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.

St. Catharines has voted $200 to the India famine fund.

Hamilton has given work to 400 of the 700 unemployed.

The new directory gives Hamilton a population of 50,000.

Peterson, Tait & Co., have purchased the Beaver Line of steamships.

The bronzes for the Macdonald statue have arrived at Kingston.

The entire force of workmen at the Springhill mines, N.S., is out on strike.

Mr. McEachran reports that hog cholera in Essex is thoroughly stamped out.

The Dominion Type Foundry Company of Montreal has gone into liquidation.

The Hamilton Cattle Company has secured incorporation, with a capital of $24,000.

Mrs. Western, of Hamilton, has invented and patented a bicycle tire that will not slip.

The Ottawa Board of Trade is discussing a resolution in favor of an alien labor law.

The Winnipeg Public School Board has asked the Council for 123,256 for the current year.

Rev. Dr. O'Meara has been appointed Dean of Rupert's Land, succeeding the Bishop of Qu'Appelle.

Brantford's fire loss last year was only $1,528.50. In the last six years the losses were only $20,351.

A Montreal despatch says that the Quebec Provincial elections will be held on the 29th of next month.

The national India famine fund now amounts to $40,000, and a draft for 100,000 rupees has been forwarded to India.

Barrington & Sons, trunk and bellows manufacturers, of Montreal, have assigned. The liabilities are about $75,000.

An epidemic of grippe is being experienced in Ottawa. Sir James Grant says he never knew the disease to be so prevalent.

An increase of $10,000 in the Hamilton Board of Education estimates will be required this year, mostly for teachers' salaries.

Hon. Dr. Borden, Minister of Militia, who was injured in the railway accident near Doncaster, N.B., two weeks ago, is at Halifax.

Rev. Ira Smith, of London, called the attention of his congregation to their duty as citizens to clean the slush off their sidewalks.

Governor Murray of Newfoundland, who it was reported was about to visit Ottawa on annexation business, has gone to England.

The amount of cash contributed in Toronto to the Indian Famine fund from various sources has passed the twelve thousand dollar mark.

Rene Dabin and Fred Corier, two Frenchmen, who had a piggery two miles from Port Arthur, Ont., were burned to death on Wednesday night.

The C.P.R. has declared dividends of 2 per cent on the preference stock and 1 per cent. on the common stock for the half year ending December 31st.

News of a discovery of an enormously rich deposit or copper and gold on both sides of the Canadian boundary line has been reported at Spokane.

Charcoal, the Indian condemned to be hanged for the murder of Sergeant Wilde, it is reported at Winnipeg, may not live till the date of his execution.

The Hamilton Board of Education has a deficit of $20,000, with a prospect of $10,000 or $15,000 more when the Collegiate Institute building is completed.

The governors of the Hamilton General Hospital propose to build a new residence for the nurses and use the present nurses' apartments for patients.

It is intimated that the Dominion Government intends to abolish the office of Deputy Commissioner of Patents, made vacant by the recent death of Mr. Richard Pope.

It is calculated that it will cost about three hundred thousand dollars to repair the damage done to the western wing of the Parliament buildings in Ottawa by the recent fire.

Of the fifteen Maxim guns in the possession of the Dominion Militia Department, some six or seven will be kept on hand for emergencies, and the others will be handed over to the city battalions.

The various Dominion Government departments have been asked to push forward the preparation of the estimates, so that the Government can submit the estimates early, and ask supplies while the tariff is being prepared.

Dr. Selwyn states that he was misrepresented at the meeting of the mining engineers in Montreal. He is a believer in the gold fields of British Columbia, and called attention to their good prospects in 1885.

Secretary Charles Drinkwater of the C. P. R. was attacked by four footpads at Montreal on Tuesday night on his way home. He fought the men as long as he could, but they got away with his gold watch and chain. Mr. Drinkwater received some injuries in the encounter.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Mansion House fund for the sufferers in India will likely reach the $5,000,000 mark.

