# 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.

Sir William Van Horne has learned to ride the bicycle.

Dr. Montague speaks in very high terms of the prospects of the Bothwell oil fields.

St. Patrick's Boys' School at Halifax was seriously damaged by fire.

Cattle shipments from Manitoba to the British markets have commenced.

Montreal retail grocers have organized a boycott on the departmental stores.

An attempt to burn the steamer Garden City at Port Dalhousie was frustrated by a couple of fishermen near by.

Manitoba's total contributions to the Dominion India famine fund amount to $18,390.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technicology summer school of architecture will be held at Quebec City this summer.

It is rumoured at Winnipeg that the object of the visit of Sir Frank Smith and other officers of the Dominion Bank is to start a branch there and at Vancouver.

It is expected that the lower floors of the Western Department buildings in Ottawa, which were injured by fire, will be ready for occupation by the first of May.

Mr. J. B. Riley, United States Consul, gives the exports from the consular district of Ottawa to the United States for the quarter ended March 31, as $550,909, of which $467,151 was lumber.

An intimation has been received from Australia to the effect that several of the Premiers are considering the advisability of travelling to London by the way of Canada to participate in the diamond jubilee.

Chief Justice, Sir Francis McLean telegraphs from Calcutta to the Governor-General thanking all who have contributed to the India famine fund, and reporting the progress of the work of relief.

The authorities of McGill University Montreal, have received from his Highness the Maharajah of Jeypore, India, a number of works on India architecture, known as the Jeypore portfolios of architectural details.

The report of the penitentiary investigating commission has been transmitted to the Minister of Justice. It is stated that one result of the investigation will be a thorough shaking up of the staff.

It is probable that the Dominion Government will shortly give instructions to its agents in England to see that the children sent out to this country are not the dregs of the criminal classes or otherwise undesirable.

Mr. Lemieux, M. P., has received a letter from Sir Oliver Mowat stating that his application for the suppression of the license of the Massachusetts Benefit Insurance Association cannot be granted under the law as it exists.

Admiral Markham, rear-admiral of the Mediterranean fleet, has declined the Dominion Government's offer to take command of the expedition to test the navigability of the Hudson Bay straits, on the grounds that a sealing vessel, with engines of only seventy horsepower, is not a craft suited for the purpose.

The proposal to organize a special regiment of 600 men to represent Canada at the jubilee celebration will probably fall through, as the Governor-General has received a cable message from Mr. Chamberlain explaining that the Imperial authorities cannot accommodate more than 200 troops from Canada.

The Red River is still rising at Emerson. Many have had to leave their homes, and great destruction of property is being caused. Some buildings are submerged to the second floor There is over three feet of water in the stores on Main street, and all communication from the country is cut off.

It is stated that the Government has decided to grant the C. P. R. a bonus of $10,000 per mile for the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, in return for the company's surrender of the monopoly clauses of its agreement, a reduction of freight rates, and running powers for other railways over the new line.

Mr. W. C. McDonald, the Montreal tobacco manufacturer, was condemned by Judge Pagnuelo to pay the parents of the late Alphonsine Thibaudeau $1,999, the amount of their action for compensation for the death of their daughter, who was working in the McDonald tobacco factory when the fire of April, 1895, occurred and died from injuries received by jumping from a window of the fourth storey.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

Harry de Windt, who recently attempted to travel by land from New York to Paris is ill in London.

Duncan Forbes, of Culloden, the descendant of President Forbes, of Scotch historic fame, died at Culloden house, three miles from Inverness, on Saturday.

The British shipbuilding engineers and their employers have a dispute which is growing very grave, and a great strike is imminent in all the yards.

Diplomatic notes are passing between London and Washington with reference to the Behring sea fisheries, and a difficulty is threatening as serious as the Venezuelan affair.

A despatch from the American Secretary of State, "couched in decided terms," has been served on the British Government, urging that the indiscriminate slaughter of seals in Bering Sea be stopped.

Referring to the trouble in Hawaii regarding the landing of Japanese immigrants, the London St. James' Gazette says that if a rupture takes place between Japan and the United States the latter may find the Japanese navy a hard customer to tackle.

Mr. R. W. Hanbury, replying to a question in the British House of Commons, announced that the Board of Trade would ask the Government of the Dominion of Canada to furnish a report on the result of the law prohibiting gambling in future.

