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.

Quebec Provincial elections are announced for May 11.

Mayor Bingham, of Ottawa has given his February salary to charities.

Seventy-three private bills are entered for the coming session of Parliament.

There is a good demand for farm laborers and domestic help in Manitoba.

Ottawa proposes to spend $150,000 in improving its fire system and waterworks.

The annual report of the C. P. R. for the year 1896 shows net earnings of $8,107,581.

Mr. W. C. Macdonald of Montreal has made another gift to McGill University amounting to over $600,000.

The Brockville Town Council is considering the advisability of passing a by-law imposing a tax upon bicycles.

Captain Provost of the Montreal fire brigade, has decided to accept the offer to become chief of Ottawa fire brigade.

Mr. Geo. H. Orr of Toronto has been elected President of the Canadian Wheelmen's Association without opposition.

The Kingston cotton mill, which has closed down temporarily, will, after next week, only run three days a week.

The C.P.R. have sent a party of surveyors out to southern British Columbia to survey a railway in the mining country.

The Montreal Street Railway earnings for February were $89,951, an increase of $2,557 over the same month of last year.

Mr. Wm. Seager, a resident of London, was probably fatally injured by falling from a train at Brokenhead station, Man.

Mr. Joseph Martin, ex-M.P., of Winnipeg confirms the statement that he has been appointed special counsel for the C.P.R.

Mr. Laurier sat for his portrait in Montreal. When completed it will be presented to the Premier by his Montreal friends.

A Fish and Game Protective Association has been organized in Woodstock, to see that the game laws are enforced and to stock certain districts with quail.

A delegation from the parishes along the south shore of the St. Lawrence waited on the Ministry at Ottawa to urge the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal.

Two people, one aged 70 and the other 72, were married in Ottawa on Wednesday. Their parish priest refused to marry them, but they secured the approval of the Archbishop.

On Thursday afternoon three small boys fell through the ice at Chatham, when four men went to their rescue and also fell in. It was with great difficulty that all seven were finally rescued.

The Hamilton chief of police intends making a test case to see whether the lottery under the management of the Promotive of Art Association of Montreal comes under the criminal code.

The local branch of the National Council of Women has petitioned the London City Council to impose restrictions on the sale of cigarettes, and it is probable that the petition will be granted.

Mr. Torrance, the Canadian agent of the Dominion steamship line, has been instructed from English headquarters to withdraw any offers made to the Canadian Government in connection with the fast service.

It is stated that Mr. H. S. Osler, representing a Toronto syndicate, has secured options on a majority of the Hamilton Street Railway stock, the H. and D. stock, and about 50 per cent. of the Radial Railway stock.

An agreement has been reached by a joint committee of the Chatham City Council and Mr. L. E. Myers, of Chicago, representing capitalists who are prepared to build the City and Suburban Electric railway, and to construct and maintain an electric lighting plant.

The Government has been asked by residents of Ottawa and portions of Russell and Carleton counties to spend about $35,000 in lowering the bottom of the Rideau river near the outlet, where it is shallow, and to let off the water from the Rideau lakes early in the spring by means of the Rideau canal, to prevent the spring floods.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Unwonted activity is reported in the British dockyards.

Atlantic steamers arriving in the Clyde report extremely tempestuous weather the last few days.

Sir Donald Smith Canadian High Commissioner in England has sailed for Canada to consult with the Government regarding immigration matters.

It was stated in the Imperial Parliament that the proposal to create regimental districts in the colonies had been referred to the Dominion of Canada for an opinion thereon.

The sysdicate appointed by Cambridge University to consider the question of granting degrees to women recommends that the degree of B.A. be conferred by diploma upon those who have already passed or hereafter passing the final tripos.

The statement that a state of tension exists between Great Britain and Belgium regarding the indemnity claimed for the arrest of Ben Tillett, the English labour agitator, at Antwerp last year, is denied at the Foreign Office, which declares that the negotiations on the subject are proceeding amicably.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie is seriously ill at Greenwich Conn.

The Peninsular Car department of the Michigan Peninsular Car Company, of Detroit, has closed down.

Chauncey M. Depew has accepted the chairmanship of the Board of Control of the Joint Traffic Association.

Ex-Governor John D. Long, of Bingham, Mass., has accepted the navy portfolio in President McKinley's Cabinet.

The Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company has inaugurated a system or retrenchments at all of its collieries.

Mr. Cornelius N. Bliss, of New York, has accepted a position in the McKinley Cabinet, probably the Secretaryship of the Interior.

