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

Dr. Lynch of Lindsay is dead.

A home for the aged poor is being agitated at Guelph.

The Hamilton Police Athletic Association has decided to disband.

The Hudson Bay Company contribute $1,000 to the India famine fund.

The Springhill colliery is again in operation, the men having all returned to work.

A number of men employed on the sewerage works at London struck for better pay.

Nova Scotia's revenue for the year is estimated at $859,099, and the expenditure $855,000.

Mr. W. C. Wilson, grocer, of Woodstock, committed suicide by taking a dose of prussic acid.

Miss Alice Kay, employed at the Gibson House, Belleville, committed suicide by taking Paris green.

Mr. W. J. Gage and others asked Premier Greenway to establish a home for consumptives in Manitoba.

George Irvine, Q. C., judge of the Admiralty Court and President of the Union Club of Quebec, is dead.

Winnipeg's India famine fund now totals $8,932.96, of which $443.21 was received from the Manitoba school children.

Mr. R. M. Chester, a Winnipeg seed merchant, has been missing since Wednesday last. He formerly lived in Toronto.

Michael Delaney, the Grand Trunk sectionman who was struck by a train near Dundas last Monday morning, died at Hamilton.

The Guelph firebugs were sentenced by Judge Chadwick, Busby getting six years and Quinn eight years in the Kingston Penitentiary.

Stella Cushing, the young girl bitten by a Newfoundland dog in London South recently, is recovering at the Pasteur Institute, New York.

The congregation of the Norwich Avenue Methodist Church, Woodstock, have decided to erect an addition to their church, at a cost of $2,000.

The Victoria Hockey Club of Winnipeg will erect a beautiful monument over the grave of their late comrade, Fred Higginbotham, at Bowmanville.

The inquest on the body of the newly-born babe murdered at Dunnville three weeks ago has been adjourned to enable the police to pursue their enquiries.

Some Montreal Liberals are arranging to present Mr. Laurier, previous to his departure for England, with a life size portrait of himself, costing one thousand dollars.

A Ridgetown young man named Patrick Mannix was shot through the shoulder by Joseph Hall, who runs a billiard parlor in the town. The wound is a very serious one.

The coroner's jury which enquired into the death of James Fry, who murdered Mr. Shaw at Ravensworth, has returned a verdict to the effect that the murderer committed suicide.

Mr. Thomas King, a pensioner, of Kingston, has been notified that by the death of a rich relative he and his sisters have been bequeated £10,000 and an estate in Ireland.

The 5th Royal Scots of Montreal has been invited by the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company of Boston to visit that city this summer, and an attempt will be made to complete arrangements.

The Protestant School Commissioners of Montreal have entered an action against Mr. Brenner for having sent his children to a Public School while there were cases of measles in the family.

At a meeting of the Toronto Humane Society Thursday, a form of petition was approved of to be presented to the Dominion Government in favor of enacting legislation against the docking of horses.

Hon. Sidney Fisher, addressed a meeting of the Dominion Alliance in Montreal, warning them that the coming plebiscite would be a fight to the death with the liquor traffic in Canada.

The Coroner's jury at Port Arthur found that Dabin and Corier, the two men found dead in the smouldering ruins of their farm buildings, were murdered, and that the buildings were set on fire.

Mr. Lawrence E. Vogler, an old and respected resident and for many years reeve of the township of Zone, Ont., was drowned on Friday by falling through an airhole whilst crossing the River Thames.

Mr. Sidney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, delivered an address the other night to the Epworth League Convention in Montreal, in which he referred to the coming plebiscite, and hoped it would be a success. He urged temperance people to take practical steps to that end.

In the Court of Appeals at Montreal on Wednesday judgment was given in a case in which the rights of trade unions were involved. A stonecutter sued the union for $2,500 damages, which he alleged he had suffered through the strike of his fellow-workmen at the order of the union. The Appeal Court reversed the Court of Review judgment, which had decided against the union. The judgment stated that the men in striking had obeyed the rules of the union, which were recognized by law.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The British steamer State of Georgia has been posted at Lloyds in London as missing.

Lieut.-Governor Kirkpatrick has almost entirely recovered. He will spend a few weeks in Brighton before returning to Canada.

The first Drawing-room of the season was held on Wednesday in Buckingham palace. The Queen left before the general presentations, which were taken by the Princess of Wales, in behalf of her Majesty.

Mr. Chamberlain stated in the House of Commons that it was not intended to hold any Imperial conference during the visit of the colonial Premiers to London, but the Government would discuss any matters of common interest which the visitors might bring up.

