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.

Archbishop Langevin's health is slowly improving.

There is talk of the erection of a new $50,000 opera house at Brantford by a syndicate.

The Dominion Bank statement for October shows a remarkable jump in the circulation of the banks.

Mr. Wm. Miller, a Napanee hunter, was lost in the woods near Plevna for four days without food.

The C. P. R. has reduced passenger rates one cent a mile on a number of its western branch lines.

The Canadian Pacific railway is now arranging a series of special excursions to the Klondyke for the coming spring.

It is estimated that the amount of wheat delivered by western farmers since September 1 to date is 17,000,000 bushels.

The grading on the Crow's Nest Railway is at present finished to Crow's Nest Lake, a distance of 72 miles from MacLeod.

Thomas Davidson, messenger in the Bank d'Hochelaga at Winnipeg, committed suicide by shooting in the rooms over the bank.

Ottawa wants to be the metropolitan Anglican See of Canada, instead of Prince Rupert's Land, which at present holds the honour.

Mr. George Goodwin, of Ottawa, the chief financial backer of the roller boat, says the machine will not be given another trial this year.

Twenty thousand dollars in gold arrived at the Customs Department in Ottawa on Monday as duties collected on miners' outfits at the port of Lake Tagish.

A party of four Englishmen, under the command of Captain E. H. Bernard, of the Indian Staff Corps, a nephew of the Baroness Macdonald, left Montreal, on Thursday night for the Klondyke.

The Department of the Interior has received a report from Major Walsh, dated at Skaguay. He states that he has got all his supplies over the pass and is now on the way to Selkirk.

Mr. W. A. Grenier, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for libelling Mr. Tarte, Minister of Public Works, was released on Thursday afternoon, having served one month of his sentence.

The arrangements for the extension of the Intercolonial railway into Montreal over the lines of the Drummond County road are now completed, and the service is expected to commence the first of December.

The Montreal Harbor Commissioners have finally accepted the plan of harbor improvements proposed by the Department of Public Works. The Government will do the work, which will cost $3,000,000.

The Chateau de Ramezay, Montreal, has obtained a valuable addition to its collection in a portrait of Gen. Wolfe, by G. Constable Alston, the only painting extant that was executed during the general's lifetime.

John Hough, 84 years of age, an inmate of the House of Providence Dundas, wandered from the institution on Monday afternoon and his body has been found in two feet of water in the rear of Wardlaw's Woollen Mills.

Major-General Gascoigne, on Thursday held an investigation in Montreal into the dispute existing in the commissioned ranks of the Royal Scots of Canada. The Commander-in-Chief censured Lt.-Col. Strathy, A.D.C., and Major Ibbotson, and said if the bickering did not cease he would dismiss both officers and disband the corps.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The temperature which was high last week in the United Kingdom, suddenly dropped on Sunday, and snow has fallen in Scotland and the north of England.

Six hundred reindeer are to be collected from the United States Government herds in Alaska, to take part in the expedition to be sent to the eight whalers ice-bound in the Arctic.

UNITED STATES.

It has been determined in New York to appeal to the public at large for subscriptions to a memorial for Henry George.

The first shipment of five hundred carloads of potatoes, in bond, from Canada to Cuba, passed through Saratoga, N. Y., on Tuesday.

The first Scientist church in Chicago and the largest in the world of that denomination, was opened on Sunday. It has a seating capacity of two thousand.

President Fetterolf, of Girard College, Philadelphia, has issued an edict against football, and henceforth the students of that institution must keep off the grid-iron.

It is stated that the reason Mr. Sovereign resigned from the office of Grand Master Workman of the Knights of Labour was that he might have free hands to run for President of the United States at the close of Mr. McKinley's term.

The Knights o fLabour, at their assembly in Louisville, Ky., have passed a strong resolution condemning the proposed Anglo-American arbitration treaty, simply because England is a gold-coining country, and a majority of the Knights of Labour are silver men.

Fred. R. Ketcham, of Chicago, was given a judgment of $21,666 in his suit there against the North-western Railroad for $25,000 damages. He was blacklisted while a conductor for that road.

Dr. Nansen, who lectured in Wilwaukee, Wis., on Thursday night, denied that any arrangements were being made for another voyage to the North Pole. In fact, he was not at all certain that he would try again.

