THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

A third case of leprosy is reported to exist in Manitoba.

Manitoba's India famine fund amounts to $17,000.

A discovery of hard coal is reported on the shore of Lake Winnipeg.

Brantford is to have a free postal delivery at the close of the year.

A police census of the population of Toronto will be taken on Sunday, April 11.

Mr. Speaker Edgar and ex-Speaker White have been made Privy Councillors.

Safe-crackers stole over $240 from the T. E. Walker Company's safe at Hamilton.

The London Street Railway Company propose extending their Springbank line towards Byron.

The departmental stores of Montreal are being prosecuted for selling drugs without a license.

The Hamilton Radial Railway Company will extend its beach line to the easterly limits of Burlington.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen have accepted an invitation to attend the convocation of Queen's University.

A Coroner's jury at Hamilton decided that Charles Curran came to his death by his foot being caught in a frog not properly packed.

Mr. Hugh A. Allan in an interview at Montreal said his company was still in the field to tender for the fast Atlantic steamship service.

Arsene Turbide, the only survivor of a party of three lost from the Bird Rocks, N.S., while seal hunting recently, died on Monday night.

News has been received that the Dominion line has decided to build a new steamer, which will be the largest that ever sailed into the port of Montreal.

It is stated that the Furnace Line, now running between Manchester and Boston, will establish a route during the coming season between Montreal and Liverpool.

On Monday night Clarence Martin, aged 21, employed on the farm of Mr. William Freeman, Binbrook, Ont., committed suicide by hanging himself in the barn.

A young Montreal girl named Greta Taylor, tried to commit suicide by swallowing Paris green on account of disappointment in love. She will probably die.

Dr. Bourinot, of Ottawa, has been appointed honorary fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute, "in recognition of his usefulness as a writer on Canadian and colonial subjects."

The Thorold Council has petitioned the Government to protect the wood pulp manufacturers by an export duty on the wood and taking the duty off their machinery.

It has been decided that the military feature of the Queen's diamond jubilee in Montreal shall take the form of a church parade on June 20th and a grand review on June 22.

Dr. Smith, of the Tracadie, N. B., lazaretto has been instructed to proceed to Winnipeg to investigate two alleged cases of leprosy among Icelandic immigrants there.

Philippe Lecours was found guilty of manslaughter at Father Point, the victim being his brother, whom he stabbed with a pocket-knife. The sentence was six years in penitentiary.

R. Beaubien, a stonecutter, of Ottawa, has taken an action for three thousand dollars against the Rockland branch of the Stonecutters' Union for alleged illegal suspension two years ago

Sir Donald Smith proposes that Montreal should celebrate the diamond jubilee by erecting an establishment for the training of nurses. Mayor Wilson Smith favors the building of a vice-regal residence

Everything points to the early opening of navigation through the great lakes and the St. Lawrence system. It is expected that vessels will be passing through from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario by the middle of April.

Andrew McNeilledge, a married man, 50 years of age, attempted suicide on Thursday at his residence, 31 Marlborough avenue, Toronto, by locking himself in a room and turning on the gas. He was discovered in time to save his life

Dr. Bourinot, honorary secretary of the Royal Society of Canada, has received a letter from the Mayor of Bristol, Eng., stating that two members of the City Council will be present at the Cabot celebration in Halifax, N. S., next June.

A carefully prepared scheme for the incorporation of the Drummond County railway in the Intercolonial system is now occupying the attention of the Dominion Government. It is proposed to complete the necessary link to bring the Intercolonial trains into Montreal over the Grand Trunk tracks.

General Manager Hays, in behalf of the Grand Trunk Railway, has lodged a petition at Ottawa for permission to capitalize the revenue overdraft and to increase the borrowing powers of the company by an issue of a further sum of 4 per cent. consolidated debenture stock, the interest on which shall not exceed £50,000 yearly.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Salisbury, who has been suffering from influenza for the past few days, has almost entirely recovered.

Mr. Gladstone, who is sojourning in the south of France, has just recovered from a mild attack of influenza.

April 16th (Good Friday), April 17th, 19th and 20th, will be observed as holidays in the Liverpool Cotton Exchange.

It is rumoured that Mr. Chamberlain has written a sharp letter to President Kruger, rebuking him for violating the London convention.

Sir William Harcourt's attack of influenza will prevent his participating in the forthcoming debate on the Foreign Office estimates, when the Cretan matter is likely to be discussed.

