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.

Thieves are operating extensively in London South.

A youth, 18 years of age, was sent to gaol in Winnipeg on Tuesday, for making counterfeit coin.

The Dominion Government has drafted a bill to prevent extortionate rates of interest being collected.

Laforce Langevin, only son of Sir Hector Langevin, committed suicide at his father's house in Quebec on Wednesday.

The pilots of the St. Lawrence are making a hard fight to secure incorporation, but it is doubtful if they will succeed.

The Quebec City Council on Tuesday night voted twenty-five hundred dollars towards the celebration of the Queen's jubilee.

The bill to make railway companies carry bicycles as baggage was carried in the Railway Committee at Ottawa by 46 votes to 21.

An item of $26,000 to pay the expenses of Canada's military representatives at the Queen's jubilee was passed by the House of Commons.

Flora and Maggie McMillan, sisters, living at St. Andrew's, N.S., near Antigonish, were burned to death in their house on Tuesday night.

Mr. William Southam, one of the shareholders, has taken action to have the Homestead Loan & Savings Society of Hamilton wound up.

The steamer Diana, which will carry the Canadian Government expedition to Hudson Bay, has arrived in Halifax, and will be provisioned at once.

Postmaster-General Mulock announced on Thursday in the Dominion House that jubilee stamps of various denominations will be issued to the public on the 19th prox.

A deputation waited on the Government to ask for a bonus of $1,000,000 towards the construction of a bridge over the St. Lawrence at Quebec. Mr. Laurier promised consideration.

It is understood that Mr. O. K. Domville, Mechanical Superintendent of the Grand Trunk Railway, will shortly be transferred from Hamilton. It is not known where he will be placed.

Mr. Thomas Fyshe, cashier of the Bank of Nova Scotia, has been appointed joint general manager of the Merchants' Bank of Canada, Mr. Hague, the general manager, having asked that a coadjutor be appointed.

Joe Racine, a former well-known resident of Montreal, has been arrested on a charge of murdering Leo Mailloux, an old man, whose body was found in a swamp near Rouse's Point, N.Y., on January 8th last.

Mrs. Gordon, widow of one of the victims of the Point Ellice bridge disaster, has got a verdict for $10,000 against the City of Victoria. It is said there are many more suits of a similar nature to follow.

It is reported at Victoria, B. C., that the Transvaal Gold Fields Company, of London, England, has acquired the charter and concessions obtained by the Cassiar Central Railway Company from British Columbia.

The Governor-General has received a letter of thanks from the Viceroy of India, in which it is stated that Canada stood next to Great Britain in her contributions to the India famine fund. The worst of the famine is past.

Mr. Belcourt of Ottawa has drawn the attention of the Government to the necessity for the erection of a national museum to preserve the very fine collection of specimens of various kinds now indifferently stored away at Ottawa.

The movement to establish a volunteer corps in connection with Toronto University, to replace the rifle company which existed for nearly thirty-three years, but was disbanded some four years since, was advanced a step on Wednesday afternoon, which an influential and very representative deputation brought the matter to the notice of Sir Richard Cartwright, Acting Minister of Militia, who promised to give the matter his favorable consideration.

Arrangements have been almost completed for a jubilee thanksgiving service, to be held in Notre Dame church, Montreal, on Sunday evening, June 20th, in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne of Great Britain. It will surpass anything of the kind ever before attempted in Canada. The decorations of the church will be carried out on a magnificent scale, while the music will be the great feature. There will be a choir of six hundred voices, and an orchestra (in addition to the great organ) of fifty or sixty pieces. Many distinguished personages will be present, including Lord and Lady Aberdeen.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Henry Edward Somerset, fourth son of the Duke of Beaufort, is dead. He was born in 1853.

Oscar Wilde, during his imprisonment was given the minimum of treadmill on account of the condition of his heart. His principal duties were bookbinding and marking coal sacks.

Anne, Dowager Duchess of Atholl, widow of the sixth Duke, is dead. She was a daughter of the late Henry Home Drummond, of Blair Drummond, New Brunswick.

Owing to the fear of hydrophobia in England, an order has been issued by the British Board of Agriculture, enacting such stringent regulations as virtually to amount to the prohibition of the importation of dogs.

Oscar Wilde was released from prison on Wednesday morning with great secrecy. He will pay a short visit to Paris, then return to London and resume his literary labours. He is in splendid mental and physical health.

The Bench of Bishops in Dublin on Wednesday elected the Right Rev. Joseph Ferguson, D.D., Bishop of Meath, to be Anglican Archbishop of Dublin in succession to the Right Hon. and Most Rev. Lord Plunket, D.D., who died on April 1.