During a debate in the House of Commons on Wednesday on the bombardment of the insurgents in the Island of Crete, Mr. Labouchere referred to the Sultan of Turkey as "that miserable cur, that foul blot on civilization," for which he was called to order by the Speaker, and apologized.

Lord Salisbury made a statement of the British policy in regard to Crete, the principal feature of which is the establishment of administrative autonomy in the island, which will still remain a portion of the Turkish empire; but both Greece and Turkey must absolutely withdraw their forces.

At the enquiry of the Parliamentary Committee into the Jameson raid on Friday Col. Rhodes gave evidence showing that President Kruger favoured Germany against Great Britain. He absolutely acquitted Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, of all knowledge of the revolutionary movement.

In the House of Lords on Thursday the Marquis of Salisbury announced that a telegram had been sent on Wednesday to the British Ambassadors to the courts of the great powers, informing them of the British Government's policy on the situation in Crete. They propose to establish an administrative autonomy in Crete, which, however, is to remain a portion of the Turkish Empire.

UNITED STATES.

Archbishop Grace is dead at St. Paul Minn., aged 82.

Excessive rain has caused destructive floods in West Virginia.

The Ohio river is still rising. Railroads and towns are partly submerged.

There is serious trouble between the Indians in Arizona and the Government.

The Drummond line has started its steamers between Detroit and Cleveland.

Four persons were murdered and afterwards cremated by a mob near Sisterville, W. Va.

A sheriff's jury at White Plains, N. Y., has decided that George W. Palmer, who murdered his mother, brother and sister, is insane.

The American Senate passed the bill authorizing the construction of a bridge across the St. Lawrence River from Hogansburg to Cornwall.

At Yerrington, 50 miles from Carson, a Piute Indian was killed by a white man, and an Indian uprising is threatened in consequence.

Over 400 freight handlers of the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad are on strike at Ludington, Mich., because their wages have been cut.

While ice-boating near Sackett's Harbar Edward Frazier and Arthur Algate sailed out so far that they lost their way. When discovered Frazier was dead from exposure.

Commercial returns from the agencies of Messrs. Dun and Bradstreet at New York report but little appreciable change in business conditions throughout the United States; and until after the President-elect is installed nothing of consequence in the shape of improvement is looked for. The bursting of the steel and iron combine appears to have been attended with satisfactory results so far, as business in various branches of the iron industry has assumed unexpectedly large proportions, and in consequence many thousands of persons are again at work. Several cotton and woollen mills are also reported to have just started work again, and prospects in many directions are improving.

GENERAL.

Lima, Peru, is threatened with an epidemic of yellow fever.

While out riding Lord Brassey, Governor of Victoria, was thrown from his horse and severely injured.

It is reported that over 25,000 Moslems have been killed and 25 of their villages pillaged and burned during the recent troubles in Crete.

Russia, through the Russian Minister at Athens, has called upon Greece to withdraw all of her troops and her fleet from Crete within three days.

Cholera has broken out among the people employed on the relief works of the native State of Rewah, India. In two days 160 deaths have been recorded.

The Governor's palace, with all the archives, at Canea, Island of Crete, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday. It is supposed to have been caused by incendiaries.

Leaflets have been distributed in the Mosques at Constantinople calling upon the faithful to exterminate the infidels, and much agitation and excitement is caused by the reports received there from Crete.

In the French Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday M. Hanotaux Minister for Foreign Affairs, in replying to a criticism of the Government's Armenian policy, said that one of the powers had actually proposed forcing the passage of the Straits of the Dardanelles and seizing the Sultan in his palace, but Europe had not assented to this. England, he continued, then came back to France's proposal for a conference of the Ambassadors at Constantinople, with the view to reorganize and not destroy the Turkish Empire.

AGE OF THE PREMIERS.

Care and worry do not seem to shorten the lives of the British Premiers. Gladstone by completing his eighty-seventh year has broken the record which was held by Lord Sidmouth, who died past 86. Earl Russell died at the same age; the Duke of Wellington at 82, Lord Palmerston and Earl Grey at 81, Earl of Beaconsfield 77, Earl of Aberdeen 76, Earl of Derby 80, Sir Robert Peel 62. Gladstone and Sir Robert are the only two Premiers who were not peers and did not accept a peerage from the Queen.

INCONVENIENT EARS.

How's your arm? asked Tommy of the young man who calls at the house.

It's all right. Why?

'Cause I heard mother tell sister that she peeked into the parlor the other night and saw your arm out of place.