The London Times, referring to the gift of the original log of the Mayflower to the United States, says it is no light thing to part with a document of national interest.

Mr. Gladstone, notwithstanding his great age, has joined the ranks of the wheelmen. He has written to a friend in London, saying that he has fairly mastered the machine.

It is reported in London court circles that the Queen on her return from the South of France, will pay a visit to Mr. William Waldorf Astor, at Cleveden in recognition of his munificence.

It is learned that the British Government propose to deal with the question of contagious disease among the British troops in India, by placing the inspection of women in the hands of women doctors.

The announcement that the United States tariff, will not be retractive has resulted in an inevitable rush of exports to America from England, and for the moment every industry is pushing this work.

While the British steamer Templemore was being towed by the Ulstermore the hawser parted. The flying end swept the Templemore's deck, killing Capt. Swainson, and a seaman, and breaking the legs of four other men.

UNITED STATES.

The whipping post has been revived in Missouri after four years of disuse.

United States Ambassador Hay will leave New York for London April 14.

There is at present before the New York Senate a bill to prevent dishonest and misleading advertising of goods.

Sylvester Scovel, the newspaper correspondent who was imprisoned for 31 days in Cuba, has returned to New York.

Eight Chinamen were captured on Wednesday in Malone, N. Y., charged with illegally crossing the line. They were remanded for a week.

Nothing is known of the fate of the 100,000 poor people in the flooded lowlands of the White, Arkansas and Black Rivers in Arkansas.

Josephine De Rosay's suit against J. F. O'Brien at Boston for $100,000 for breach of promise of marriage, was on Tuesday settled out of court for $20,000.

The steamer Creole reported at New York that she had picked up a boat containing dead bodies, believed to be victims of the St. Nazaire steamship disaster.

The Colorado State Senate has passed the bill providing for the abolition of capital punishment. The measure now awaits the Governor's signature to become law.

It is the intention of President McKinley not to recognize Cuba. The policy of his Administration will be to let the Spaniards and the insurgents fight it out between them.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of the United States v. the Buffalo Natural Gas and Fuel Company decided that natural gas is a crude mineral, and exempt from duty.

Mr. Howe, of New York, has introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives providing that the United States constitution be so amended that Congress shall have exclusive power to regulate marriage and divorce

The Supreme Court of the United States declares that railway traffic associations are a peril to commerce and a violation of the anti-trust law. Railroad men everywhere are startled by its force, and an entire change in the methods of distributing freight traffic may be caused by it. The Joint Traffic Association will fight for its life.

Commercial summaries by Messrs. Dun and Bradstreet, telegraphed from New York, are, on the whole, of a reassuring description. Considering the antagonistic conditions existing both in the United States and in Europe, the volume of business is fair. The political situation in Europe has of course been an important factor for depression, while in the States, the legal decision against railway combinations, several serious floods, and the destruction of the iron ore trust, have of course caused hesitancy, if nothing more detrimental, in trade circles. However, all things considered, business is steadily improving, and the number of workers finding employment increases steadily week by week, and prospects generally are spoken of as good.

GENERAL.

The steamer Iceland arrived at St. John's Nfld., with 22,000 prime seals.

It is reported from Bombay that the plague is attacking Europeans residing in that city.

The Swiss Bundesrath has made a proposal to purchase the principal railways in the country.

The Grand Duchess Sophie, wife of the reigning Grand Duke of Saxe-Weimar is dead at Berlin.

The German Reichstag on Friday, by a vote of 179 to 49, adopted the proposal for the payment of the members of that body.

The Japanese Gold Standard bill has passed the House of Peers of Japan, and only awaits the signature of the Emperor to become law.

A French newspaper says the Government will ask a credit of 800,000,000 francs to build 45 large warships and 175 torpedo boats in the next eight years.

There are seven hundred men of the British fleet now at Simonstown, South Africa, suffering from malarial fever, contracted during the recent expedition to Benin.

The Transvaal Government has suppressed the publication of the Johannesberg Star, the leading paper in the Rand, in consequence of that journal's criticism of the Administration.

It is stated that the ex-Queen of Madagascar was banished from the island by the French on account of discovering a conspiracy, in which the ex-Queen and the missionaries were implicated.

The drafts of the treaties between the Transvaal Republic and the Orange Free State give the burghers of each State the franchise in either republic, and the two republics agree to support each other in case of attack.