UNITED STATES.

About ten thousand tailors are out on strike in New York, and their number is being increased.

Efforts will be made to induce the tailors in Syracuse, Rochester and other towns to join in the New York strike movement.

Adolph L. Luetgert a sausage manufacturer, is charged at Chicago with having murdered his wife and afterwards burning her body.

President McKinley has sent a message to Congress recommending an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars for the relief of the destitute Americans in Cuba.

A war of extermination against sympathetic strikes in the bulldog trades has been declared by a combination of Chicago contractors, employers, and other business men.

The United States Senate passed the joint resolution recognizing the existence of a state of war in Cuba and declaring the neutrality of the United States by a vote of 41 to 14.

Private Allan of the 9th U. S. Infantry at Watertown, N.Y., has been indicted there by the grand jury for the murder of Mary Crouch and Mary Daly, near Sackett's Harbor.

Former Governor Alfgeld, of Illinois, has been taking the Kneipp cure in Milwaukee. He is suffering from severe nervous prostration, and, it is said, is affected with locomotor ataxia.

Mr. George A. Kittredge, who has been a merchant in Bombay since 1862, has arrived in New York. He says there is great distress in India, and contributions are urgently needed, but not a single person has died of starvation.

Twelve firemen were frightfully burned by the explosion of a tank containing 80 gallons of gasoline in a Chicago grocery. The explosion was heard for several blocks, and many windows in the vicinity were shattered.

Rear-Admiral Miller, of the United States Navy, will represent his country at the Queen's diamond jubilee. He will command the cruiser Brooklyn. It is said that he has been provided with a liberal sum of money for the purposes of entertaining.

Elverton R. Chapman, the sugar trust witness who refused to answer a Senate committee's questions as to whether he had acted as a broker for any Senators in speculations in the sugar trust, has been given 25 days in jail in Washington.

A Cuban memorial has been sent to the United States Secretary of State by bankers, shippers and manfacturers in New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis and other cities asking the Government to take steps to bring about a reconciliation between Spain and the Cuban insurgents.

GENERAL.

The Madrid Liberal says the Cuban insurgents have raised a loan of three million dollars in New York.

It is reported that a plot to murder King George has been discovered at Athens and that many arrests have been made.

Brazil's Minister for War, General Bernardo Vasques, has resigned, and has been succeeded by General Marcado Bitencourt.

A man in South Africa claims to be the youngest brother of the late Duke of Hamilton, and therefore heir to the title and estates.

Macadonia Fransto, the 17-year-old boy, who murdered four persons at Monctova, Mex., and then eloped with the daughter of a ranchman, has been captured.

A train conveying a detachment of reservists from Westphalia to Metz was wrecked on Wednesday. Twenty-eight men were killed, and many others were seriously injured.

The residents of Hong Kong have decided to erect a hospital for women and children and a training school for nurses as a memorial of the Queen's diamond jubilee.

It is semi-officially stated in Madrid that Spain will never agree to the sale of Cuba, nor to foreign intervention in a question which she regards as exclusively concerning herself.

THE FAMILY TREE.

Many years ago a conundrum-loving king offered a prisoner his liberty if he could invent a conundrum that the king could not answer. The prisoner evolved the following couplet, pointing to a man who stood near;

Brothers and sisters have I none,
But that man's father is my father's son.

This won him his liberty. When asked to explain he showed that the man to whom he had pointed, when he repeated, the couplet, was his own son.

It has been a matter of speculation at one time or another with most people, as to what relationship certain members of the family stood to each other.

It is claimed that if a man should marry his wife's sister, he has also married his own aunt. That makes him not only my son, but my brother-in-law. He is his wife's nephew, his mother's brother-in-law, and, if I have other children, uncle to his own brothers and sisters. But, whatever else he may be, he cannot escape his wife's mother being his mother-in-law. There is also little consolation for him in the fact that he will only be a cousin of his own children, but that may serve him in good stead when they become too exacting in the matter of new clothes and pocket money.

He is not only the brother-in-law of his daughter-in-law, but will be, if his son becomes a father, the grandfather of his own nephews and nieces. His wife will be mother-in-law to her own sister and grandmother of her nephews or nieces. Her own son is also her brother-in-law.

HER NATIONALITY.

Beenaway—Why, hello, Hennypeck! I hear that you are married? Bride one of the village girls?

Hennypeck (meekly)—No; she is a foreigner.

Eh?

A tartar.

THE ARMISTICE ACCEPTED.

TERMS ON WHICH THE TURKS WILL END THE WAR.