A REMARKABLE VOYAGE

THE STEAMER DIAMANT HAD AN EVENTFUL VOYAGE.

Was Fifteen Days Overdue—Lost Her Propeller—Was Taken in Tow and Then Lost Sight of.

The German tank-steamer Diamant, Captain Wischausen, from a European port, for New York, which had been given up for lost with her crew of thirty-five men has arrived at Halifax, in tow of the steamer British Empire.

The Diamant is fifteen days overdue, owing to the loss of her propeller on February 10th, when she was some 500 miles off Halifax. The escape of the German steamer is remarkable. She was picked up by three steamers, one of which lost her in a storm, while another, which attempted to tow her in, became disabled herself, through the fouling of the propeller with the tow-line. The Diamant was first sighted by Captain Forth, of the Furness Line steamer Galileo, which reached Boston from London on February 21. Captain Forth reported that he fell in with the tank-steamer on February 17, 500 miles south of this port. The Diamant signalled that she had lost her propeller, and requested to be towed to the nearest port. The Galileo put out a hawser, and laid her course for Halifax, N. S., towing the Diamant. The next day heavy gales came on, during which the wire hawser parted. The Diamant signalled:—"Do not lose sight of us."

IN THE TROUGH OF THE SEA.

Although the sea was very rough, Captain Forth manipulated the Galileo so that by means of life buoys a line was floated across the Diamant's bow, and a second hawser was pulled aboard. The tow was resumed, and slowly the boats made for Halifax, with head-winds and boisterous seas. Soon afterwards another terrible gale came on, during which the hawser parted, leaving the Diamant rolling fearfully in the trough of the sea. She then disappeared. Captain Forth cruised about nearly a day, but found no trace of the steamer, and so resumed his course, convinced that the ill-fated Diamant had foundered. The Galileo had towed her some 280 miles.

The Diamant was also sighted by the Beaver Line steamer Lake Winnipeg, from Lverpoo' to St. John, who undertook to tow the disabled vessel to this port. A bad storm arose, and the Diamant's hawser became entangled with the propeller of the Beaver Liner, and the latter also became disabled and was obliged to drop the tank-steamer. The Lake Winnipeg arrived in St. John safely a few days ago.

The British Empire, which has finally brought in the disabled vessel, belongs to the Johnson Line of freighters, and is bound for Boston.

MINERAL PRODUCTION OF CANADA

Summary of a Bulletin Issued by the Geological Survey Increases in Gold and Silver—Decrease in Nickel.

An advance bulletin of the report of the Dominion Geological Survey has been issued from the department at Ottawa dealing with the mineral production of Canada in 1896. The complete report wil lnot be ready for some time, as the necessary information cannot be collected until some months after the close of the year. Credit is given to Mr. L. L. Brophy for his success in getting this bulletin to press some days earlier than in any previous year.

There are some notable increases shown by this bulletin over the output in 1895, the greatest being in silver, which shows an increase of value in the one year of $988,957, or almost a million dollars. Gold shows an increase of $899,306, coal $278,859, and copper $71,919. The greatest falling off was in nickel, the decrease being $205,904. Lead also shows a decrease in value to the extent of $28,852, although this is occasioned altogether by a reduction of 8 per cent in price, there having been an increase of production of more than a million pounds. The coal increase is due altogether to Nova Scotia, where the output was 296,153 tons more than in 1895, whereas in British Columbia the coal output was 104,629 less than in the previous year. Large increases of gold are credited to Nova Scotia and Ontario, but British Columbia heads the list with an increase of $497,675. Ontario's nickel production is reduced during the year by over 400,000 pounds. British Columbia's output of silver amounted to 3,135,343 ounces valued at $2,100,689, nearly a million dollars more than in the preceding year. The principal vales of minerals for the uyear were as follows:—

Gold	$2,810,206
Silver	2,147,589
Nickel	1,155,000
Copper	1,021,148
Lead	721,384
Iron	184,313
Coal	8,006,305
Petroleum	1,155,646
Asbestos	429,856
Gypsum	174,403
Mica	60,000

Statistics are given of the production of a number of building materials, and non-metallic minerals, other than those mentioned, the grand total of production being $23,627,305, so far as ascertained. This is 1 1-2 millions more than in 1895, and just about double the production of 1886.

THE GREAT MOA.