One horse and 450 sheep from the wrecked steamer Angloman have been safely landed

Prof. Crookes, the eminent English scientist, boldly announces his belief in telepathic phenomena.

The half-yearly statement of the Grand Trunk Railway, issued in London, shows a surplus of £39,000.

The steamer Angloman, reported at London to be ashore on Skerries' Island, will probably be a total loss.

Mr. Thomas Sexton, anti-Parnellite, who resigned his seat in the House of Commons last year, refuses to re-enter Parliament.

The death is announced of Mr. Frank May, who for twenty years previous to November, 1893, was chief cashier of the Bank of England.

Through the collapse of a viaduct on a railroad at Cornwall on Tuesday 12 men fell a distance of one hundred and fifty feet, and were killed.

Lieut-Governor Kirkpatrick, while not yet able to leave the hospital in London, where an operation was recently performed on him, is progressing favorably.

London at present is being flooded with such vast hordes of undesirable Germans, Poles, and Italians, that England may be forced to pass an Exclusion Act.

Returns issued by the British Board of Trade for January show an increase in imports of $7,500,000, and a decrease in exports of $6,900,000, as compared with January 1896.

In the British House of Commons on Wednesday Mr. Samuel Smith's motion for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England was rejected by a vote of 204 to 86.

John Chandler, of London, England, who confessed having forged bills of exchange on Messrs. S. F. McKinnon and Company of Toronto, was on Tuesday sentenced to five years' penal servitude.

Mr. Balfour stated on Thursday that the Government intended to make a public holiday for the occasion of the Queen's diamond jubilee, but it was not proposed to make the day a permanent holiday.

Mr. Curzon stated in the British Commons that the reported massacres at Crete were unfounded. There had been some small disturbances. A report from Canea says 200 buildings were burned, and 5,000 Christian refugees from the city have been taken on board the British and Greek warships in the harbor.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. Richard Croker is the probable Tammany candidate for Mayor of New York.

The Ohio river at Cincinnati is fast verging on the danger line, which is 45 feet.

William Waldorf Astor owns 4,000 houses in New York city, and has an income of more than $6,000,000 a year.

It is stated that after the inauguration of President McKinley, Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland will start on a tour around the world.

Warren W. Linney, after reading Hamlet's soliloquy, thrust a dagger through his heart in his mother's home in Chicago, on Wednesday.

Capt. McGiffin, who commanded the Chinese warship Chen Yuen in the battle of the Yalu River, committed suicide at New York, on Thursday.

Two armed robbers in Chicago on Tuesday night held up and robbed Antoine Boenert in his steamship ticket office in La Salle street. They got $2,000.

A mail clerk on a Santa Fe train near Los Angeles, Cal., on Tuesday shot one burglar and wounded another. They had attempted to "hold up" the train.

The cattle dealers of Buffalo and vicinity are jubilant over the abrogation of the quarantine of Canadian cattle, and large importations are being made.

The Michigan lumbermen are opposed to the proposed two dollars duty on the white pine, as in the event of its imposition they fear Canadian retaliation.

Albert Hess of Ipswich, Mass., disappeared suddenly with $7,000 of other people's money. He sent his wife word to return to her parents in Toronto.

Armand Castlemary, an actor, fell dead at the close of the final scene of the opera "Martha" at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, on Wednesday night.

Mrs. G. W. Baldwin, nee the Hon. Lady Carey, granddaughter of the late Duke of Brunswick, has filed suit for divorce at Houston, Texas. Her husband is a wealthy citizen of Houston.

Business during the week has been a little more favorable; prices are more steady and there is a better demand for labor; in the Eastern and Middle States particularly works are reported to be opening up. A demand for pig iron at Pittsburg is also noted. Hemlock and leather are more active, with an advance in values. While a lower range of prices is reported for a few articles, the general return quotes figures as being mostly firm, and in many lines as higher and advancing.