No Truth in the Report of the Macedonian Insurrection—The Greek Army Falling Back.

MACEDONIAN INSURRECTION.

The Turkish Government declares there is no truth in the report that 4,000 Macedonian insurgents have captured the pass forming a part of the principal line of communication with the Turkish army, that they are advancing towards Elassona, and are preparing to unite their forces with the bands under Daveli, Zermas, and other Macedonian chiefs. According to the Porte all these statements are absolutely without foundation.

GREEK ARMY FALLING BACK.

The Greek army in Epirus has been compelled to fall back upon Arta, but continues to occupy a few positions beyond the bridge. The Greek losses at Griboro were 558 killed and wounded, 33 being officers. It is stated that the Government has ordered the forces in Thessaly and in Epirus to remain strictly on the defensive.

THE INDEMNITY.

The sum of £16,000,000 (Turkish) is mentioned in Constantinople as the amount of the indemnity which Turkey will demand from Greece.

Placards have been posted in the Stamboul quarter protesting against the shedding of Mussulman blood, on the ground that the sacrifices imposed upon Turkey by the war are out of proportion to the advantages she can gain.

RESPITE AT LAST FOR GREECE.

To all appearances the struggle—if it can be given such a name—between Turkey and Greece is over.

For over a week the Turks, flushed with victory, all their old savage delight in battle awakened, have delayed to give the armistice which the world—except the Turks and the German Emperor—desires, and have put a cruelly extreme price upon any relenting towards their beaten foes.

Apparently it has been Russia that has at last intervened. A partial mobilization of the Bulgarian army, which numbers not far short of 200,000 men and is decidedly formidable, has taken place, and the Sultan has abated his pretensions to independent action. And it is undeniable that Russia guides Bulgaria.

The hold of Russia upon Turkey is overwhelming. The Black Sea is a Russian lake, and the 100,000 soldiers whom Russia is said to have at and near Odessa could sail down the coast and choose their point at which to land, from Constantinople to the boundary of Bulgaria. The three strong Russian ships in the Mediterranean could operate on the coast railway which connects Constantinople with Salonica, and so with Edhem Pasha. The 200,000 Bulgarians would keep thousands of Turks busy along the slopes of the Rhodope Mountains, and so fight Russia's battles.

Turkey may well pause when Russia calmly hints that Greece has been tortured long enough.

The calamitous struggle which has lasted for just a month, divides itself into four well-marked stages.

War was declared on April 17, the Saturday following Good Friday, and fighting in the Thessalian mountains began at once. For a week the outnumbered and ill-prepared Greeks fought bravely; then bad work on the part of officers and lack of discipline on the part of the men led to the panic which lost Larissa on Friday, April 24.

Then came a pause, while the Turks established themselves at Larissa and took breath, the feast of Bairan coming in opportunely. The Greeks took post at Pharsalos and reorganized. The air was full of rumors of intervention.

On Tuesday, May 3, the Turks advanced again. The Greeks showed better generalship, but the odds were against them, and on Thursday or Friday they had to evacuate Pharsalos.

Then came this perplexing pause, the Greeks willing at last to accept the mediation of Europe, the Turks setting too high a price upon a cessation of the war and driving on their men, till Domokos fell on Saturday last.

Then Russia, satisfied with Greece's three defeats, raised her finger and the war seems to have stopped.

WHITE FLAG NOW FLYING.

A despatch from Larissa says the white flag has been hoisted between the armies of Turkey and Greece, and that Crown Prince Constantine has been authorized to suspend hostilities with a view to concluding arrangements for an armistice. To all intents and purposes the war is ended. The Sultan is puffed up with vanity by reason of the success of his troops, and Greece, the nation with which the European powers sympathize but dare not assist is humiliated in the dust made sacred by a thousand memories of the past.

The Sultan is in no yielding mood and flings his defiance in the face of combined Europe. He says he is prepared to modify his demands in regard to the retrocession of Thessaly, and may even lessen his claims for indemnity, owing to the bankrupt condition of Greece. But in regard to the modification of the capitulations, it is impossible, he says, to make any change in his demands. It is confidently hoped by him that Europe will have a sufficient sense of justice not to press Turkey, as upon this point she is determined not to yield, and should Europe attempt to impose such a sacrifice by force of arms, the situation created would be most detrimental to general peace.

The powers have a grave task before them. They are pledged to Greece to obtain terms of peace that she can accept without national humiliation, and the Sultan bars the way and speaks contemptuously of the combined forces of Europe compelling him to abate his demands one jot. The powers are face to face with a dilemma, and the civilized world awaits with anxiety its solution by the diplomats of the powers.