Truth says:—"It is doubtful if Lord Salisbury's health will permit him to retain the posts of Premier and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Under these circumstances many Unionists are suggesting Lord Roseberry as Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

The Sons of England are making arrangements for the holding of a diamond jubilee service on Sunday, the 20th of June, that will circle the globe at the hour of four o'clock in the afternoon. Everywhere the National Anthem will be sung, and prayers offered for her Majesty.

Mr. John Hays Hammond, the American engineer and former member of the Johannesberg Reform Committee, arrived in London on Friday from South Africa. He says affairs in the Transvaal are very unsettled, but he does not think an outbreak of war with Great Britain is likely in the immediate future.

### UNITED STATES.

It is reported at Washington that Spain is withdrawing her troops from Cuba, claiming that the rebellion is practically suppressed.

The Carnegie Company, of Pittsburg, has been invited by the Russian Government to bid on armour plate for two first-class battleships.

A gunner was killed and two other men seriously injured by the premature explosion of a charge during target practice on the United States cruiser Yantic.

Col. John Hay, United States Ambassador to the Court of St. James, left New York on Wednesday for London, to assume the duties of his new post as soon as possible.

An incident of the floods in the Southern States is the drowning of a colored family of seven persons through their bull kicking the side out of the boat in which they were imigrating to higher land.

Special agents of the United States Sub-Treasury department at New York are reported to have unearthed a system of smuggling of embroideries and other goods from Montreal. Several arrests have been made.

Mr. Wallace Thayer, of Buffalo, has consented to the extradition of Mrs. Sternaman, charged with poisoning her husband, if her trial is set down for the May Assizes. Mr. Cartwright Deputy Minister of Justice, says that he will endeavor to have the trial take place at the next assizes; but he thinks that, following the ruling of Judge Ferguson in the Hyams case, a United States counsel will not be allowed to appear in the Canadian court.

The weekly reports from the commercial agencies in New York state that the conditions of business are practically unchanged. The stock market of New York has been more or less affected by rumours from Europe of a warlike nature. Business in the United States has been seriously interfered with by floods, and prospective labour troubles are causing considerable misapprehension. While the general conditions of business are perhaps normal, the outlook is generally of a promising nature.

### GENERAL.

Prince Bismarck is much improved in health.

Ten persons were killed by the explosion of fire damp in the Oberhasen pit near Essen-on-Ruhr.

Eight Englishmen and 26 native miners were killed by an explosion in a mine near Johannesburg on Tuesday.

According to reports from Bombay 2,853,000 persons are employed in the relief works in the famine districts in India.

Specials from Havana say that highly respectable women are being arrested and imprisoned on the suspicion of aiding the insurgents.

The Mexican Senate is debating the treaty fixing the boundary of the country with the British colony of Belize. There is now a feeling in favour of ratifying the treaty.

Five American fishing vessels are lying off Sound Island in Placentia bay, Newfoundland, unable to procure bait owing to the rigid enforcement of the Anti-Bait laws.

A despatch from Cape Town says the Het Dagblad, the Dutch newspaper, declares that leading officers in the Transvaal speak openly of war with England being inevitable.

The Federal convention in Adelaide by a vote of twenty-three to twelve has rejected an amendment to allow women to vote for members of the South Australian House of Representatives.

A despatch from Japan says that the recent convention between Russia and Japan in regard to Corea have seriously injured the standing of the Japanese Ministry, which is not likely to last much longer.

The Turkish Government has formally informed the Greek Government that any further raids of irregulars into Turkish territory will be regarded by Turkey as a declaration of war upon the part of Greece.

It is semi-officially stated that all coercion of Greece upon the part of the powers will cease so soon as war is declared, because otherwise it would bear the character of pro-Turkish intervention.

The choice of the movement to begin war with Turkey does not rest with King George or the Greek Government, but with the Ethnike Hetairia, a secret organization, which directed the crossing of the frontier by Greek irregulars.

The British cruiser Raccoon, which left Cape Town on February 12, under sealed orders, arrived at Durban, Natal, unexpectedly during Thursday night with six other British warships, and two more warships were expected. The object of the naval demonstration is not known at Durban.

The Prince of Monaco expresses his willingness to offer a reward for the detection of the steamer which passed one of the boats of the foundered steamer St. Nazaire without giving the sufferers in the boat any assistance. The action of the steamer is strongly condemned by all seafaring men.

# WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE?

## THE UNFOUGHT BATTLE BETWEEN MODERN SHIPS OF WAR.

**Naval Authorities the World Over Are Anxious to Know What the Ponderous Vessels Could Do if Actually Fighting One Another.**

One can conjecture only as to the rise and progress of a contest between two modern battle ships. A scientist has figured on the result on the crew of one of these ships were it to fire all its guns continuously. He says that in five minutes the auricular apparatus of all hands would be permanently affected and in twenty minutes every man would be in a state of unconsciousness. However, it would be out of the question to have all the guns going simultaneously, and it would be a rare event indeed when a ship could be so surrounded by enemies as to require such fire; yet with such firing as might be expected in an ordinary engagement the concussion would be a severe trial to the crew. Even with the old style 32s and 64s between decks of a live-oak ship was not a pleasant place for one's ears when target or salute firing was in progress, and ordinarily one raised one's self gently on the ball of the feet as the gunner pulled the lanyard. The concussion is felt much more acutely on the water than on the land. The interesting problem that a war in the Mediterranean would solve is whether the modern ships are battle worthy. They do not seem to be weather worthy, and, taking the

INSTANCES ON RECORD,

the proof so far is against their battle capacity. They cannot stand ramming for one thing. Recall the Camperdown and Victoria instance at Algiers, in 1893; also, the English Channel incident, about the same time, of two German battle ships steaming four knots, when one ported helm a little when starboard should have been the move, and bumping lubberly into its consort, down went said consort to the bottom of the sea. Now, a general engagement between the big fleets of Europe would tell whether the natives are to be reconstructed—and if arrangements were made by which one side should bring in midway the combat a double-turreted monitor great would be the additional knowledge gained.

Jack Tar has always had a decided advantage over his brother warrior of the land forces in the important matter of facility for making reputations for courage, and doubtless to this advantage is largely due the fact that wars have usually given the sailor the higher niche in the temple of fame. One seldom reads of a man-of-war's crew, however badly defeated in an engagement, having fought other than heroically. A man-of-war may have avoided an issue with a palably superior force, but once compelled to engage the fight is fought as desperately as though the odds were even; nor in such emergency does this persistence in combat lessen because an enemy is on the flank as well as in front. A man-of-war having cleared for action and begun firing cannot in the nature of the surroundings retreat other than as a whole. If there be two or more ships opposed, the weaker force must stand up to the work as one Jack Tar, or at worst maintain a running fight as one, and finally succumb or escape as one. There is no such episode as a cry of part of the crew, "We are flanked," followed by spread or demoralization and panic, throughout the ship and rush to the rear of every man ,for himself and the devil take the hindermost. There is no room for such demoralization. Then men know they are confined to the circumscribed area within the ship's lines and have no "rear," except the ship itself shall be worked thereto by the usual methods known to navigators, which cannot be put into effect without the officer of the deck giving the necessary orders to make the manoeuvre. Up until recently warships were sailing vessels. A frigate was

A THREE-MASTER,

with a round dozen square sails, spanker, jibs, and the usual number of staysails and studding sails, of which there might be counted a dozen square and lesser sails in use in the average sea fight. If the crew became demoralized they would not be in condition to work these sails, not even were they to get orders from the quarter-deck. They would likely, in case of panic,cease firing, but except the commanding officer should so will it, there could be no surrender, for his position on the quarter-deck would prevent the hauling down of the colors, and without this customary signal of surrender the enemy would pour in broadsides.

This was the old-fashioned way when there was romance on the sea, and youngsters sought the navy filled with Marryat's novels and the more or less glorified stories of notable naval engagements by historians of the type which permits patriotic ardor full swing over the less important feature of deference to actual facts. The enemy who had the best of you was not considerate enough to inquire why you stopped firing. On the contrary, he was usually ill natured enough to regard such an indication of weakening on your part and would cheer lustily, regardless of your feelings, and redouble his energy of broadside wholly without a thought of the arms, eyes, and hands his round shot and grape might knock off your crew nor the splinters from the live oak their bodies might receive. That was the time of romance, tar and bilge water, the days when seamanship was required in the handling of a man-of-war; and this latter so greatly that a fine seaman in command meant a decided advantage —the sailing qualities and metal being equal—over the ship which was not so well commanded. While "sea legs" are necessary to a sailor, and the men-of-war's men of the time referred to generally were well supplied as to such legs, yet these were useless for

RETREAT PURPOSES,

And likely enough, from all accounts, Jack Tar never thought of such a contingency as running. He was not brought up that way; he was brought up to fight to the last gasp where he stood, and win on the spot, surrender on the spot, or go to the bottom from the spot—the surrender always depending on whether the commander so decided and indicated this decision by the order, "Cease firing," and himself giving the notification to the victor by hauling down the ensign.

