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.

The meeting of Parliament will not take place until March 25.

The Western Fair Board of London report a most prosperous year.

Driver Hooper of "A" Battery, Kingston, has fallen heir to $50,000.

Manitoba College students have contributed $92.05 to the India relief fund.

Mr. T. Button of the Matthews House, Stratford, had $350 stolen from his cash register.

The London City Council voted the sum of $500 to the relief of the India famine sufferers.

The Kingston Elevator Company, with a capital of $150,000, has been formed at Kingston.

The Bell Telephone Company is asking the Government for permission to increase their rates.

Four hundred Welsh families from Buenos Ayres are expected to settle in Manitoba in the spring.

A disease has broken out amongst the sheep of Louth Township that baffles the veterinary surgeons.

Coal has been discovered on the shores of the Petewawa, on the Upper Ottawa, and it is said to be in paying quantities.

A small army of men are employed by the Public Works Department in Ottawa clearing away the debris of the recent fire.

A report is current in London that the military authorities at Ottawa have decided to disband the Seventh Battalion.

The Manitoba Dairy Association report that $127,264 worth of butter and $62,000 worth of cheese were exported last year.

Mr. Walter Vaughan of the law department of the Canadian Pacific Railway has been appointed Bursar of McGill University.

The Government has decided to abolish the office of Deputy Commissioner of Patents, made vacant by the death of Richard Pope.

The Caledonian Society of Ottawa proposes to organize a company of kilties, which it hopes in time will be recognized by the militia authorities.

Micheal Brennan, the life prisoner from Barrie at the Kingston Penitentiary, has been taken from the hospital and placed at hard labor.

So many robberies have taken place in Montreal lately that a special guard has been placed on the banks and brokers' offices by the police.

Steps are being taken in Montreal to prepare a testimonial to be offered to Mrs. James A. Sadlier, the well-known Irish authoress, at an early date.

A deputation from the Ottawa City Council visited Montreal and inspected their fire appliances. It is probable that Ottawa will get a water-tower.

It is rumored at Winnipeg that the Dominion Government will hand over to the Manitoba Government all the remaining Crown lands in the Province.

Special precautions are being taken on the Pacific Coast by the quarantine authorities to prevent the entrance of any of the deadly pestilences now raging in the Orient.

Manager Thompson of the Ogilvie Mining Company announces at Winnipeg that all their elevators will be closed owing to uncertainty regarding the tariff changes.

The shareholders of the Bank of Nova Scotia have authorized the directors to increase the capital of the bank from $1,500,000 to $2,000,000 whenever they deem it expedient.

Commutation of the death sentence passed on Sullivan, of Moncton, N. B., for the murder of Mrs. Dutcher, has been asked, and a petition with 2,000 signatures forwarded to Ottawa.

Captain H. L. Covetter, of Savanne, Ont., died on Thursday. He was formerly commander of the steamer Chicora when she was running the blockade to Charleston during the American war.

The Hammond murder trial at Bracebridge came to a conclusion on Friday night at eleven o'clock, when the jury announced, after being out for five hours, that they could not agree on a verdict. They were discharged.

Acting on the advice of his physicians, Dr. Borden, Minister of Militia, will go south for two or three weeks to give himself time to recover from the chaking-up he got in the recent railway accident.

An agitation is on foot in Montreal to provide better facilities for crossing the St. Lawrence, either by building a new bridge or by improving the present Victoria bridge. Government aid is wanted for either project.

The fruit growers of Ontario are threatened with a new pest, a small insect called the San Jose Scale or Bark Louse. This insect has lately spread throughout the nurseries and orchards of Ohio and New York, doing great damage.

Sir William Van Horne, president, and Mr. Shaughnessy, vice-president, of the Canadian Pacific railway, waited on the Minister of Railways on Saturday and opposed the application which the Victoria, Vancouver, and Eastern railway is making to the Government for assistance to build its lines from the coast into the mining regions of East Kootenay.

At the annual convention of the Grand Council, A.O.U.W., great changes were effected in the constitution of the order, namely, the separation of the Grand Council of Canada from the Supreme Council in the United States, the removal of the headquarters from St. Thomas to Toronto, and the adoption of a graded rate of assessment.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. John Burns created a scene in the British House of Commons by attacking Mr. W. W. Astor for his opposition to the new County Council hall. The proposal to erect the hall was defeated.

In the British House of Commons on Thursday Mr. Joseph Chamberlain announced that the Transvaal had presented their bill for indemnity as a result of the Jameson raid. They ask for £1,677,938 3s. 8d., one million being for "moral and intellectual damage".