THE CZAR'S MESSAGE.

A despatch from Constantinople gives the text of the Czar's message to the Sultan asking for the cessation of hostilities as follows:—"Your Imperial Majesty will not feel astonished by the fact, that encouraged by the evidence of sincere friendship and neighbourly feeling which exists between us, I take upon myself the task of addressing to your august sensibility my expression of the wish that you will crown the heroic successes of your soldiers by a suspension of hostilities.

"This is a course which will be in entire accord with the firmness and peaceful moderation you evinced at the commencement of the campaign. Your Imperial Majesty will thus accomplish an act which will be entirely in conformity with wisdom and moderation, and which will serve to still further augment the respect and admiration you personally inspire, and of which I will forever retain the memory.

"I pray your Imperial Majesty to be good enough to believe in my unalterable friendship."

THE SULTAN'S REPLY.

The Sultan replied, expressing lively and sincere thanks, and informing the Czar that he has ordered the Turkish commanders to stop fighting. In conclusion, the Sultan said:—"I pray your Imperial Majesty also to take into consideration that I wish for the friendly intervention of the powers to assure the re-establishment of peace, having for its result the safeguarding of the rights and prestige of my Government and the maintenance of general peace by the subsequent continual security of my frontier."

LIFE ON THE OCEAN WAVE.

A SCHEME TO INSURE SAFETY ON THE HIGH SEAS.

A String of Structures Every Few Hundred Miles Across the Ocean—They Will Be Occupied By Men, But Everything Will Be Done Automatically as Far as Possible.

A project, as bold as it is magnificent, has just been invented for providing a series of stations across the Atlantic which will enable steamers at sea to be communicated with just as a railway train is on dry land.

At certain intervals of about a hundred miles, Mr. Reuben H. Plass, for that is the inventor's name, proposes to place what he calls "central stations."

They are two-storied structures, with quarters in which a certain number of men will live just as they do on the lightships round the coast. Each of these stations will be supplied with stores capable of lasting a long time, and is to be equipped with a life-boat manned by three sailors, which is to be available for use whenever necessary.

There is also to be attached to these stations two steam or naphtha launches to patrol the interval from one station to the other, keeping a lookout for ships in distress and for wrecks, as well as icebergs. All information gathered on these points will be conveyed along the line by means of a telephone apparatus, with which it is proposed to connect the chain of vessels. Between each central station there will be a series of small floating lighthouses at intervals of a mile. These are to be provided with foghorns, whose working will be by means of compressed air stored by an

AUTOMATIC APPARATUS

as the edifice rocks, while the light which they furnish at night will require attention only two or three times a year.

These lighthouses will be furnished with ladders reaching to the sea, so that should an individual be unfortunate enough through shipwreck or accident, to get into the water he would be able to climb into the lighthouse, which will contain food and the means of preparing it, as well as supplies of dry clothing.

The opening of the door of any one of these lighthouses in the chain will automatically convey a message to this effect down the line to the central station on each side, and will also indicate the lighthouse which has thus become the shelter of some one needing assistance.

As soon as the storm subsides, should one be raging at the time, the life-boat will put off from the nearest station in order to take the man off the lighthouse, and place him on board the first passing steamer going in the direction in which he was bound.

While the human side of the project is thus indicated, its utilitarian advantages will be by no means lost sight of. On every one of these lighthouses or buoys—for such they will practically become—automatic instruments will record the temperature of the air and water, the rainfall, the velocity and direction of the wind and current, as well as other facts which it is desirable to register.

These will be telegraphed to both sides of the Atlantic, and a knowledge of the climatic conditions advancing to the coast likely to obtain on shore will thus be secured

SEVERAL DAYS AHEAD.

Everything which can be done automatically will be done in this way, so that as little routine work as possible will be left for the men at the different stations to look after. They will thus be able to give the greater part of their attention to the patrol of their district and the life-saving work, which will naturally be one of the chief considerations rendering the adoption of the plan at all feasible.

In order to keep the lightships and floating stations in positions, they will, of course, have to be anchored to the bottom of the ocean. To make them as comfortable and as steady as possible for the men living in them, huge iron tanks will form an essential feature of their construction. These will be filled with oil, which in stormy weather, will be poured on the waves in order to break their force and keep the sea from running too high, thus endangering the safety of the stations or causing them to drag their anchors.

No doubt the whole idea seems Utopian in its suggestion at present. The problem is, however, one which has engaged the attention of inventors for many years, and there is little doubt but that some such scheme will be elaborated, if not in our day, at all events before the next century has celebrated its jubilee.

GREAT FIRE IN TORONTO.

