very boastful interview asserts that the Province of Pinar el Rio has been subjucated by him, and that the insurgents are lacking in valour and other elements to make the uprising a success.

The wife of the insurgent Col. Mirabel arrived at Key West, Fla., on Wednesday. She claims to have come direct from the insurgents' camp, and declares that Gen. Maceo, whom she has been nursing, is not dead, but is in a fair way of recovery. The Junta in New York does not believe the story.

ENGLISH POETS.

Peculiarities of Some of the Men Who Have Written Immortal Verse.

Wordsworth declared that for nearly 20 years his poems had not paid for his shoestrings.

Byron wrote his celebrated poem of the "Bride of Abydos" in one night, and without mending his pen. The pen is still preserved in the British Museum.

Campbell received £60 for his "Pleasures of Hope." Everywhere it was read and admired, and it secured to the poet a permanent reputation at the age of 21.

England as a nation was satisfied from 1623 to 1664, that is, a period of 41 years, with two solitary editions of Shakespeare, which probably did not together make 1,000 copies.

Cowper was often inclined to melancholia, and it was during one of these fits of depression that he wrote "John Gilpin." He suffered acutely from religious mania, and on more than one occasion attempted suicide.

Dr. Watts stood about five feet nothing in his stockings, and his low stature did not lend any advantage to his appearance in the pulpit; yet the gravity and propriety of his utterances made his discourses efficacious.

Pope was, from his birth, of a constitution tender and delicate, but he always displayed remarkable gentleness and sweetness of disposition. He never outgrew his weakness of body, and as a means of support for his light frame he constantly wore stays.

Gray had he chosen, might have been the Poet Laureate during his life-time. The title was offered him and declined. His famous "Elegy," written in a country churchyard, appeared in 1750. Prior to this he wrote an ode on "The Death of Mr. Walpole's Cat."

The remuneration which Dryden received for his poems could hardly be called munificent. A document is still preserved wherein a publisher admits having a little consignment of 7,500 verses in his possession, and agrees to pay the 250 guineas on his completing 10,000 verses, with an extra bonus of £50 should there be a second edition.

Felicia Dorothea Browne was the maiden name of Mrs. Hemans, and before she was 15 she published a volume of poems. Her married life was not a happy one, and though the marriage was never formally dissolved, yet when her husband was obliged by ill-health to seek a more genial clime, she remained at home to educate her children, and they never met again.

Tom Moore cleared £30,000 by literary work, and fond though he was of his wife, he left her too often in her country cottage while he enjoyed a round of dissipation, in London. His universal popularity was the cause of his ruin, and he was a spendthrift to the last, having nothing to leave his wife at his death, but his diary in manuscript.

There are many stories told of Lord Tennyson's peculiar gruffness of manner. On one occasion he was at a garden party, and somebody offered him a sandwich. He was laboriously munching this when the hostess rushed up to him, with anxious inquiries about his health and entertainment, "Thank you, madam," he said, "I am eating a sandwich." Then after a pause and a bite—"Are your sandwiches always made of leather?"

CANADA AND HER COINAGE

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CURRENCY OF THIS COUNTRY.

How Dominion Notes are Secured—Increase in Their Issue Since Confederation.

The basis of Canada's currency is, of course, gold, and it is very interesting to trace the history of our coinage for the last hundred years.

Prior to 1795 all sorts of coins were circulated in British North America. In that year, however, a step was made in the direction of a revision of Canadian currency to remedy the evils resulting from the coins in use being reduced in weight, debased in value, and composed of every variety of pieces peculiar to all countries trading with this continent. An act was therefore passed which fixed a standard of value founded upon the average intrinsic worth of the gold and silver coins of Great Britain, Portugal, Spain, France, and the United States. Subsequently various acts of the Legislatures established a valuation for these pieces at which they passed at mercantile transactions.

It was not until the year 1858 that the Province of Canada adopted dollars and cents, pounds, shillings, and pence as the only moneys of account. The Federal Parliament in 1871 passed the act respecting the currency which gave to the provinces of the Dominion a uniform currency, the single gold standard adopted being that of the British sovereign of the weight and fineness prescribed by the laws of the United Kingdom to pass current at $4.86 2-3. Provision was also made that, until otherwise ordered, the gold eagle of the United States of the fixed weight of 10 pennyweights and 18 grains troy and of a settled standard of fineness should be legal tender in Canada. By this same act provision was made for a gold coinage for Canada, but special Canadian gold coinage has not been minted.