According to reports from New York, the general trade conditions show no marked variation. In some lines there is a moderate improvement in demand, as cooler weather in some directions has helped retail trade to a noticeable extent. Better prices have prevailed in wheat, oats, corn, hides and leather, syrup, turpentine, etc. The consumption of iron and steel is increasing so rapidly that an advance in prices is probable. Railway earnings for the third quarter of the year lead us to anticipate fairly satisfactory net returns, and the reports of a large proportion of the railway companies in the United States point to a more satisfactory general result. The commercial failures in the United States for the week just ended amount to two hundred and thirty-five, as compared with three hundred and eight in the corresponding week a year ago.

GENERAL.

Heavy rains have caused floods in the south of France.

Elaborate preparations are being made for Dr. Nansen's next expedition in quest of the North Pole.

A bill has been introduced into the New Zealand Parliament for reciprocal trade relations with Great Britain.

The rebellion in northern China is spreading and fears are expressed that the insurgents will advance on Tien Tsin.

Dr. Thomas W. Evans, the famous American dentist, who aided the flight of ex-Empress Eugenie, in 1870, died in Paris on Sunday. He was seventy-five years of age.

The leak of French military secrets has not been stopped by the deportation of Captain Dreyfus, and suspicion points at Comte Esterhazy, who has demanded an investigation.

Serious tension exists between Japan and Russia, owing to the latter's efforts to control the Corean Customs, and some of the Japanese Ministers go to the extent of advising war.

A Havana special says that nearly seventy-five per cent. of the four hundred thousand women, children, and non-combatants, affected by Gen. Weyler's starvation policy are dead.

It is estimated that about one thousand eight hundred persons were rendered homeless by the rising of the waters of the Neva, the flooding of the canals, the suburban islands and the outlying portions of the City of St. Petersburg.

The black soldiers of the first battalion, West India regiment, at Kingston, Jamaica, began a lively riot, but Major Buck, who was called to the scene, bravely confronted the men, reduced the majority to order and used them to overpower the rest.

It is rumored that negotiations are on foot between Austria, France, and Germany, in regard to the opportuneness of convening an international conference to secure a general agreement for the diminution or abolition of the sugar bounties.

AUTOMATIC TRAIN CHECKER.

Test of a Novel Invention by a Belgian to Prevent Railroad Accidents.

A novel automatic train checker, invented by a Belgian has just undergone a successful test in France.

"Some little time ago," says a correspondent, "the French State Railway gave a public trial of a new invention designed to effect automatically the stoppage of trains with a view to preventing collisions, grade crossing accidents, etc. The experiments took place under the direction of the inventor at Beaulieu le Cendray, before many railway engineers and a numerous gathering of scientists. Those present were convinced that the apparatus fully satisfied all claimed for it.

"The point chosen for the official experiments offer the greatest possible danger and difficulties. It was on the single track line between Chatres and Orleans at the point of divergence of the branch running to Anneau and immediately over a grade crossing.

"There at a distance of 250 yards from the station, the mechanism was placed in position. The invention consists of an immense hook, or catch, made of heat iron, to which while rigid a certain elasticity is given. It is fastened to the rails and regulated by a wire and lever from the station. When lying flat trains pass it readily but when raised it catches a lever hanging from the passing locomotive. The latter lever then automatically causes an air valve on the engin to causes an air valve on the engine to in action. During the trial the train came to a standstill before reaching the station.

"Careful calculation has been made that the hook or catch on the roadbed should have at the same time sufficient suppleness to insure its action.

"Another ingenious arrangement connects the grade crossing gate with the apparatus in such a manner that the former cannot be opened without the latter being in position, so that an approaching train must necessarily stop before reaching the crossing thus avoiding all risk of injuring persons passing at the time. Further appliances are said to render the invention equally useful in the prevention of collisions."

AGRICULTURAL.

COVERING HAY STACKS.