UNITED STATES.

The great machine bolt trust is reported at Cleveland to have collapsed.

The Merchants' National Bank of Jacksonville, Fla., has closed its doors.

Galveston, Texas, street railway is "tied up" by a strike of the employes.

Over 250 Greeks at San Francisco are ready to leave for Crete when called upon.

Increased activity is reported from manufacturing centres in Eastern Connecticut.

Chief Operator Williams, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, is dead at Pittsburg.

The Great Northern Railway is again blockaded on account of snow and storms in the Cascades.

The Standard Oil Company will, it is said, hereafter pay dividends of 5 per cent. quarterly.

The Iowa branch of the Nevada Legislature has voted down the Woman Suffrage amendment.

Four officials of De Kalb county, Indiana, have been found to be $30,000 short in their accounts.

At San Quentin, Cal., on Wednesday, Chun Sing, a Chinaman, was hanged for a triple murder committed in September, 1895.

Opposite the Leland Hotel, Chicago, Elwood Leidy, of Philadelphia was held up by three men at eight o'clock the other night and robbed of $165 and a gold watch.

Helen Weisenborn is suing the I.O.F. at Cleveland for $1,000 on a policy on the life of her husband who, she says is still living. [illegible] I.O.F. says is dead but whom

The West End Street Railway Company of Boston is advertising in Canadian newspapers for men virtually defying the United States contract labour law.

H. J. Mayham, the New York broker who chartered a special train from Chicago to Denver, in order to reach the bedside of his dying son, failed by four hours. The distance 1,026 miles was made in 18 hours and 52 minutes, the fastest time on record for long distance.

According to the commercial reports from New York there is no actual change in the present condition of business throughout the United States. Among other things unseasonable weather has to a considerable extent militated against trade, and in some directions labour disputes have augmented the depression. On the other hand there is an increase in the iron and steel trades, a better inquiry for wool and cotton goods and boots and shoes, which encourage a hopeful view of the outlook. The mills are reported as having filled present demands, and wool, while more active, has not advanced in price. Prices are stated to be a little better in New York, St. Louis, and Chicago, but no advance has occurred in other directions. Still the general trend of trade is for improvement, however slight. Mercantile collections are reported as slow, and requests for "extensions" are common.

GENERAL.

It is reported that Bolivia will declare war upon Peru.

It is stated that 326,000 inhabitants have left Bombay on account of the plague.

Severe fighting is reported to have taken place between the Spanish troops and the insurgents of the Philippine Islands.

Herr Wagner, a Berlin editor, has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment for having published the statement that the Foreign Office inspired a paragraph to the effect that the Czar was dissuaded from visiting Prince Bismarck by advice from the highest Government authorities.

EIGHT PERSONS BURNED.

An Entire Family Enveloped in Flames by an Explosion of Gasoline.

A despatch from Cleveland, Ohio, says:—The family of Jacob Ciclecz, of 66 Canal street was almost completely wiped out of existence on Friday morning by fire. Eight persons were burned, and it is thought five will die. The injured are at the Cleveland General Hospital.

Jacob Ciclecz, his wife and three children, aged three, two and one years, were in bed. John Ciclecz, a brother of Jacob, arose about 5 o'clock to light the fire. He took what he thought was the kerosene can. Instead he got hold of the gasoline can. He poured it on the kindling and touched a match to the stuff. In an instant there was an explosion. John Ciclecz was hurled to the end of the room, his clothing catching fire. The fire communicated to the feather bed, in which were Mrs. Jacob Ciclecz, the three children and another woman. Jacob Ciclecz was also in the same room at the time of the explosion.

With their clothing all ablaze, the father, mother and the other woman seized the three children and ran out into the yard. Passing workmen rushed to the rescue. They took off their coats and heroically did all they could to extinguish the flames that were consuming the people. Meanwhile Michael Gumbert, who lives at 69 Canal street, and his family put out the flames in the house.

It is thought at the hospital that at least five of the unfortunate people will die.

"KINDNESS IS THE WORD."

What is real good? I asked in musing mood.
"Order," said the Law Court; "Knowledge," said the school;
"Truth," said the wise man; "Pleasure, said the fool;
"Love," said the maiden; "Beauty," said the page;
"Freedom," said the dreamer; "Home," said the sage;
"Fame," said the soldier; "Equity," the seer—
Spake my heart full sadly: "The answer is not here."
Then within my bosom softly this I heard:
"Each heart holds the secret—'Kindness' is the word."