Place these same gallant Jack Tars as a naval battalion in a field fight, and suppose them engaged hotly in their front, when along comes a flanking party and pours a volley into flank and rear—what do you fancy these Jack Tars would do? They would do precisely what a battalion of the army would do—seeing plenty of space out of the fight as compared with that in their immediate vicinity, they would howl with one voice, as it were, "We are flanked," and indulge the pell-mell method of falling back. It is so much easier to fight to the last gasp when you have to than when you don't have to, and this is the difference between fighting at sea and on land, and largely the wherefore of the naval reputation roosting on a higher rung on the ladder of gory glory than does the land forces' reputation. A naval war in the Mediterranean would decide whether Jack Tar, after all these years of peace, maintained his right, in the face of being brought up in a Harveyized steel float, to the name he won on live-oak sailing ships, besides determining the other important points suggested in the foregoing—more especially whether the armored heavy weight of 1897 is not like the armored knight of the middle ages, so extreme as to steel clad that several squires and a derrick were necessary to reseat him once he was unhorsed.

## STRONGER THAN IT LOOKED.

**The Pull of a Mustard Plaster Is Not in the Thickness of It.**

Wilkins complained of not feeling very well. His landlady asked for the symptoms.

"Oh," she returned, "put on a mustard plaster, and you'll be all right in the morning."

He took her advice. He went into a near-by drug store and asked for a mustard plaster.

The clerk took one out and began to wrap it up.

"Say, that's sandpaper; I want a mustard plaster!"

The clerk explained that it was a mustard plaster; that the old plaster of the mince-pie pattern had gone out of style.

"This is just as good?" queried the doubter; "it's hot all right, I suppose?"

"Don't worry about that," smiled the clerk, meaningly.

Wilkins was sleepy when he got home. He was sleepier than ever when he had crawled into bed with the clammy plaster on him and a big towel backing it up close against the cuticle. He dozed perceptibly as the plaster warmed up.

"I'll go to sleep," he thought; "if it gets too hot I'll wake up."

"Yes, I'll—wake up—if gets too hot——"

Mr. Wilkins was snoring, and a clock away down the hall was striking ten.

It was 4.30 o'clock in the morning when Wilkins began to feel the return of consciousness.

It was mixed and confused with a dream in which he had seen a miner standing over him with a pick and felt that a great hole was being dug through his ribs.

Wilkins snorted, turned over and writhed with a grimace. Then he pulled the clothes far from him, sat up and said: "Ugh."

At 7 o'clock he was in the drug store again. He was bending over to keep his clothing from touching him.

The night clerk was still in charge, and he grinned broadly.

"Let me see the place," he suggested even before Wilkins spoke.

There was a brilliant parallelogram, four by seven inches, just under the third button of Wilkin's vest, and as the cool air touched it Wilkins winced.

"You'll have to be very careful or you'll have a bad blister there," said the clerk.

"Blister! Say, I can stand it; tell me the truth—how deep is that hole?"

"Nonsense. Go out and get a big soft linen handkerchief and I'll fix you up."

Wilkins paid 35 cents for the handkerchief and 25 cents for a cool, mussy paste, which the clerk smeared on one side of it.

"Now, if you let your flannel next to that you may pull the hide off with it," warned the clerk in parting.

And Wilkins walks down these mornings to keep the elbows of street car passengers out of his ribs.

"Feels as if I was all boarded up on one side," he confides to his friends.

Incidently he says that a mustard plaster isn't such a cheap remedy after all.

## TONGUE TWISTERS.

Six thick thistle sticks.

Flesh of freshly fried flying fish.

The sea ceaseth, but it sufficeth us.

Give Grimes Jim's great gilt gig whip.

Two toads, totally tired, tried to trot to Tedbury.

Strict, strong, Stephen Stringer, snared six sickly silky snakes.

She stood at the door of Mrs. Smith's fishsauce shop, welcoming him in.

Swan swam over the sea; swim, swan, swim; swan swam back again; well swum swan.

A haddock, a haddock, a black-spotted haddock, a black spot on the black back of a black-spotted haddock.

Susan shineth shoes and socks; socks and shoes shines Susan. She ceaseth shining shoes and socks, for shoes and socks shock Susan.