Every winter there is a large loss in wasted hay from the tops and sides of stacks which have been left poorly protected against the rains and snow. We have known almost one-fourth of clover stacks to be unfit for feeding when by proper protection there would have been no loss at all. It seems very unsatisfactory to lose such an amount of hay after all the work of securing it has been expended and the cost of raising it has gone into the crop. It means not merely a loss of the crop itself, but a loss of time and money as well. In what way can we provide against this loss when compelled to stack the hay instead of putting it into the barn or shed? What is the best protection may depend upon the kind of hay and the means at hand or available for protection. In an ordinary year Timothy hay may be stacked and left standing during the winter with little damage. Of course this will depend upon the manner of stacking. We say it is impossible to stack Timothy hay without serious loss, although it is often stacked and topped in such a manner as to require some protection other than the hay itself. When swamp or long grass of any kind is available we would use if for topping Timothy, raking and putting it on the stack while still green. If properly laid well down the sides of the stack and then secured by hanging light weights to wires over the top of the stack this affords an adequate covering to keep out all moisture. When the long grass is not to be obtained we have found nothing better and cheaper than the hay itself properly stacked. With clover hay or hay with any proportion of clover in it, some artificial covering is absolutely necessary to insure against serious loss. We have in the past stacked much hay and in all cases sustained a seious loss on clover or mixed hay when we were not careful. Whatever the covering is to be there is one rule that must be observed and that is to cover the entire stack. Not the top only, but the sides as well must be protected. How often we see stacks partially protected by a roofing which comes partly over the sloping sides. Reason should not need the indorsement of experience to show the folly of such a method. Such protection is worse than none at all. While the center of the stack is protected the constant action of the accumulated water at the bottom of the covering soon starts water courses downward through the hay and the entire sides of the stack are damaged. The covering should extend beyond the outer sides of the stack in all cases. Where long grass can be secured it makes a very satisfactory covering when laid in sufficient thickness over the top and allowed to lap over the sides. It is surprising what a water-tight roof can be made with such grass when properly laid. When we could not use grass we have found a roof of boards to be the next best covering. The easiest method of covering is to use rafters of 2x4 lumber cut long enough to project over the sides of the stack. Bolt them together at one end and hang them over the stack. Then beginning at the bottom, nail on the boards lengthwise, letting each board above project an inch over the board below it. This may be taken off when the hay is used, folded like a book and laid away for another season. If we were stacking out of doors now we should endeavor to get some light metal for making a permanent covering that could be painted, and which would be light for taking off and putting on as desired. In one season we have lost enough hay to purson we have lost enough hay to purchase such a covering. And here let us urge the wisdom of providing some kind of protection. It seems worse than folly to leave the stacks exposed when we know loss is certain to follow. If a shed or barn cannot be built do the next best thing and provide some kind of roofing to prevent this yearly loss.

WINTER ORCHARD WORK.

Black knot may be held in check by proper treatment in the winter, writes L. H. Pammel. The work should not be left until growth starts, as the disease may then spread to many trees. Cut off diseased branches some distance below the point of visible attack, as the mycelium, or vegetative part of the fungus spreads through the tissues beyond this point of apparent attack. The winter spores are mature now, or approaching maturity, and these, under favorable conditions germinate and spread the disease. In pruning infected trees use care that the blade of the knife does not come in contact with the spores. There is no doubt that the disease is frequently carried to other trees by prunign ly carried to other trees by pruning. I have occasionally observed that in grafting the plum black knot makes its appearance where the scion is put onto the graft.

Bladder plum or plum pocket occurs on different species of the plum and is caused by different species of exoascus. It is of annual reoccurrence in different species of the plum. The swollen bladder, which is found on the Chickashaw and that type of plum, commonly recurs on the same tree. In some cases the diseased portions were very much greater than the sound.

Cedar apple fungus and apple rust as is well known, is connected with the rust occurring on the crab apple. By removing the kidney-shaped brown galls on the red cedar in the winter, the cluster cup fungus of the apple may be prevented. Of course, where the cedar gall is very numerous this may be quite troublesome. It is better not to have the red cedar in proximity to a bearing orchard.

Pear blight may be lessened by the exercise of a little precaution on the part of horticulturists. If all the dead and blighted branches are cut off in the winter and the trees washed with a solution of copper sulphate the amount is greatly reduced.