SEWING GIRLS OF PARIS

HOW THE POOR SEAMSTRESSES OF THE GAY CITY LIVE.

The Hard Struggles for Existance—The Wages They Receive, and What it Costs Them to Live—Some Sad Instances of the Life They Are Forced to Lead.

There are 65,000 sewing girls in Paris. Of these 5,000 receive a living wage. Of the remaining 60,000 a large number live with parents or friends, whose combined efforts prolong an honest existence that is never far removed from starvation. As many more, "after suffering all that can be suffered in this world," give up the unequal contest and by slow stages enter that female throng which patrols every Paris street by night, not as maidens and not as wives. A few find their way into the Seine.

The work of these sewing girls is almost entirely taken up by those who deal in ladies' costumes—in dressmaking and linen wear, in embroidery, millinery, artificial flowers, and feathers. The work lasts eight months at most. When the pleasant days of summer come and the rich go off to mountain or seashore, the mountain girls, too, are at leisure. Only they must live until the autumn and winter fashions are in demand on what they have saved from their scanty wages. It is for them "the dead season" while others are enjoying life; and they are 20 years old.

Suppose, which is rarely the case, that the young girl earns 4 francs, or 80 cents, a day while work is on. Counting out the Sundays and legal holidays, she has a little less than $20 a month. Of this she must pay at least $2 for her room—very small, up under the roof, and without fire. She must make $2 more do for her washing and the absolutely necessary repairs of her toilet. Then she may succeed in cutting down her total expenses of food and drink to 40 cents a day or $12 for the month. She will thus be able to lay aside $4 a month during the eight months while work holds on, against the dead season. This supposes that she buys nothing new for her own dress, although even the costumes of sewing girls wear out sooner or later. And she must deprive herself of every amusement that costs the least sum of money—of books and excursions, of music and the theatre—the whole year round. It is hard, in Paris, at 20 years of age.

At best, then, these sewing girls reach the dead season with $32 saved up to meet it. As it lasts four months and their necessary expenses go on at the rate of $16 a month, they have a very pretty problem in economy before them. If, as happens to many, they have been earning only seventy cents a day, or, as with beginners, only sixty, the readjustment of their mode of living presents yet nicer difficulties. There are various way of solving them.

In a big shop near the luxurious Opera, toward the end of the dead season, when tourists start up trade by having their dressmaking done in Paris before sailing homeward, a young girl asked for work.

"We have none at present," was the answer.

She turned in silence to go away, when she staggered and would have fallen. She was made to sit down, and the kindly forewoman questioned her closely.

'I am very hungry," she said at last; and then, now that the bounds were broken, she added, blushing: "Oh, madame, it is so long since I have been able to change my linen!"

It is well to know the details of this economy in food which has to be practised by so many young girls that never know what it is to eat according to their hunger. Their first step is naturally to try to get credit from the creamery and bakery. This does not last long, and it only adds painfully to the next year's burden. The lodging house and eating house never give anything on trust. When the credit has run out, retrenchments have to be made, not in the superfluities, but in the necessaries of life. So far the "little breakfast"—the warm mouthful taken in the morning to stay the stomach till the noonday lunch—has counted for about three cents in the day's expenses. Of this, two cents are spent for a bowl of hot milk or of milk and coffee, according to taste, with one cent for a roll or piece of bread.

It is hard for a young stomach to remain empty until noon, but harder things are to come. This is when the noonday meal itself has to be cut down. The glass of cheap wine and the little cup of black coffee, without which even the French poor scarcely think they can eat, go first. If things come to the worst, meat also has to be dispensed with. Then the meal will consist of two cents' worth of bread and a few more cents for hot potatoes or beans—starchy food that is filling and deceives the hunger. And at the very worst, the two cents' worth of bread have to do alone, eaten while walking about that the misery may not be betrayed. Sometimes, for here superlatives are wanting, starvation only marking the limit, the noonday meal is simply replaced by sitting in a public square for half an hour, or, when the weather is bad, in a church.

In the evening, when something must be eaten, the bread is eked out with cheap sausages from the pork butcher, Yr a potato stew, into which a bit of meat is thrown to give it a taste. In this way some of these young girls manage to reduce their expenses for food to 10 cents a day. When hunger gnaws too sharply they can stay the whole day in bed. It is the dangerous time for their youth and inexperience, with the glad summer all around them. They are never so open to the delusions of kind smiles and words of sympathy.

"The weaker ones among us," says one who has had experience, "listen to the demon and fall. I think you cannot be ignorant of this. For us, who are the little tools of the great workshops of Paris, these are secrets."