JOHN EATON'S DEPARTMENTAL STORE IN RUINS.

The Whole Building Was in Flames in Almost an Instant—The Hottest Blaze on Record—In Less Than Seven Minutes the Roof Fell In—In Ten Minutes the Walls Fell.

The John Eaton Company's departmental store at the corner of Young and Richmond street is in ruins. The fire was one of the hottest in the history of Toronto's great conflagrations. Loss estimated at $250,000, which will be covered by insurance.

IT WAS MARVELLOUS.

Before the firebells had ceased sounding the alarm from box 31 at Yonge and Adelaide-streets, the flames had burst through the roof of the front portion of the building and then a wild glare lit up the surrounding streets for thousands of yards. In the boarding houses along Temperance St., and in the living apartments on Yonge St., there was a general panic, the people all having been aroused by the instantaneous appearance of the bright light. When the Bay street firemen came around the corner the front part of the building was a mass of flames and people living in adjacent places were hurrying for safety with what little of their personal effects they could get out.

OUT IN THEIR NIGHT-CLOTHES.

In the boarding house of Mrs. McClenighan, 15 Temperance St., right next to Eaton's, 17 people were sleeping and escaped in their night clothes. Some of them who were more collected got on their apparel and, seeing there was no immediate danger, got the others to do so.

Although the wind was coming from the west the flames seemed to burn quickly towards the rear of the building.

FIGHTING THE FLAMES.

The firemen were stationed on Yonge Temperance and Adelaide streets, and with one of the engines on each street. From the roof of the Saturday Night building one stream of hose was played on the burning mass, while from the top of the Methodist Book Room building on Temperance street another stream was playing. On Yonge street there were several streams going, but they looked altogether useless against roaring flames that seemed threatening to take in the whole of the block, and in a short time the efforts of the firemen were directed to saving adjacent buildings by wetting them thoroughly to keep the sparks which were flying in myriads on all the surrounding roofs.

WATER TOWER DIDN'T WORK.

The water tower was on Temperance street, but it was a miserable failure, all attempts to get it to work being futile for some time after its arrival at the fire.

It was about five minutes after the fire was discovered that the roof of the Eaton place fell in, and in less than three minutes afterwards the front wall on Yonge street collapsed.

Some thirty firemen were working in very dangerous proximity to it when a warning cry went up from the crowd, and they all rushed toward the Arcade just in time to avoid being crushed to pieces. The wall tottered first inward and then outward, and then with an awful crash fell forward.

THE WIRES WENT TOO.

As it struck the vast network of wires in front, the scene, though terrible, was immensely grand. For a brief moment Yonge street in front of the Arcade seemed a mass of iridescent sparks, but it lasted for but a short time, and the tangled mass of wires was sputtering underneath the ruins.

When the fire appeared there was hardly a soul on the street excepting a few printers going home from their work and the police. In five minutes five hundred people were on hand, and by the time the wall crashed in the crowd had increased to thousands.

OTHER PROPERTIES DAMAGED.

The intense heat played havoc with the plate glass and inflammable material on the buildings on the opposite side of Yonge street, and on the north side of Temperance street. The sufferers from broken glass and scorched woodenwork on Yonge street were: C. W. Bunt & Co., tailors; J. Ovens, fancy work; Pember's hair goods store; the Art Metropole, the Toronto Tire Company, and the Boston Lunch. The damage to these establishments will range from $100 to $1,000 each. The Fleming H. Revell Company, corner of Richmond and Yonge streets, sustained considerable damage from broken glass and water. Davis & Sons, jewelers, whose establishment is immediately to the south of the ruins, have suffered heavy loss from smoke and water. The premises occupied by the Toronto Bill Posting Company, and owned by George McConkey, on Temperance street, abutting the John Eaton Co., were badly damaged. The roof was burned off and tons of water rushed down into the basement.

LOSS WILL BE $250,000.

Mr. John Eaton, who manages the establishment, was seen while the fire was still in progress. He stated that there never was a time when the firm had less stock on hand than they had before the fire. The greater part of their spring stock had been sold out, while the summer goods were still in the customs houses. He estimates the loss, therefore, at not more than $250,000, and gives $200,000 as the probable loss, including building. Both building and contents were fully insured, but at the early hour Mr. Eaton could not recollect the names of the companies.

REVISION NEEDED.

Wilkins—Such idioms as Between the devil and the deep sea, though very expressive, are not exactly up to date.

Simpson—They're not? Well, how would you improve on the one you quoted, for instance?

Wilkins—Well, I think a more modern plan would be to say: Between the trolley car and the scorcher.