The United States House of Repres- bill over the President's vote by a vote bill over the President's veto by a vote of 193 to 37.

The directors of Mount Holyoke College announce the gift to the college of $40,000 for a dormitory by John D. Rockefeller.

Theodore Durant, the convicted murderer of Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams, has been refused a new trial at San Franscisco.

The mining town of Wyoming, Pa., with a population of four thousand inhabitants, is caving in, and it is feared it will be engulfed in the mine on which it is built.

The Chicago City Council, by an unanimous vote, has passed an ordinance requiring tobacconists to take out a hundred dollar license for the sale of cigarettes.

President Cleveland, on Wednesday signed the bill authorizing the construction of a railway bridge over the St. Lawrence river, connecting Hogansport, N. Y., and Cornwall, Ont.

Commercial reports from the United States indicate no particular change in the general condition of trade across the line; it is claimed that there is in progress a steady, although slow improvement, as a better demand for products appears to be experienced all round, while speculative buying is going on in some lines on account of probable change in duties; this is particularly in case with wool. Reports of recent failures in the States show an iincrease in number, but a decrease in liabilities, which latter phase is due to the caution for some time past exercised in giving large credits. In Cleveland and other places some strikes have occurred; in the Lake iron mines wages will probably be reduced; but the total industrial force at work is said to be steadily increasing.

GENERAL.

Since the beginning of the plague at Bombay there have been 8,383 cases and 6,979 deaths.

It is reported in Canea that 2,000 Mussulmans who were confined in the fortress near Selino have been massacred.

The left wing of the monastery of St. Bernard has been destroyed by an avalanche, and the monks had to tunnel through the snow to make their exit.

Three French battleships and a cruiser have been ordered to sail immediately from Toulon for the Island of Crete, to reinforce the French fleet in those waters.

A great public meeting was held on Thursday night at Athens to protest against the action of the powers. At its conclusion the crowd marched to the palace shouting, "War! war! war!" and were addressed by the Crown Prince.

The Italian Embassy at Constantinople has demanded formal satisfaction for the firing of a shot across the bows of an Italian mail steamer while passing through the Straits of the Dardanelles on Tuesday by one of the forts on shore, although the vessel displayed the usual signals and had obtained pratique.

President Kruger has ordered the Chief Justice and the judges of the High Court on the South African Republic to conform to the law passed by the Volksraad on February 25th, placing their court under the jurisdiction of the Volksraad, within fourteen days and warns them not to arrogate to themselves the right to place their own interpretation upon the constitution of the country.

TREE SAP.

Idea That It Rises and Falls With the Season Is Erroneous.

Sap is a watery fluid found in the interior of the cells of plants and trees, and contains dissolved or suspended in it the materials required for the life and growth of the cell. The idea that in winter the sap goes down into the roots and in the spring rises again is quite erroneous. Trees and plants are full of watery sap all the winter. The phenomena of freezing in the case of trees and plants are but little understood. The sap in leaves and in smaller branches is often frozen. This is seen especially in the twigs of hickory, which in very cold weather are as brittle as glass, though the same twigs at a higher temperature cannot by any possibility be broken with the hands. For various causes the water contained in the cells only begins to crystallize at some degrees below the ordinary freezing point. This is partly due to the chemical composition of the sap, which contains various salts, starch, etc., in solution. Besides this the bark of trees is a bad conductor of heat, and the interior temperature of trees and plants is generally higher in winter and lower in summer than that of the surrounding atmosphere.

TO YOUNG MOTHERS.

A great deal is said from time to time about training children. It would be a good thing if many mothers would try self improvement first. Mothers are almost always self-sacrificing and very seldom self reliant. This condition works harm to the child. If it gets into trouble with its toys or games and at once begins to fret, the fond mother will at once rush to the rescue and straighten out the trouble, and kiss and caress the child, and make its way smooth, and in all this is working a positive injury to her offspring. One cannot expect to find much character, self reliance or will power in a petted child. It is impossible. A mother undermines the foundation of these by the weakness of her love.

Goodness knows, a mother's trials are many, but it is easier to extricate, a child from some little perplexity by being firm, and demanding that the child try to right the difficulty. For a first time or two it may be helped or shown how to get out of its troubles. You will cultivate self confidence in this way. The aim should be at all times to make the child think and act for itself. By so doing a mother will soon find her cares much lessened.

HORRORS OF THE KNIFE.

ANÆSTHETICS A GREAT BOON TO SUFFERING HUMANITY.