The strong hold their souls in patience. A young girl was in the habit of taking her evening meal in a boarding house and her luncheon at the shop where she worked. As the dead season advanced the shop reduced the girls to half work and suppressed the luncheon. She made no change, and it was only after two weeks that her failing strength made it impossible for her to conceal that she was eating but once a day. In another shop the girls were accustomed to bring their luncheon with them. One came every day, like the rest, with her little basket. After awhile it was noticed that the basket never had anything in it. Is it a wonder that consumption finds its richest harvest among these girls, who should be as flowers only opening to the joys of life?

Of course, the quick feminine wit finds ways and means out of this slow agony which men would scarcely dream of, just as the woman's endurance holds out longer. Two or three friends will do their cooking together, for this food in common costs less and goes further. Then the big shops pay more attention to their good workers than they once did, and manage to keep many on at half work. Or the employers and forewomen give out their own and their families' clothes to be made at this time; and they allow the poor girls to fill in the workshops the poor little orders they may have got for themselves. Aunts and cousins and friends can pay something for the making of their common gowns, and every little helps. This is even given as the reason why all the women of Paris dress in the fashion. The cheap gowns of the telephone girls are made by the same hands as those of the rich lady who descends from her carriage. Of late years, also, the multiplication of ready-made clothing shops of all kinds increases the chance of earning a pittance in the dead season.

So far it is religious charity that does the most to lighten the burden of these brave young women who wish to remain honest in a city where pleasure and wealth seem to follow the vicious. But the problem is difficult. The fine lady who for a brief half hour comes in contact with a "tryer-on" or a "skirt maker" can hardly be expected to do anything. The employer of labor will continue to pay for work as little as he can. The Comte d'Haussonville of the Academy has set himself to find some remedy, and thinks he has found at least an alleviation of the evil. Time, perhaps, will tell.

THE DEPOSED KING PREMPEH.

Did not Like to Be Deported From His Country—How the British Deal With Refractory Kings.

The British and African Company's steamship Bakona, which has reached Liverpool, called specially at Elmina to take the ex-King Prempeh and his chiefs down to Sierra Leone. She arrived on Feb. 1. With the ex-King were two of his wives, his mother, father, brother and ten chiefs, each of whom had two wives. Of the ten chiefs, six had been princes of Ashanti. Prince Koffi Ente was sent by the Government with the King as interpreter. Prince Koffi Ente is son of the late King Koffi. Prempeh was sent in a surfboat to the Bakona, in charge of Commissioner Kelly and Capt. Parmenter.

The King, when he knew he was going to be deported from his country, expressed his intention to commit suicide rather than suffer such an indignity. He had threatened to jump into the sea, but was well guarded when taken to the ship, and he made no attempt to take his life. Once on board the steamer,

HE WAS VERY QUIET,

and made himself comfortable. His interpreter said the King was not aware that a steamship was so large, and that people could be made so comfortable on board. He took great interest in the fittings of the vessel, and particularly is the engines and electric light.

Prempeh begged hard to be allowed to go back to his country, and promised never to do anything against the English, or, as he expressed it, against the "Gread White Queen." He had no idea that the white men could do such great things as they did. In speaking of this he said he now believed the white man could bring the top to the bottom, morning that he could bring down the sky to touch the earth. He said he was sure, if he got back to his country, he would be very obedient, and would make everybody open up the country to British trade. He was also willing to pay the indemnity the British wanted. The King and his people were in charge of a superintendent of civil police, with a Houssa sergeant and six Houssas.

One of the chiefs gave it out that there was plenty of gold buried in Coomassie, but it could never be found, he said, except by themselves. They certainly had plenty of gold with them.

The King went ashore at Sierra Leone in a

MOST GORGEOUS COSTUME.

The gold ornaments, anklets, bracelets and other articles displayed about him were estimated to be worth a thousand pounds. He also wore a number of charms, the chief of these being suspended round his neck. Probably for the first time in his life he wore trousers. These were of yellow brocaded satin. A white and blue mantle-like cloth was thrown over his shoulders, and he wore leather sandals. He was very cheerful on board the steamer, and seemed sorry to leave it.

A house has been appointed for the residence of the late King and his followers in Freetown. It is understood that he will have more freedom than he had at Elmina, but he will be under the daily observation of the authorities.

Prempeh was received at Sierra Leone by the inspector of police and conveyed to his new quarters, a very large house. Little notice was taken of the King on his arrival at Freetown.