## MYSTERIES OF CHINESE COOKING.

**What the Chinaman Eats Compared With English and American Modes of Living.**

It is habitual with most Englishmen to denounce the Chinese as filthy feeders says the Pall Mall Gazette. But if we take a look at home and compare notes, we may find we have judged them by a wrong standard. The Chinaman is philosophical in every act, he has a reason for everything he does. He finds a far reaching connection between cookery and civilization, and he much disapproves the Englishman's way of feeding. He will tell you that an Englishman makes his dinner-table a slaughter-house, and that in his country they sit down to table to eat, not to cut up carcasses. One does not see the unpleasant suggestion of the live animal in the shape of legs, shoulders, loins, heads, etc., on a Chinese dinner table, as one certainly does on an English dinner table. An Englishman's idea of "good, wholesome food," is a more or less raw joint—in many cases the gravy being somewhat too realistically red—and a badly prepared vegetable. Whether food so cooked is wholesome or not is a question we are not prepared to go into at the present time; but the fact remains undisputed that in no other country in the world, not even excepting America does the fiend dyspepsia rule so supremely as in England.

The Chinaman looks upon the derided chopsticks as a token of his civilization, and on the knife and fork as a remnant of barbarism. He can produce knives and forks if requested to do so, but never uses them himself; it is a question of the slaughter house again.

In China the natives see and are taught English cookery in its worst possible form. A dinner table in Hong Kong or Shanghai in the summer time is an anything but pleasing spectacle. The animals to be eaten are of necessity killed the same day, and the tissues are as tough as death stiffened them, This, of course, is the fault of the climate, not of the cook, you will say; but give a Frenchman such meat and see the difference. He will, at all events, produce something eatable. At the same time, though it cannot be said that a Chinaman is a born cook, he is remarkably apt at picking up ideas. Show John how to make an omelette or a salad; for ever afterward he will mix the ingredients in exactly the same order and quantity, as he has seen you do—nay, he must have the same basins and utensils, or he cannot be quite happy over his work, so imitative a creature is he.

Among the laboring classes the staple article of diet is rice, and this unpretentious dish is both wholesome and nutritious when cooked as perfectly as the Chinaman alone knows how to do it. The very lowest classes of society, eat dogs and rats, but in all probability this taste arises more from necessity than choice. To try and discover how dog broth is made would take a considerable amount of daring and curiosity, but the natives seem to eat it with relish. As a rule an Englishman is very chary about venturing into a Chinese cookshop. There are stories of adventurous sailors—all before the mast, of course—who have tried, but they are monotonous, because they all end with the diner having somehow discovered the origin of the dish put before him, and having left percipitately. Forecastle yarns are interesting, but oft-times unreproducable.

Every street has its complement of cookshops, where wonderful preparations in the way of soups, vegetables, and flesh can be procured at surprisingly low prices. Here great pots contain dumplings filled with mince meat, which are not unpleasant to the taste, provided one be sufficiently hungry,and sufficiently confiding, to tackle them, After all, have we not our sausages at home?

But the oil they fry with, and the smell thereof! Over this department of their cookery it is, perhaps, kinder to draw a veil; suffice it to say that the oil employed is popularly supposed to be of the genus castor, and a virulent kind at that.

At the same time the upper classes are very particular over their food, and infinite pains is taken over the preparation of favorite dishes, Here is the menu—a typical one—of a banquet given this year in Ningpo:

Birds' nest soup.
Stewed sea slugs.
Sturgeon skull cap.
Stewed shark fins and pork.
Crab soup.
Stewed plums and preserved fruit.
Duck's tongues.
Deer's tendons.

This is not quite so impossible as it reads; the sea-slugs are really a kind of limpets, and there is no reason why a European should not eat them; and shark fins are a dish much esteemed by sailors on the east African coast, and said to be very good. Moreover, a sturgeon is a royal dish, and only a short time ago it figured on the menu of a swagger London restaurant. Really, looked at from an ethnographical point of view, there is no reason for horror at a Chinese dinner. Indeed, it is not half so disgusting as, say, an ancient English funeral feast, at which, for example, the cold meat, etc., was supposed to represent bits of the body of the corpse—a rather curious and distinctly primitive form of sacrament.

The truth of the matter is that Chinese cookery depends on the meat and the cook. They have literally no peculiar implements and no extraordinary methods. Despite Charles Lamb, they do not burn down a house, to roast a sucking pig. They have, in fact, too little initiative; they love to imitate, and the housewife who grumbles at her Chinese cook, generally has only herself to blame. She has shown him too much; so much that he is firmly convinced that the example is to be copied on each and every occasion, and if a Chinaman has a fault it is that an idea once in his head is never got out. The true plan is to show him just enough for the particular occasion, and again and again for each variation of food; then he will become an ideal cook, only in such circumstances the question arises, is it worth while to have a cook at all?