What Surgical Operations Meant Not So Many Years Ago to the Unfortunate Victim of An Operation in Primitive Fashion.

One of the most interesting papers read at the recent celebration in Boston of the fiftieth anniversary of the first admonistration of ether in a surgical operation was that by Dr. John Ashhurst, of this city, on "Surgery Before the Days of Anaesthetics." It vividly recalls the horrors of those days when the surgeon's knife was an object of far greater terror than now, and inflicted untold tortures upon the conscious patient.

"A study of the condition of surgery before the days of anaesthesia," said D. Ashhurst, "reveals on the one hand a picture of heroic boldness and masterly self-control on the part of the surgeon, and on the other a ghastly panorama, sometimes of stoic fortitude and endurance, sometimes of abject terror and humiliation—but always of agonizing wretchedness and pain—on the part of the unhappy victim who required the surgeon's aid.

"The 'pitilessness' which Celcus urged as an essential trait in the operative surgeon was before the days of anaesthesia, a feature in the surgeon's career, which impressed very strongly the public generally as well as those immediately connected with the operation. It is interesting to recall that Sir James Simpson of Edinbourgh, shortly after beginning his professional studies, was so affected by seeing the terrible agony of a poor Highland woman under amputation of the breast, that he resolved to abandon a medical career and seek other occupation, happily his inetntions was reconsidered, and he returned to his studies, asking himself 'Can anything be done to make operations less painful?' and, as every one knows, in less than twenty years became a high priest of anaethesia, and the introducer into surgical and obsterical practice of ether's great rival, chloroform.

INSTRUMENTS OF TERROR.

"No braver or more gallant gentleman ever lived then Admiral Viscount Nelson, and after his right elbow had been shattered by a French bullet in the assault at Teneriffe, he manifested the utmost courage, refusing to be taken to the nearest ship, lest the sight of his injury should alarm the wife of a fellow-officer whose own fate was uncertain, and when his own ship was reached he climbed up its side without assistance, saying, 'Tell the surgeon to make haste and get his instruments. I know I must lose my right arm, so the sooner it is off the better.' 'He underwent the amputation,' we learn from a private letter of one of his midshipmen, 'with the same firmness and courage that have always marked his character.' And yet so painfully was he affected by the coolness of the operator's knife that when next going into action at the famous battle of the Nile he gave standing orders to his surgeons that hot water should always be kept in readiness during an engagement, so that if another operation should be required he might at least have the poor comfort of being cut with warm instruments.

"On the side of the surgeon we find throughout the ages a constant effort to diminish the terrors of operations and a continuous reprobation of the distressing, not to say cruel, modes of practice adopted by preceding generations. And yet the time is not very far distant from ours when they lopped off a limb by striking it violently with a heavy knife; that time when they knew neither how to stop nor to prevent hemorrhage but by burning the part whence the blood jetted with boiling oil or the red-hot iron; that time when surgeons armed themselves at every moment with pincers, with burning cauteries and with instruments, the representations even of which cause terror.

WAS IT KNOWN BEFORE.

"This belief that operations might be rendered painless appears to have been present in the minds of surgeons from the earliest periods. Witness the accounts of the Memphis stone, described by Dioscorides and Pliny, which by steeping in vinegar was made to give forth the fumes of carbonic acid; and of the mandragora, employed, according to Theodoric, when mixed with other narcotics, by inhalation, and causing a sleep from which a patient could only be aroused by the fumes of vinegar. So profound was the stupor induced by this drug that Bodin assures us that under its influences a man submitted without consciousness to a painful operation and continued to sleep for several days thereafter.

"Vigo speaks of the whole body being 'brought asleep by the smelling of a sponge wherein opium is,' but warns his readers that the practice is dangerous, because the use of opium is sometimes followed by gangrene. In his work on 'Natural Magic', Baptista Porta speaks of a volatile drug kept in leaden vessels, which produced sleep when applied to the nostrils, and Perrin suggests that this must actually have been ether or some other of the modern anaesthetic agents.

"Mental pre-occupation was sometimes sought as a means of preventing pain. Richard Wiseman found that soldiers dreaded the loss of a limb much less if it were removed immediately while they were in the heat of the fight,' than if the operation was postponed until next day; 'wherefore,' he says, cut it off quickly, while the soldier is heated and in mettle'; and Renauldin recalls the case of the amiable Dolomieu, who, exposed to the pangs of starvation in a Neapolitan dungeon, measureably alleviated his own distress by engaging in the composition of a treatise on mineralogy, while his unfortunate servant and fellow prisoner, who had not the same intellectual resources, was hungry enough for both.