The Cretan chiefs have rejected the scheme for autonomy proposed by the powers, declaring that nothing but annexation to Greece will satisfy them. It is said the powers are rapidly drifting apart in their policies of dealing with the question.

THE RUSSIAN THISTLE.

FARMERS HAVE FOUND THAT THE PEST WILL DESTROY ITSELF.

Law Placing a Bounty on Its Destruction Repealed—A Scare Which Experience Shows to Have Been Unwarranted.

Ten years ago the Russian thistle made its appearance in the West. The weed gradually spread in Nebraska until its wondeful vitality threatened apparently the life of more useful plants. There was much discussion of the new plant at the time, and the matter was finally referred to the agricultural authorities, and after much careful research the plant was declared to be the Russian thistle, a weed so deadly in its effects that it would soon exterminate all other forms of vegetation if not retarded in its growth. Its fertility was said to be something most extraordinary. Instances were cited where whole acres had been grown over in a single season, and the growth thus established had grown in strength annually. The farmers' institutes were at once called on to discuss some measures of relief, and after several years a law was passed in Nebraska that was expected to stop the ravages of the weed. The measure was for the especial protection of the farmers. It provided that all Russian thistle on public highways should be immediately destroyed, and that all such weeds on private property must be exterminated within a certain time, or it would have to be done by the overseers of the adjacent roads and charged as taxes to the land. Each county set apart funds for the purpose of promoting the work, and thousands of dollars were spent in this direction. The tough thistle did not seem to respond very readily to the artificial methods adopted for its extermination, and apparently thrived as before. The professional farmers, however, declared that the only salvation of the prairie states, where the thistle seemed most to flourish, was constant and unremitting toil in this direction. They contributed lengthy articles showing just how many years would be required for the Russian thistle to exterminate all other forms of vegetable life in Nebraska if not retarded in its course. This alarmed the farmers greatly, and the adjacent states passed similar laws for the destruction of the imported scourge. Some farms were almost

COMPLETELY COVERED

with this peculiar growth, and the owners were almost distracted. In some cases adjacent farmers undertook to build solid board fences between their farms and those stretches of territory thus afflicted. But this did little good, as the thistle seemed to be blown first in one direction, and then in another, leaving its blighting touch upon everything in some whole neighborhoods. For a year or two it was the principal theme of discussion at the farmers' institutes of the state.

But after much toil and treasure being consumed fighting the alleged pest, some of the farming communities began to experience a change of heart. Gradually it dawned on some of the more thinking farmers who had been observing closely the growth of the thistle that the plant was not so dangerous as the theoretical farmers had insisted was the case. They observed that land covered with the foreign growth one year was in many cases perfectly free from the thistle the following season. Many leading agriculturists of the state finally agreed that the plant was not near so menacing as at first supposed, and that it did not retain its hold upon land for more than one season, and after that never returned to the same territory. In fact, they compared it somewhat to smallpox in its action on the human system. The fertile soil which attracted the thistle seemed to have no affinity with it after a short contact, and farms were none the worse for the plant's presence other than the annoyance of the first year. Many begun to act along this line. Soon it was quite apparent that this was the case. Then it was shortly discovered that the law regulating its extermination was not only costly but quite useless. Two years ago the sentiment against the continuance of the law on the statutes of Nebraska was quite pronounced, but did not crystalize into anything definite until this session of the Legislature, when the farming element was so much in the majority that the Russian thistle law was wiped off the books about the first thing.

The national Agricultural Department has not yet agreed to accept as a fact what the farmers of the prairie states have already demonstrated to be true. On the contrary, the authorities at Washington think that special conditions in the soil of some sections may contribute to retard the growth of the thistle, but with this exception they are still of the old opinion.

In the meantime Nebraska farmers have gone a step further and found a very good use for the weed that was to devastate their farms. In fact they have made

BOTH FOOD AND FUEL

of the dread thistle. The thistles are gathered in great bunches when young and tender, chopped up and fed to cattle. Hogs particularly find the juicy substance quite palatable, and it is said to produce fat similar to corn. In other sections where wood is scarce and coal worth $15 a ton the dried thistles in great bunches are secured for fuel. They are baled like hay, compressed, and not only used in residences but in many cases have been used in great quantities by furnaces in mills. The pressed thistles retain the heat a long time, and though frail in the single growth make a fierce flame when heavily bunched.