GENERAL.

The death of Sir John Bates, Thurston, Governor of the Fiji Islands, is announced at the age of 61.

It is reported that there is a revived feeling in Hawaii in favour of annexation to the United States.

It is said that Dr. Nansen, the Norwegian explorer, is much annoyed when he sees himself referred to as a Swede.

Two men were killed and nineteen seriously wounded in a strikers' riot at Galileo Ferraris, member of the Italian Senate and a well-known electrician is dead at Rome.

A British troopship has been despatched from Malta with a fortnight's food for twelve hundred Cretan refugees.

Wm. Donna, the American artist, it is reported in Paris, will be promoted to be an officer of the Legion of Honour.

An extensive forgery of Bank of England twenty-pound notes is taking place on the Continent of Europe. The imitation is excellent.

It is officially stated that 2,750,000 persons are now employed on famine relief work in the different districts of India where famine prevails.

The distress in the Jubbulpoor district of India is appalling. About 120,000 are now receiving Government aid, and by the month of May the number will be doubled.

Archduke Otto of Austria, nephew of Emperor Francis Joseph, and heir presumptive to the throne of Austria, is at present visiting Emperor William in Berlin.

The building of the trans-Siberian railway will give the convicts of Siberia such facilities of escaping that they will likely be transferred to the Island of Saghalien.

The German Government has ordered the prosecution of several university professors who recently signed a declaration in favor of the striking dock labourers of Hamburg.

It is now stated that the recent disturbances in Crete were stirred up by Greek agitators, that the Christians were the aggressors, and that war between Turkey and Greece is very probable.

The despatch of the torpedo flotilla from Greece, under command of Prince George, has caused the greatest enthusiasm among the populace, and a feeling of grave alarm among the European powers.

Prince Bismarck, when asked to give an academic opinion on arbitration treaties said that he did not believe that in questions of vital importance nations would stake their existence on the decision of an arbitration court, which had no means of enforcing its judgment.

LIFE OF A LONDON SWELL.

His Newspapers Are Scented For Him, and His Laundry is Done in the South of France.

In the matter of how the young swells of London live, I have been told some things, have read others, and have seen a little myself from the outside, of course, writes a correspondent. Recalling the general impression received from these various sources, it seemed to me that here was a chance for the publication of a little handbook, under such a title as "How to Spend Money," or "The Science of Extravagant Living," or "The Art of Being Rich." I knew a London boy once—three years out of Oxford—who caused his morning papers to be scented with the perfume of iris. It is hard to believe this, perhaps, but it is literally true nevertheless. He went even further than this, did my Oxford lad. Observe: I was talking with him one morning about this very subject of the daily press, and he said, pressing an electric button with his foot:

"I'll show you now how to read the papers."

His valet brought the papers, scented with iris, as I said, but ironed stiff and crinkly. The advertisements

HAD BEEN CUT OUT,

And the sporting articles marked in blue pencil. We started of with this as a beginning, and he told me how he lived. Says he:

"In the matter of tobacco, now, I prefer the cigarette to anything else. I get mine from Constantinople twice a week, and, by the way, my cigarettes are scented with Haschis—very difficult to obtain, believe me—medical order absolutely necessary, and all that. There are very few dealers, however, who can be trusted to mix it with the tobacco so as to produce the maximum enjoyment with the minimum of harm. Here," he continued, "is my bedroom." We went in. "Bed," he remarked, laconically, stabbing his index finger toward the huge piece of furniture; "nothing extraordinary, only the sheets, pillow cases and night gown are silk—silk's a bit heavy, too," he observed, running his figner over it. "Change 'em every night and have then sent to France, South of France, to be laundered, quite the thing with us chaps now-a-days to send linen and things to France. Let's go see my blooming tailor."