New Zealand was once inhabited by a race of gigantic wingless birds, called the moa. Although now extinct, these birds are well known to men of science through their skeletons, thousands of which have been found. Unfortunately, in the great majority of cases, the skeletons are not complete, and in reconstructing them for exhibition in museums it is necessary to match together the bones of different individuals. Recently, however, the British Museum has obtained a complete skeleton of a moa nearly ten feet high. Not more than three or four similarly perfect skeletons of this monster of an age long past are known to be in existence.

VICE-REGAL RECEPTION.

Sir Julian Pauncefote Entertains Lord and Lady Aberdeen at the British Embassy.

A despatch from Washington says:—The reception at the British Embassy on Thursday night in honor of the Governor-General of Canada and Countess Aberdeen was the most brilliant function of the last days of the Administration. It followed a series of elaborate dinners the past few evenings at the Embassy, at the last one of the Vice-President and Mrs. Stevenson, the Secretary of State and other Cabinet officers being present. The guests, who were received by Lady Pauncefote, and her daughters in the main drawing room and presented to Lord and Lady Aberdeen and Lady Marjorie Gordon, were limited in numbers to 500, and represented the highest official circle of the capital. The Vice-President, all the members of the Cabinet, and justices of the Supreme Court, the entire corps diplomatic and a few of the leading Congressmen were present. The President, however, remaining away on account of Mrs. Cleveland's absence from the city. Late in the evening refreshments were served in the supper room, and the younger guests danced in the ball room. During their stay here Sir Julian Pauncefote has indefatigably shown his guests all the sights of the city, and Lord Aberdeen has pronounced himself charmed with his visit.

BENIN CITY CAPTURED.

Complete Success of the British Expedition.

A despatch from Brass, Niger Coast Protectorate, says:—The expedition which was formed to punish Drunami, King of Benin, for the murder of the members of a peaceable British expedition which was attempting to reach Benin Citty, has been entirely successful. The expedition has captured Benin City, and the King is a fugitive. He fled northward, but a part of the expedition is in pursuit of him, and it is expected he will be taken prisoner. When the expedition entered the town it was found that it well deserved its name of "City of Blood." Many victims of the Ju Ju, or fetish priests, were found crucified, they having been sacrificed to the various gods. The Ju Ju houses and their compounds were reeking with the blood of those who had recently been beheaded in the religious ceremonies. In the fighting that took place before the town was captured seventeen European and 23 native members of the exhibition were killed or wounded. No trace was found of Mr. Campbell, a Consular official who was captured by the Beninites at the time of the massacre. It is supposed that he was killed by his captors shortly after he was made a prisoner.

WAR WITH SPAIN.

A Motion Introduced in the United States House of Representatives to Declare War at Once.

A despatch from Washington says:—Mr. Sulzer (Dem.,) N.Y. offered in the House on Thursday a bill declaring war between the Kingdom of Spain and her colonies and the United States of America. The measure reads as follows:—"That war be declared to exist between the Kingdom of Spain and her colonies and the Unisted States of America and their territories, and that the President is authorized to use the whole land and naval force of the United States to carry the same into effect, and to issue to private armed vessels of the United States commissions or letters of marque and general reprisal in such form as he may think proper and under the seal of the United States, against the vessels, goods and effects of the Government of the said Kingdom of Spain and the subjects thereof." The measure was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

THE WHEAT SPROUTED.

A German's Trouble After Eating That Cereal—Yarn From Kansas.

A despatch from Hutchinson, Kan., says:—Physicians of McPherson county report a strange case. Living in the north-east part of Reno county is a German farmer, Abram Kroeger. He sold his wheat some time ago to the Buhler mill, and it became necessary to have it delivered, even though the roads were heavy and muddy. In taking it to mill Kroeger was in the habit of eating the wheat, continually picking up a mouthful. A short time ago he was taken sick and his case baffled the doctors. Kroeger grew worse. The doctors being unable to diagnose the case, and fearing death if no relief was given, an operation was determined upon. On Thursday last it was performed and over a quart of sprouted wheat taken from the stomach of the old German. The wheat had not been cracked, and not passing through the stomach it began to grow. Some of the sprouts were two inches long. Kroeger is in a bad shape, and it is doubtful if he will recover from the operation.

BELIEFS ABOUT WALNUTS.

Walnuts are supposed to cure rheumatism and toothache and for this purpose should be carried in the pocket.

In some European countries there is a firm belief among the peasantry that a dream of walnuts will be followed by misfortune.

In Italy the walnut tree had a bad name. The country people call it the "witches' tree" and are afraid to sleep under its branches.

MR. ASBURY PEPPERS.

While I hate to tackle such an easy one, said Asbury Peppers, coming in late to get a full attendance, I must remark that when Greece really heats up she will be apt to spread herself.