SILVER AND COPPER COINS.

During the recent agitation in the United States with regard to the coinage, it transpired that there were very many people in Toronto who thought that our currency was bi-metallic, and that either gold or silver was legal tender for all debts. As a matter of fact, of course, our coinage has a gold basis, the silver and copper coins being subsidiary coinage for the purpose of making change and for use in small transactions. A twenty-five cent piece of silver is really not worth twenty-five cents in gold, nor is a penny worth two cents in gold. But by act of Parliament silver coins are made legal tender up to $10, and the minor copper coins to 25 cents. So that ten dollars of a debt only can be liquidated in silver should the creditor object to taking more.

AS TO GOVERNMENT NOTES.

In addition to the coin used the Canadian Government issue Government notes. These were first issued in the Province of Canada under the law of 1866. The authority was limited to $5,000,000 on general accounts and $3,000,000 to replace notes of banks surrendering their power of issue. It was also provided that 20 per cent. of the notes issued should be covered by specie reserve and the remainder by Government debentures, so that the security was ample.

When the Dominion was formed the issue was enlarged to $8,000,000; any amount in excess of $5,000,000 to be covered by 25 per cent. in specie or in specie and Canadian securities guaranteed by the Imperial Government and for the remainder in unguaranteed bonds issued by authority of Parliament.

In the year 1870 the issue was fixed at $9,000,000, with a 20 per cent. specie reserve, any excess to be fully covered by specie. Two years later the issue in excess of $9,000,000 were required to be covered by specie to the extent of 35 per cent. In 1875 50 per cent. specie reserve was required for $3,000,000 above and beyond the $9,000,000, and excess over $12,000,000 to be fully covered.

In 1880 the law authorized the issue of $20,000,000, to be covered by at least 15 per cent. of gold, 10 per cent. additional in gold or Dominion securities guaranteed by Great Britain, and the remainder in unguaranteed Dominion bonds; any excess above $20,000,000 to be covered fully with gold.

Last year an act provided that the issue may exceed $20,000,000, provided that in addition to any amount required to be held in gold under previous acts a further amount in gold equal to the excess of issued notes over 20 millions shall be held.

NOTES, LITTLE AND BIG.

These notes of the Canadian Government are full legal tender, redeemable in specie on demand, and are of the following denomination; 25 cents, $1, $2, $4, $50, $100, $500 and $1,000; occasionally old issues called provincial notes of $5, $10, and $20 are net.

At the end of 1895 over fourteen million dollars of the Dominion note circulation were in notes of $500 and $1,000. These big bills are principally held by the chartered banks as part of their cash reserves, because under the Banking Act 40 per cent. of the reserve cash must be in Dominion notes. These notes are chiefly used in settlement between the banks.

GOOD SECURITY FOR THE BILLS.

At the end of last year there were held in connection with the Dominion notes specie to the extent of $10,650,702, guaranteed sterling debentures $1,946,667, and unguaranteed debentures $17,250,000. The total thus held amounted to $29,847,369. This was in excess of the amount required to be held by $5,183,368 in specie and guaranteed debentures and $2,250,000 in unguaranteed debentures.

If at any time Dominion notes should be issued in excess of the amount authorized, gold for their redemption is required to be held to the full amount of the excess.

The distribution of the specie and Dominion notes to the several banks are, first, the Controller of Currency at Ottawa; second, the Assistant Receiver-General appointed in Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, St. John, N. B., Victoria, B. C., Charlottetown and Winnipeg.

HOW THE MONEY CIRCULATES.

The average monthly circulation of Dominion notes gradually increased from $16,434,385 in 1884 to $21,397,750 in 1895.

The average monthly circulation of Dominion notes for the year 1895 was $13,834,666 in $500 and $1,000 bills. For $50 and $100 notes it was $232,300; for $4, $5, $10, and $20 notes it was $369,439; for $1 and $2 notes it was $6,743,555, and for fractional notes $217,802.

The issue of $500 and $100 bills in proportion to the total of last year was 64.6 per cent; of $2 and $1 notes 31.5 per cent., and of all other notes 3.9 per cent.