We rode to his blooming tailor's in his blooming brougham, and

HE CALLED MY ATTENTION

En route to the devices and appliances of the affair. Pneumatic tires, electric lamps—on the inside, mark you—electric foot warmers, a row of a dozen ivory knobs, like the stops on the consol of an organ, by which he communicated with the coachman, a small dressing case, cigar box, card case, mirror, flask, and the like.

As we alighted at the tailor's—I suppose it was in Bo d street somewhere—he said:

"We," that is his class, you understand, "visit our tailor's daily—great institution the London tailor. See now," he piloted me about the great instituion, "separate departments for the trousers, waistcoat and coat. Coatman never makes trousers, waistcoatman never dreams of making coat, and see here, model of my figure, life size, so as I can judge effect myself."

Coming from the tailor's we went to lunch at his dining club, which he and his "set" maintain. For the pair of us—and we had nothing lavish, either—the check was four pounds, $20. He told me the butter, even the cooking butter, came from Paris, and that the asparagus, we were in October, was the same description and had been procured by the same methods as that eaten by the Czar during his Paris visit in October last.

THE DIVER'S HEAVY DRESS.

The dress of a fully equipped diver weighs 169 1-2 pounds and costs about $500. It is made up among other things of 8 1-2 pounds of thick underclothing. The dress itself weighs 14 pounds, and the heavily weighted boots weigh 32 pounds. The breast and back pieces weigh 80 pounds, and the helmet 35 pounds. The greatest depth at which a diver can ordinarily work is 150 feet, though there are rare instances of work being done at a depth of 210 feet, where the pressure sustained is 88 1-2 pounds to the square inch. It is not generally known that the present system of diving was first suggested by the action of the elephant, which swims beneath the surface, breathing meanwhile through its trunk, which it holds above the water.

NOT LONG IN SUSPENSE.

The boy who was toiling up the long and devious hill turned hurriedly when near the top to make way for a fat and frantic wheelman who had lost control of his machine.

Say, bub, yelled the bicyclist, how far is it to the bottom of this hill?

I don't know exactly what the distance is, the boy called out after him, but you'll be there in about four seconds, and there's a crick at the bottom of it.

A PLAGUE'S REVELATION.

WEIRD OLD CUSTOMS OF AN INTERESTING PEOPLE.

The Stricken City—Sad Consequences of the Prejudices of Caste—The New Serum Is Reported to Be Working Wonders.

The traveller who comes to Bombay just now is at first greatly surprised, says a letter from Bombay. The plague here! Fifty deaths a day! The people panic stricken! Where is all that?

The streets of Bombay from the port are full of life. The coolies in white with their red turbans, the women in red or rose-colored saris and with silver and colored glass bracelets on their arms and ankles, and rings on their fingers and toes, move about carrying different objects in sparkling copper pots. They present an air of gayety with their bright costumes in the warm sunlight. Jugglers installed under the tall barridas which line the avenues beat their drums and play their bagpipes. All that noise and all those gay colours give a poor idea of a city stricken with a plague.

But that is only the first impression. Further on in the Hindoo town, the bazaar and the business streets are almost deserted, that is, for this city where the population is usually so dense; but to a European even accustomed to crowded cities, the streets here seem to be full of people. In the little shops where they burn sandal-wood and incense, the strong odor of phenol predominates, and in front of the houses from which dead bodies have just been taken the sidewalks are marked with large daubs of a reddish mixture of which chlorine forms the basis.

IN THE NATIVE QUARTER.

along the seaside, and in the docks the plague appears to hold itself circumscribed, and the houses giving out a strong odor of chloride and phenol are becoming more and more numerous. Colaba, a half English quarter, is almost deserted, and the troops that were garrisoned at Marine Lines, are now camped by the seaside in the neighborhood of Black Bay.

The money market is closed, so are the factories, and during the last month about 250,000 inhabitants have fled from the city.