BIKE ON A BATTLEFIELD

FORMIDABLE ADJUNCT TO AN ARMY IN CASE OF WAR.

Bayonets, Guns and Soldiers in the Saddle—More Powerful Than a Company o Cavalry—To Be Propelled By a Gasoline Motor at Lightning Speed.

A motor bicycle has just been invented by a French genius which promises to prove one of the most formidable adjuncts to an army in conflict which has been created for a number of years. Competent military authorities who have given the machine and the idea of the inventor careful consideration declare that a company of soldiers mounted on these cycles could inflict more damage upon the enemy, provided the conflict did not occur in a mountainous country, than four companies of infantry equipped in the regulation fashion could accomplish.

So notable is the impression that the motor cycle has made in France that the French Minister of War, together with a military commission made up of the most thoroughly posted officers of the army of France, is seriously considering giving the new invention the sanction of the Government and equipping several companies of the army with the machine.

There have been many experiments with the bicycle in the armies of Europe, and the military authorities of no nation have taken more interest in the machine and its development than those of France.

Now, as to the motor cycle itself. It is in form and principle like unto

THE MOTOR CYCLE

with which we are all more or less familiar. There are, however, one or two important exceptions, the most notable of these, so far as the operation of the machine is concerned, being that the rider steers the cycle with his feet, the handle bar, or rather the substitute for it, being adapted to a totally different purpose. The motor, the impelling force of the cycle, is located just forward of the rear wheel, and is of sufficient size to insure a satisfactory rate of speed. The small tank which carries the fuel which supplies the motor contains an ample quantity to guarantee at least a day's journey without replenishing. The inventor claims that the machine will easily make, over a fairly rough country, from 12 to 15 miles an hour, and believes that with good roads, unimpeded, it would do even better than this.

Bayonets extend forward sufficiently to clear the machine entirely, and to be without an impediment to penetrate whatever the rider may charge at. In place of the handle bars is a curved gun rest, which may be moved upward to suit the desire of the rider. Every rider is supposed to be armed with a repeating rifle, and it will be understood that from the fact that he can steer the machine with the feet he is left entirely free to use the weapon—as unincumbered as he would be if he were standing on the ground, like the ordinary infantry man of to-day.

A charge by a company mounted on these cycles would practically be one of those

MOST DREADED EVENTS

in a battle, a bayonet conflict and a heavy fire from riflemen combined.

It has been a favorite argument of the opponents of the bicycle for army use that the machines could never be utilized except for purely transportation purposes, and that therefore they were in a great measure an incumbrance to an army in the field. In time of battle, it was alleged, they were of no value whatever. The invention of this Frenchman seems to remove this objection entirely.

It might be said by quibblers that the new cycle is not up to date, because the motive power is gasoline rather than electricity. This is unfair, because electricity for such use—for bicycles or motor cycles—is only in the experimental stage. While it is true that there is sufficient power to be obtained by electricity to drive the motor cycle or any other machine, there confronts one the old problem of the storage battery. This latter has never proved successful for continued propulsion. The motor cycle for war must be run on a basis of absolute certainty. This is why M. Francois L'Hereaux, the inventor, says gasoline was used by him.

The method of conveying an amount of gasoline sufficient to supply the various machines is as thoroughly modern as the machines themselves. It is a tank, very much like those with which we are all familiar, mounted upon a horseless wagon, which is also driven by a gasoline motor. It is the intention to recharge the motor cycles each day, as it has been estimated that the ordinary tank, which forms part of the machine, contains just about a sufficient amount of gasoline to supply the motor for one day's travel, the highest estimated rate of speed being the basis of calculation.

DANGER OF BURIAL ALIVE.

Your chance of being buried alive is anywhere from 2 to 20 in 1,000, according to statistics gathered in England, Wales, France and Germany. Col. E. P. Vollum and Mr. Tebb have written a book on the subject of premature burial, and they have followed up the book by declaring that they by no means exaggerated the case. That the percentage of these distressing disasters, as compared to the total annual interments, is small is obvious, but a small percentage on 550,000 annual burials in England and Wales, on 800,000 in France and over 1,000,000 in the United States will total a vast aggregate of unimaginable and needless suffering. It would have been impossible to include all the cases collected, says Mr. Tebb, in a volume of 400 pages. Dr. Franz Hartmann himself has collected 700 cases, including several in his own district, and Dr. Le Guern, whose work entitled "Danger des Inhumations" has passed through several editions, has collected 2,313 cases.