RISK OF SUDDEN DEATH.

"But the presence of pain was not the only evil dreaded by our predecessors in attempting important operations. The great risk of fatal accident from some involuntary movement of the patient was constantly present to the mind of the conscientious surgeon. 'How often,' says Dr. Valentine Mott, 'when operating in some deep, dark wound, along the course of some great vein, with thin walls alternately distended and flaccid with the vital current—how often have I dreaded that some unfortunate struggle of the patient would deviate the knife a little from its proper course, and that I, who fain would be the deliverer, should involuntadirly become the executioner, seeing my patient perish in my hands by the most appalling form of death! Had he been insensible, I should have felt no alarm.'

"Coming down to the days more immediately preceding the date of the great discovery, we find that opium and alcohol were the only agents which continued to be regarded as of practical value in diminishing the pain of operations, though the attendant disadvantages of their employment were, of course, recognized. Meanwhile facts were accumulating, the significance of which we now plainly recognize, but which excited no attention.

"Sir Humphrey Davy, in the early days of the nineteenth century, suggested the use of nitrous oxide gas as an anaesthetic in minor operations, and it was the custom at some of our medical schools—at the University of Pennsylvania, for one—for students to breathe 'laughing gas,' as it was then called for diversion. But yet—and yet—surgeons went on, in every country, cutting and burning, and patients went on writhing and screaming, until on the 16th day of October, in the year 1846, in the Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. John C. Warren painlessly removed a tumor from a man who had previously been etherized by Dr. William T. G. Morton, and surgical anaesthesia became the priceless heritage of the civilized world."

THE RETIRED BURGLAR.

He Tells of Some Very Unpleasant Experiences with Mirrors.

"I have had," said the retired burglar, "some very unpleasant experiences with mirrors. I think I have told you how I once fired at my reflection in a mirror, mistaking it for another man—a mistake that I thought I should never make again. But within two years after that I struck at a man in a mirror, and smashed the glass and smashed my hand, and made myself uncomfortable generally. It may seem strange to you that a man could make such mistakes; but in a dim light, and where everything is strange to him, and he's all sort of keyed up himself I don't know as it is after all. Still, after that last experience, I did think it would be some time before I had any more trouble with mirrors; but within a year I had an experience that was a great deal worse than either of them.

"When I came out of a room in a house I was in one night, on the second floor, looking down the hall—this was pretty near the front where I was—I saw the figure of myself in a mirror at the other end. It was plain enough, even in the light, but it startled me a little at first, and I threw up my gun at it. Of course, the figure's hand went up and down, just the same as mine did, and it made me kind o' laugh to think of it, and I could imagine the shadow laughing, too, at a man who was afraid of his own shadow.

"Then I went into the next room, and when I came out of that into the hall again my eyes sought the mirror again. It wasn't very pleasant to see yourself in the dark in that way, but it would have been a mighty sight less pleasant not to. But then I was all right, and I stood and looked at it a minute and threw up my arm at it same as before, just up and down, a sort of unnecessary test, but it made me feel just a little easier, and up went the arm in the mirror with mine, but this time, when mine came down, the arm in the mirror stayed up!

"'Now, don't raise your hands,' the man said, covering me with a gun in his upraised hand, voice kind o' drawling, but meaning business. You know? You know when a man means business, and this man did mean it, and I kept my hands down.

"'Oh, Bill!' he says, not moving a muscle and not shouting it out, but just kind o' drawling it out like the other.

"Then a man appeared on beyond the man that was holding me up, coming toward him and me. He walked right through the mirror, past the other man, and kept coming. It was all plain enough then, in fact I'd guessed at it before, as may be you have, the mirror wasn't a mirror at all, but a doorway, an opening midway of a long hall, and the frame was the frame of the doorway. There were rooms beyond, just the same as those on the side where I was, and it was the doors of those that I had seen in the mirror, and not the reflection of those on my side. And it was out of those doors that 'Bill' came. The man with the gun had been ready for me the first time I looked, but it must have been that Bill wasn't then, but Bill was ready now, and he came on past the other man, careful to keep out of his range, of course, making for me; and he came around behind me and took two or three turns of a rope around my body and arms. Then the man with the gun came up and between them they tied me up good and strong. And that was a matter of some four years."

DID HIM GOOD.

Mister, said the small boy to the druggist, gimme another bottle o' them patent pills you sold father day before yesterday.

Are they doing him good? asked the clerk, looking pleased.

I d'no whether they're doin' father good or not, but they're doin' me good. They jis' fit my new slung-shot.