During the decades between 1884 and 1894 the issue of Dominion notes increased 26.2 per cent.; the issue of notes of $500 and $1,000 increased from 57.8 per cent. to 63.1 per cent., while notes of other denominations decreased relatively to the total issue.

Notes of $1 and $2 show an absolute increase of $1,160,288 or 21.5 per cent. in 1894, and of $128,507 in 1895 compared with 1894.

Practically the increase relatively to the whole issue has been confined to those denominations of notes which are held by the chartered banks.

BICYCLES FOR THE INSANE.

The Wheel Recommended for Patients at Several Asylums.

One of the most notable instances of the efficacy of the bicycle as a remedy for insanity is found at the Michigan State Asylum for the Insane in Kalamazoo. The patients at this asylum take daily rides on the wheel, and parties of from five to eight lunatics in charge of two attendants are likely to be met with on any of the country roads running out of the city. To the uninitiated it would seem odd, indeed, that the regulation country highway should be chosen for the wheeling parties in preference to the well-kept roads of the town. There is a reason, however, and a very good one it is, too. The rougher the road the more necessary does it become for the lunatic cyclist to devote a great deal of attention to his machine. The result is that while riding in this way he has no opportunity to think of the peculiar mania which may afflict him, and his mind takes on a healthier tone, his thoughts are those of a man with an unclouded brain, and he becomes for the time being, practically sane.

The Kalamazoo doctors say that they have never yet heard of a course of treatment which causes self-forgetfulness in a degree even approaching that produced by the use of the bicycle. Instead of moping in the asylum, or taking forced exercise about the grounds, the lunatics who are considered fit subjects for instruction on the wheel are taken every week from the Kalamazoo asylum on their wheels to Long Lake ten miles distant, or to one of the chain of smaller lakes not so far from the asylum. A plentiful lunch is taken along, and the occasion becomes a veritable picnic.

Of course, on trips of this sort some tires are bound to be punctured, the gearing is sure to get out of order, and more or less other mechanical difficulties encountered. The result of all this is that the lunatic has no time at all to become melancholy. The exercise, the fresh air, the unwonted cause for thoughtfulness on new subjects, all contribute toward wooing the return of reason.

The State Asylum for the Insane at Middletown, N.Y., is another institution that considers the bicycle a means to render help to the insane. The wheel has been used at this asylum for some months, with the most gratifying results. It is found that it promotes docility among the patients, who enjoy the excursions, and invariably induces a far healthier condition of the mind. It also acts as an incentive toward good behavior on the part of others who have not been permitted to ride, the change in their attitudes being brought about by the sight of the keen enjoyment which the lunatic riders seem to take in riding.

Dr. Selden H. Talscott, medical superintendent of this asylum, is an enthusiast regarding the wheel as a benefit to persons of unsound mind. "It is, in my estimation," he said, "beyond question that the bicycle will eventually become a permanent institution in every insane asylum. There is no doubt whatever that the tendency of cycling by insane persons is toward the restoration of reason. Of course I do not mean to say that every crazy person should be permitted to ride the wheel. As a matter of fact, cycling should only be allowed among that class of patients in an asylum known as the convalescent, and others whose mania is not of a violent nature. I venture to predict that within five years there will not be found a medical man with knowledge of insanity and insane people who does not favor wheeling as a curative process."

HAS FORMED AN OPINION.

Lawyer (for the defense, in a murder case)—Have you read anything about this case in the newspapers?

Possible Juror—No, sir.

Have you not publicly or privately expressed any opinion as to the guilt or innocence of my poor, persecuted client?

No, sir. I never heard of the case until brought here as a juror.

Have you formed any opinion in the matter whatever?

Yes, sir, I have.

Eh? If you have never heard of the case until you entered this court-room, how could you form an opinion? Answer that, sir—answer that, and I hope the court will give particular attention to the reply. Out with it?

I have concluded that your client must be awfully guilty, or you would not find it so difficult to get a jury to suit you.

Young was of a gloomy and morbid disposition. One of his tragedies was written by the light of a candle inserted in a human skull.

THE GREAT PARIS EXHIBITION.

Tearing Down to Make Room for the New Buildings—The Hotels.