Every evening at the railway station there is a fearful crowding of people who missed all the trains of the day. The throng of coolies gathered around the entrance forthird-class passengers hold out their money and implore the ticket man to take their fares. The poor people, shouting and rushing, endeavor to pass their money over the heads of those in front of them. Although repeatedly driven back, they never fail to return to the charge. Groups of women and children, carrying red and white packages and copper pots so highly polished that they look like gold, wait at the office in expectation of the lucky ticket that will enable them to fly from the city. Then, when the last train is gone, they camp in crowds around the station stretched upon the ground. In picturesque disorder, with their baggages lying in heaps, they wait for the next morning's train.

The bubonic plague, as it is called, is still a mystery. Its origin is not known. At first it was attributed to dates that came from Syria and to corn that came from the interior. The dates were destroyed and the corn was thrown into the sea; but the plague still persisted and increased every day. One morning a large number of rats were found dead. Then the pigeons and chickens were attacked. After that a man took the disease. Then others caught it, and they

ALL DIED SUDDENLY.

A high fever with a little swelling under the arms or in the groin, is all there is to it, but the man dies in forty-eight hours. The victims are becoming more and more numerous.

It should be remembered that in the hospitals, thanks to the inoculations by the new serum, more than two-thirds of the patients are cured. But the idea of the mixture of castes and of contact with people who are considered inferior keeps the Hindoos from the hospitals. They prefer to remain at home and be attended by quacks or sorcerers, and they die rather than renounce their ideas of caste. Moreover, both before and after death the religion of the Parsees, who form a considerable portion of the population of Bombay, orders queer sorts of practices which it would be impossible to permit in the hospitals, and that is why the Parsees refuse to be taken to them.

In the house of a Parsee, who was taken sick, yesterday, I saw his wife washing a white garment. Only a member of the family can do that washing. The wife, who knew that her husband was attacked by the plague and consequently doomed, was preparing his death robe in a silent and tearless resignation that made me shudder.

The sick man lay upon a low bed. He seemed greatly opressed, and was perspiring freely. Bandages were on his neck. With difficulty he murmured, "Pane, sahib!" ("Water, sir!") Then he closed his eyes and seemed to be asleep. They all sleep that way until the end.

In the narrow streets funerals pass along. Hindoos carried on litters and with their faces painted, grimace, a livid smile under the red paint on their cheeks. The body is covered with garlands of jasmines and roses of Bengal. In front of the bier a man carries a vase which holds the embers with which he will light

THE FUNERAL PILE.

and behind the body a number of men march, beating crotalums and tambourines. Then follow the friends, each one carrying a piece of wood, which he will place upon the funeral pile as a last homage to the dead.

Here, too, are the funerals of the Mussulmans. The body is carried on a bier covered with red stuff streaked with gold. The bearers and followers all sing a sort of melopaeia that is almost gay. They move along very slowly toward the Mussulmans cemetery on the border of the sea, where the dead man will sleep forever under the tall banyans and the flowery jasmines.

But here comes the funeral of a Parsi. On a litter covered with white draperies the dead man, clothed in white is carried by eight men also clothed in white and wearing white gloves. The Parsi custom exacts that the dead must be brought to the Tower of Silence by these men, who form a separate caste and cannot take part in any public ceremonies without having first gone through eight days of purification; and they remain in a house specially built for them. Now, on account of this epidemic, they are obliged to wear gloves, which they throw into the fire, just as they do their clothes, after having undressed the body, in order to leave it absolutely naked. "Naked he came into the world, and naked he must return into dust."

At the Tower of Silence the vultures in a few hours leave nothing of the body, but the skeleton, which the burning sun will soon reduce to dust, and the dust itself will be carried away by the first monsoon.

A long file of men in white march two by two, bound to each other, as a sign of union, by a white handkerchief. Very slowly they follow the bier, exactly at forty paces distant from it. They pass on to the Tower, where the vultures, gorged just now, await their feast while sleeping in the sun.