Altogether there were about thirty people in the party. King Prempeh, while on the Bakona, showed he appreciated good wines, but his preference was decidedly for Benedictine.

BLOOD-CURDLING CRUELTY

HOW PRISONERS ARE TREATED IN SPANISH PRISONS.

The Horrors of the Inquisition Revived by Judges to Force Prisoners to Confess—Kept a Man Awake Eight Days, and Tore the Nails From His Fingers.

A great sensation has been created in Madrid by the arrival of English, French and German papers of the most reputable character, containing bloodcurdling accounts of the cruelties to which prisoners are subjected with the full sanction of the authorities, not alone in Cuba or the Phillippine Islands, where the torments of the inquisition have been revived for political offenders, but right in Spain—at Barcelona, Saragossa, Cadiz and actually in Madrid.

There have long been rumours current that judges and magistrates were resorting to methods contrary to civilization and humanity in order to extort confessions from prisoners. But no native paper had until recently dared to print what has now become known through the intervention of the foreign press. The Madrid papers published translations of stories in the Parisian and London journals about the treatment of prisoners, especially those confined on charges of complicity in the Anarchist movement.

TORTURED A FRENCHMAN.

The following is a duly authenticated account of the torture to which Joseph Thioulouze, a Frenchman, was subjected at Barcelona, in the Montjuich prison. Thioulouze, who is accused of being an Anarchist, does not know a word of Spanish. Being brought before the magistrate he asked for an interpretor. This was denied and the man was taken back to his dungeon and chained to the wall. Thereupon the warders began kicking him. After this they opened his mouth and inserted a wooden cylinder, made like a horse bridle, from the ends of which two strings were hanging. These strings were fastened behind his neck and Thioulouze having been unchained from the wall, was forced to trot round and round the prison yard, being unmercifully slashed on the bare back with rawhide whips.

He was kept thus trotting until he fainted from pain and fatigue. Then he was taken back to his cell and burnt about the hips and lower part of the body with a redhot iron until he recovered consciousness. In spite of these tortures the man escaped conviction, was able to make his way to Paris, where his lamentable condition—he is crippled for life—has been brought to the notice of the French Government, which has asked for an explanation through its Ambassador here.

THE INQUISITION REVIVED.

In Madrid a prisoner named Callis, from whom it was desired to obtain a confession incriminating his associates, was not allowed for eight days and nights to sleep or eat, and had each one of the nails of his hands first of all pried up and then pulled out with pincers.

At Cadiz a prisoner named Nogis has become a raving maniac in consequence of the torments to which he was subjected by having his head compressed in a steel frame. In that instance the magistrates did not even make any pretense of concealing the fact that they were condemning the prisoner to torture. Refusing to answer in court in a manner satisfactory to the judges, he was taken to an adjoining apartment, whence a few moments afterwards bloodcurdling screams were heard—screams of such a character that the Spanish public, callous as it is to suffering, revolted and raised such cries of "shame!" and "assassin!" that the judges ordered them all cleared by the police.

These are only a few of the instances recorded. But they serve to convey an idea of the extent to which Spain is still steeped, not only abroad, but also at home, in mediaeval barbarism—a barbarism which can only be accounted for by the presence in the blood of its people of the old strain of the cruel Moors, from whom they are to bea great extent descended. It is to this Moorish strain that those who know Spain best were wont to attribute the intense savagery that characterized the last Carlist civil war in Spain, when both sides vied with one another in disembowelling all the women and mutilating all the men, living or dead, just precisely as if they had been red Indians or Abyssinians.

ROYALTY AT WORK.

Royal ladies are the busiest women in the world. As a rule they are early risers, and have managed to accomplish a vast amount of reading and writing before the ordinary society woman is up.

Queen Victoria is familiar with at ages and even at her present age does not feel that she has finished her education, but grapples daily with the difficulties of Hindustani.

The Empress Frederick of Germany still pursues the study of music and painting with the zeal of a young girl; and the younger empress, her daughter-in-law, besides looking after her house and children rises early to copy important documents for the emperor.

The Belgian queen and Austrian empress in former days employed their leisure in the study of Greek and in "breaking in" pet ponies. The Dowager Empress of Russia and the Princess of Wales have tastes in common; both are adepts in millinery and thorough housewives. The Royal princesses can cook, and are accomplished, useful and sensible women.

SURE TO DISAGREE.

Lawyer (a few years hence)—Make your mind easy; the jury will disagree.

Prisoner—Sure?

Lawyer—I know it. Two of the members are man and wife.