Although three years and a half will have rolled by ere the opening of the great exhibition of 1900 takes place, the preliminary works have already been entered upon in real earnest, says a Paris correspondent. There is now no doubt that every effort will be made by the authorities to render this world's show even more brilliant than its predecessors, and signs are not lacking to demonstrate that they will be zealously seconded in their exertions by the commercial element and by the public at large. Parisians are never so happy as when their gay city is thrown out into broad relief as the great center of attraction, and they are looking forward with pride and enthusiasm to the date when foreigners will flock to this metropolis, from every point of the compass; when hotels, present and future, will be thronged with visitors; and when the boulevards and leading thoroughfares will be as full of varied samples of humanity as in the summer of 1889, and in the earlier part of last month.

"Il faut souffrir pour etre belle" was the exclamation made to me to-day by more than one person who is already compelled to make the detour owing to the erection of enclosures within which busy ouvriers are now employed.

NEAT PALISADES

surround the whole of the back of the Palais de l'Industrie, as well as the pavilions facing the river and the Jardin des Plantes. The work of demolition has commenced. It seems to be settled that the Palais de l'Industrie will remain intact until the next salon is over, but, in any case, there is quite enough to be done on other parts of the ground until that date. With a view to the removal of the debris, a subterranean operation is now being carried on. The wall of the quay close to the Pont des Invalides has been pulled down, and the earth below is being excavated for the construction of a tunnel, which will run right into the inclosed space, and will be utilized for the conveyance of the rubbish to the lower path alongside the Seine, whereon rails have been laid to facilitate the passage of the light carts which are already shooting their loads into barges moored in a nook almost under the bridge. This afternoon large crowds gathered along the Pont des Invalides and the quay to watch the progress of this work.

This, however, is not all. While preparations have been begun for the work of demolition, pending the erection of new edifices of finer or rather less severely plain architectural proportions, and of a variety of other trifles in the building way, the bridge which is to span the Seine between the Pont des Invalides and the Pont de la Concorde, and the first stone of which was laid by the czar during his visit to Paris, has not been forgotten. The two lines of flags, long since reduced to the semblance of rags, which marked the position which it would occupy have been taken down, together with most of the scaffolding set up on the lowere quays on either side of the river, and now the presence of several lighters, as well as of one or two posts which rise above the water surmounted by

A BIT OF RED BUNTING,

as a warning to the boats that ply up and down, indicate that engineers are taking the matter actively in hand, and that the Pont Alexander Trois, as it is to be called, will soon assume a measure of reality. Here, again, traffic will be somewhat hampered, for very careful steering will become an imperative necessity as the passenger steamers, tugs, and lighters glide up and down the Seine with their fares and cargoes. But on the shining river, as on terra firma, this temporary inconvenience will be borne cheerfully, all keeping their minds fixed on the eventful date and on the wondrous transformation which will convert these banks into a very pretty imitation of fairyland.

A considerable amount of hotel building, in anticipation of the exhibition of 1900 is about to begin. The Wagon-Lits company has bought a magnificent site in the Champs Elysees, and the preliminaries have already been commenced of the construction of a handsome and spacious edifice, which will be fitted up in the newest style. I also learn that M. Ritz of the Savoy hotel, and a London syndicate have purchased a property in the Place Vendome for a similar purpose. Other undertakings of the kind are in contemplation, and I may add that it is reported that the mansion of the Duc de la Tremoille and the adjoining one, belonging to the Comte de la Panouse, both situated between the Rue se Faubourg, Saint Honore and the Avenue Gabriel, and close to the British embassy, are likely to be bought for the erection of a large hotel on the ground which they occupy.

A FORTUNE HERE.

New Marine Motor Which Promises to Revolutionize Steam Navigation.

Charles Algernon Parsons, brother of the noted astronomer Earl Rosse, is reported at Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, to have invented a marine motor which promises to revolutionize steam navigation. The engineering firm of which Mr. Parsons is a member have sufficient confidence in the invention to put their money into it. The motor is an adaptation of the turbine system, and it already is beyond the stage of experiment. A torpedo boat built and fitted with it, and named Turbinia, has just had a successful trial trip outside the Tyne.

For the new system is claimed increased speed, increased carrying power of vessel, increased economy in steam consumption, increased facilities for navigating shallow waters, reduced initial cost, reduced weight of machinery, reduced cost of attendance on machinery, diminished cost of keeping up machinery, largely reduced vibration, reduced size, and weight of screw propeller and shafting.