INVASION OF TURKEY

GREECE PREPARED TO DEFY THE SIX POWERS.

King George's Statement—Expected to Bow to the Mighty Will of Europe—Greece Protests Against the Action of the Admirals of the Foreign Fleets.

A despatch from Athens says:—A statement just made by King George, during the course of an interview, is probably a forecast of the reply which Greece will make to the identical notes of the powers insisting upon the withdrawal of the Greek fleet and troops from Crete within the six days which commenced at noon on Monday last, the time when the notes were delivered. His Majesty said:—

"The Greek nation is unable to bear any longer the strain and excitement caused by constant Cretan revolutions and our finances will not permit us to support the refugees, who now number about 17,000. Nothing will prosper in Greece until the question is defineitely settled. The autonomy of Crete is out of the question, because the Cretans reject it, and have lost faith in the promises of the powers. They rather prefer to die in their own defence than to be slaughtered like the Armenians.

"The recall of the Greek troops from Crete would mean the signal for new massacres on a larger scale, owing to the fierce fanaticism of the Mussulmans who see they have the support of the six great powers, since the latter covered the Turkish attack on the Christians and shelled the victorious Cretans, who were fighting only for freedom and the Cross, just at the moment when the Turks were compelled to retire."

TO INVADE TURKEY.

Premier Delyannis, in an interview, is reported to have reiterated that the Greek troops would not be withdrawn from the Island of Crete, and to have expressed the fear that national clamour would compel the Government to invade Turkey.

Greece, he is quoted as having added, had not accepted the scheme for the autonomy of Crete which had been proposed by the powers.

The Premier asked that a plebiscite of the Cretans be taken, and added that Greece would prefer rather to disappear from the map than to withdraw her forces from Crete in the face of threats.

PROTEST BY GREECE.

The Greek Government has protested against the silence of admirals in command of foreign fleets in Cretan waters with reference to the demand of the Greek commodore, Sachtourie, that he be allowed to communicate the orders of King George to Col. Vassos, in command of the Greek army of occupation, and requesting that he be allowed to go to the assistance of besieged Turks at Candamo. The Government has sent a despatch to its representatives abroad, communicating the above facts to them, and adding that the Greek Consul believes that since the admirals and the Consuls have witnessed the failure of their efforts to raise the siege they desire to place every obstacle in the way of the Greeks' efforts to do so, so that in the event of a massacre they will be able to throw the responsibility upon the shoulders of the Greeks. The despatch continues:—"We have instructed our Consul at Canea to inform the Turks who requested his intervention of the hindrance created by the foreigners."

In view of the continuous arrival of Turkish troops on the frontier, it is believed that Greece will call out the balance of her reserves.

TROOPS BEING MASSED.

Feverish activity continues throughout the whole country. Large quantities of arms, ammunition, provisions, and military stores are being conveyed by transports to Thesaly. The massing of the troops on the frontier is proceeding with the utmost speed, and public feeling is at the highest pitch of excitement. Those taking the coolest view no longer conceal their opinion that in the event of coercion by Europe the centre of interest will be transferred to the Turkish frontier where the most serious events may be expected. Many foreign correspondents have already started for Thesaly.

THE GREEK FLEET.

The Greek fleet has been divided into four squadrons. The eastern squadron, composed of the ironclads Psara and Spelzia, the cruised Nanarchosmiaulis, the armoured corvette Basileusgeogios, and the despatch vessel Paralos, under the command of Commodore Apostolis, will cruise in the Sporades islands. The western squadron, composed of four armoured and four unarmoured gunboats, under the command of Commodore Onbazio, will cruise in the Gulf of Arta.

WAR INEVITABLE.

It is generally believed in London that Europe is on the eve of a war between Greece and Turkey. The decision of Greece to defy the powers is confirmed on all sides. The centre of interest has now shifted from Crete to the mainland.

SOCIETY.

Little Chick—What do you let that ugly little thing come under your wing for?

Old Hen, who had inadvertently hatched a duck's egg.—I can't help it, my dear. We've got to put up with the creature because she belongs to our set, you know.

IN TIME TO COME.

Mrs. Strong—I suppose you have heard that Miss Ricketts and Miss Gazzam are deadly enemies now?

Mrs. Small—Yes, I heard; but I didn't hear who was the man at the bottom of it.

A MILLIONAIRE'S CLUB.

It is proposed to open a Millionaire's Club in London, to which the entrance fee will be 1,000 guineas, and the annual subscription £500 per annum.