The thistle grows on the surface from a very small stem, but branches out into bunches as large as a bushel basket. When dried these frail stems are easily broken by the wind, and the big ball-like head bounces around over the prairie, blown hither and thither with the slightest breeze. When an obstacle is thrown in their path they soon pile up on the prairie to a great height. When not compressed they burn like chaff, and in some sections hundreds of families rely upon this form of fuel to carry them through the dreary winter.

IN A FIERY FURNACE.

Two Brothers Now Battling for Life—Burned in a Vat Explosion—How the Calamity Occurred.

A despatch from Toronto, says:—George and Percy Holden, brothers, who resided at 218 Brock avenue, are lying in the emergency ward of the General Hospital. Although suffering from terrible injuries, they still have a slight chance to win in their fight for life.

Both young men were employed at the Gutta Percha Rubber Works, West Lodge avenue, Parkdale. About 10 o'clock on Friday morning they were superintending a large vat in which varnish is prepared. They found it necessary to open the door of the furnace underneath the vat. The moment they did so, a violent explosion took place. The contents of the vat were scattered over the room, the two men coming in for their share. The varnish caught fire and in an instant the room was a blazing furnace, and the men in the midst of it.

George was the first to recover from the shock, and calling to his brother to follow him he made a wild dash for the open air his clothes on fire, and threw himself into a pool of water in the yard. When taken out nearly all his clothes were burned. The brother, who was on the other side of the room, could not reach the door, so made his exit through a window. He also ran to the pond and tumbled in breaking the ice as he fell. He suffered worse than his brother. Both men are fearfully burned. Their backs and faces suffered the most. It is not thought that they inhaled the flames.

Drs. Lynd and Harris were quickly summoned. They did everything possible to alleviate the agony of the injured men until they were removed to the hospital in the ambulance.

Fortunately the room in which the explosion took place was a separate building. The fire department soon extinguished the flames. The loss is about $500, covered by insurance.

MOHAMMED'S COAT.

Sacred Relic to Which the Sultan Annually Pays His Devotion.

No more striking illustration of the alarming condition of affairs that prevails just now at Constantinople could be afforded than the fact that the Sultan should have considered it necessary to proceed by water, instead of by land, from his residence at the Yildiz Kiosk to the old seraglio for the purpose of paying his annual devotions to the holy coat of Mohammed, which is preserved in a great gold box in the innermost sanctuary of the imperial treasury. The extent to which this garment is venerated by all believers may be estimated by the fact that the principal and most highly cherished title of the Sultan is that of "guardian of the holy mantle." This robe, which it is needless to say is green, was brought to Constantinople by Sultan Selim along with the keys of the holy cities of Medina and Mecca from Cairo, where they had been preserved until that time in the keeping of the caliphs.

This worship of the mantle by the Sultan is the most solemn and important religious function which the Turkish ruler is called upon to perform throughout the year, and as a general rule his majesty's progress from the Yildiz Kiosk to the Sublime Porte is marked by a magnificent display of troops four or five ranks deep, who line the entire route on either side.

This year, for the first time since his accession to the throne, more than 20 years ago, the Sultan, through dread of assassination, has abandoned the customary procession by land, and has gone by water instead, furtively and almost by stealth, the public being led till the last moment to believe by the military display that the Sultan was about to proceed to the old seraglio in the usual manner.

A WONDERFUL NEEDLE.

Queen Victoria has in her possession a very interesting needle which was made for her in Buckinghamshire, and which she values as much as some of her most costly heirlooms. It is a miniature of the Roman column of Trojan, and illustrates scenes from Victoria's life instead of incidents in the careers of Roman Emperors. These are perfectly distinct when seen through a magnifying glass, and include the most interesting events in Victoria's young life.

Of these one depicts the Queen as a young girl before her accession to the throne, when she was at Tunbridge Wells. A second shows her in her coronation robes at Westminster, while a third—and this is the one which Victoria likes best—represents the marriage of the Queen and Albert. The remarkable feature of this needle is the fact that, small as it is, it opens, and contains several smaller needles of the same description, each of which is ornamented with diminutive figures in relief.

A CRACK SHOT.

Archduke Francis Ferdinand is one of the crack shots of Europe. He shoots with smokeless powder, handles his weapon quickly and is credited with killing 480 head of game in an hour and a half. To perform this feat he kept three loaders constantly employed.

MASSACRES AT TOKAT.

SEVEN HUNDRED ARMENIANS KILLED BY THE TURKS.