To-day, accompanied by Mr. Snow, the Municipal Commissioner of the city of Bombay, I visited the hospital where the sufferers were cared for. Outside of the city for a considerable time the wagon brought us through

A WRETCHED LOCALITY.

and then through the grounds in the neighborhood of the factories. In the shade of the great banyans and palm trees delicate and pale flowers grow, rose and mauve color. Hedges constellated with tender violets and jasmines on the old walls alternate with the roses, and give out their perfumes. We reach the Parel suburb, at the end of which, in a great field, stands the hospital for the plague stricken. It is a huge iron framework covered and surrounded with mats that are burned as soon as they become impregnated with microbes. The air in the place is constantly renewed, and, in spite of 30 degrees Centigrade, which in this season is the average temperature here, it was almost cool.

All the sick in the hospitals are coolies of the lowest Hindoo caste. On beds with thin mattrasses the unfortunates lie. One after the other the doctor who was attending them showed them to us. The nurses uncovered them. At first nothing remarkable appeared upon their bronze, naked bodies. Some had bandages under their arms and in the groin. It is the hardened gland in the neck, under the arms, and in the groin that causes all the trouble. The patient gets a fever which makes him sleep, exhausts him, and quickly kills him.

In the ward which we had just passed through there was only convalescents or mild cases. At the end of this room there was a little emaciated creature. He was so thin that his body in the bed was hardly outlined under the covering. He was asleep as we were passing by. He came from one of the districts ravaged by the famine. To fly from the other evil he came here and caught the plague. They woke him up, and he opened his enormous and superb eyes. He seemed delighted when he woke up, or it might be that he was still in a half dream. He had the laugh of a happy child, and comically he shook his little shaved head, on the top of which was the Mussulman queue that looked like a corkscrew. Then immediately he dropped to sleep again. The doctor said he was getting better. His fever was diminishing, and he was as good as saved.

In a room further on there were four very bad cases. Delirium held one in agony. He constantly called for help in a hoarse voice that was gradually becoming more and more faint. The attendants held him. Another was

GNASHING HIS TEETH,

and a third was motionless; perhaps he was already dead.

Further on in houses made of bamboos and mats the Hindoos who refuse the assistance of any doctors who are not Hindoos are isolated. One old man was there. To the swelling under his arms a sort of white paste was applied. He was delirious, and looked at us with a vague and vacant stare from which all intelligence seemed absent.

Still further on was a Hindoo woman that was brought there the day before, along with her husband, who died this morning. She was singularly beautiful, with a delicate, pale face and blue-black hair. Her arms were ornamented by bracelets, and golden rings hung from her ears. For an instant she opened her beautiful large eyes, and looked at us like a wounded gazelle. Then, with a painful sigh, she turned toward the wall, making her bracelets jingle as she moved. She still wore her blue tcholi. A variegated covering was thrown over her, and beside her bed, was a collection of boxes and pots of polished copperi that looked like toys. As I said, she was marvellously beautiful, not yet mared by the disease, which she caught only yesterday. She slept there quietly, more like some figure in a fairy tale than an unfortunate plague-stricken creature doomed to die in a few hours through the ignorance of her Hindoo doctor.

At last we left that sad hospital. No Sister of Charity was there to bring a little consolation to those sufferers whose black eyes, with their vague and delirious expression, still haunt me. I felt an indescribable feeling of sadness of the idea of not being able to give them any relief or to express to them even one word of hope in their very difficult, but soft and musical language.

We returned to the city by another road, which brought us in front of the field of funeral piles. In the blue air of the night, which comes on very quickly under the giant banyans, thick columns of red smoke lighted up a corner of the sky. I stopped in front of the house of the Parsee whom I had gone to see the day before. He was dead. In the place where his bed had been incense was burning in a copper vase; and in another copper vase there were flowers, which must be renewed regularly during fourteen days; while in the Tower of Silence, under the blazing sun, his bones will whiten until they are reduced to dust.