Sir Philip Currie's Protest—Officials Dismissed and Ordered to be Tried—The Patriarch Resigns.

A despatch from Constantinople says:—Further and probably more accurate details of the recent massacre of Armenians at Tokat, in the Sivas district of Anatolia, have been received at the Armenian Patriarchate here. The first report of the affair was issued by the Government. This declared that fifteen Armenians and three Musulmans had been killed. Little reliance was placed in the report, for the officials have always made it a rule to under-state the number of persons killed in the various massacres. Later information was received at the Embassies showing that fully 100 defenceless Armenians had fallen victims to the fury of the Moslems at Tokat, and this number, it was thought, was probably correct. The news received at the Patriarchate shows that both statements were incorrect, and that the number of victims was fully 700. It was stated at the Patriarchate that these figures were obtained from reliable persons in Tokat and the vicinity, and that the number of victims stated is without doubt correct. Sir Philip Currie, the British Ambassador, made a most vigorous protest against the massacre in a note to the Porte, which was said to have been the strongest ever delivered by an Ambassador to the Turkish Government. The result of his action was shown, when the Sultan ordered the dismissal and immediate arrest of the Turkish officials in Tokat who are suspected of complicity in the massacre and the appointment of a special commission to try them. It is believed that the British Ambassador will watch the trial closely to see that it does not prove a farce, as so many trials of Moslem officials charged with the murders of Christians have been.

Mgr. Ormanian, the Armenian Patriarch, has made a protest to the Sultan against the murders at Tokat, and has added force to his protest by insisting that the Sultan shall accept his resignation, which was tendered some time ago. At that time the Sultan refused to accept it, and promised the Patriarch that further concessions would be made to the Armenians. His Majesty asked, however, that the granting of these concessions be deferred until after Easter. The massacre of Tokat followed.

Eight Armenians were arrested here on Thursday as a measure of precaution, the Government fearing that the news of the Tokat massacre might precipitate an outbreak. The prisoners are suspected of having been engaged in an attempt to make a demonstration here.

CRIPPLED FOR LIFE.

Terrible Accident to John Carnegie—In Agony, the Young Man Thought Only of His Mother.

Simpson's Knitting Factory, at the foot of Berkeley Street, Toronto, was the scene of an accident on Friday morning which will leave John Carnegie a cripple for life. The injured boy is only 19 years of age. He was working in the knitting room, when something went wrong with the belting. He stood on a packing case and with a broom endeavored to move the belt. The broom caught in a wheel, and the shock threw him to the ground. He fell heavily, fracturing his spine.

When Dr. Greig arrived he found that the injured youth was paralyzed from the chest down. He informed him of the ultimate result of the accident. The only reply he got from the poor fellow was, "I can stand it, doctor, but I hope it won't worry my mother." Carnegie lives with his mother at 33 Regent Street. He is getting on in the hospital as wel las can be expected.

THE DUKE OF LEEDS.

H Will Succeed Lord Aberdeen as Governor-General.

A despatch from London says that the Duke of Leeds will succeed the Earl of Aberdeen as Governor-General of Canada in 1898.

George Godolphin Osborne, tenth Duke of Leeds, and a Prince of the Holy Roman Empire, was born in 1868 and succeeded to the title on the death of his father in 1895. He was educated at Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge, and was a lieutenant in the Yorkshire Hussars.

He unsuccessfully contested East, or Newmarket, division of Cambridgeshire (C) in 1886, but the following year was more successful, and sat as M.P. for Lambeth, Brixton division, (C) from 1887 to 1895. He was an assistant private secretary to the Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1886 to 1888, and was appointed treasurer of the Queen's Household in 1895, in 1884 he married Lady Katherine Frances Lambton, daughter of the second Earl of Durham, and has four daughters living.

KILLED HIM WITH A SHOVEL.

Farmer Convey Could Not Stand Teasing, and Took the Life of George Frost, His Tormentor.

A despatch from Paris, Ont., says:—A terrible tragedy was enacted about five miles west of here on Friday afternoon, when a farmer named Convey, an old man about 65 years of age, young man in his employ. It appears Frost was tormenting the old man, who was down in the cellar shoveling turnips by throwing chaff down on him and Convey, who is of a very passionate temper, struck him with the shovel, killing him instantly. Frost is an Englishman, about 26 years, and is said to have no relatives in this country. Convey admitted the crime and was placed under arrest.