Plum rot attacks many varieties of the cultivated red plum when ripe or nearly ripe, and frequently when half grown. Some seasons it is very severe during the flowering period, especially during moist and rainy weather. The fungus attacks the petals stamens and pistil. Soon the whole branch becomes affected. In a few days not a single healthy flower will remain, and hence crop failure. Careful observation will show that it starts from certain parts of the tree where the old attacked plums are hanging on the tree. The object lesson is plain. Remove all the diseased plums in the fall. Rubbish heaps containing the spores of fungi are too often neglected. They should be burned.

I have noticed for a number of years that spot disease of the cherry is very much more frequent in nurseries and old orchards and places where the disease has been known for years. This certainly is an indication that it can be prevented by removing the diseased leaves. This disease is so bad that the common variety of the cherry cannot be grown from pits. Thus a lot of seedlings of Shadow Amarelle lost nearly all of their leaves in July. The disease should not only be treated with fungicides but the old leaves should be removed and burned.

PEAR BLIGHT.

The following is a treatment for pear blight: First, aim to put the tree in a condition to render it the least liable to attack. This means to so manure and cultivate that the tree will not grow rapidly. Thus the more a tree is fed the worse it will fare when attacked by the blight. Trees that are highly fertilized with nitrogenous manures are especially liable to blight. In short, overstimulation with manures is to be avoided. Good tillage in the same way, while it makes a tree bear, also tends to increase the susceptibility to blight. Anything that retards the growth is beneficial so far as the disease is concerned. The orchardist must stimulate by manures and cultivate sufficiently to give a good crop and shun that which will do more. Soil and situation will determine largely whether sod or cultivated may be best to resist the blight.

The second method is the extermination of the blight germs, which seems to be the only direct remedy. This is done by cutting out and burning all blighted portions of the trees. Every tree of the pome family, including the apple, pear, quince, crab, mountain ash, service berry, and hawthorn, should be treated in the same manner. Particular attention should be paid to the active blight of late autumn, cutting it out and burning the branches before spring arrives. It is important to cut out the blight whenever seen, but all should be removed before the next growing season begins.

To put the treatment in small compass, all blight should be removed as soon as seen while the trees are growing. A thorough inspection needs to be made in the late fall for any branches showing blight. After those are cut out a sharp outlook should be kept for the disease in the orchard the next spring. In connection with pruning and burning, the trees should not be stimulated beyond what is required for a fair growth of wood and the production of a profitable crop.

PROTECTION OF THE PEACH.

In this latitude, winter killing of the fruit buds of the peach is usually due to the unfavorable effects of freezing, after they have been stimulated into growth by warm weather during winter or early spring. It is seldom that the temperature drops sufficiently low to injure dormant peach buds. Peach fruit buds may safely endure a temperature of 10 or 320 degrees below zero, provided they mature well in autumn, are entirely dormant, and the cold weather comes on gradually. Zero weather may kill fruit buds that have swollen during previous warm days, or that were not properly ripened in autumn. The early swelling and growth of the buds is due to the warmth they receive from the sun on bright days is practically independent of root action, and may take place on warm, sunny days in winter, while the roots are frozen and dormant.

"Layering" or bending down the trees in autumn and covering them with earth, has proven beneficial. Shading the trees with board sheds, enabled peach buds to survive the winter uninjured, when 80 per cent of unprotected buds were killed. Trees protected in this way, blossomed later, remained in bloom longer, set more fruit in proportion to the number of apparently perfect flowers and held their fruit better than any other trees on the station grounds. This is the most effective means of winter protection tried at the station, but it is probably too expensive for commercial orchards.

CHEAP MEAT IN AUSTRALIA.

Meat in Australia is an inexpensive food, Mutton frequently can be purchased there at one penny a pound. Fish is still cheaper.

SOME PASSPORT RULES.

The Exceeding Strictness Observed by the Police Authorities of Russia.

There are few countries in which travelers now require passports in order to promote their convenience and security. In Brazil and Venezuela a passport must be shown to the officials before one is allowed to leave the country for a foreign port. This is a vexatious measure, enforced apparently for the sake of enabling a few officials to collect small fees. In Cuba passports are produced whenever travelers arrive or depart. This precaution is considered necessary in view of the political condition of unrest prevailing in the island.

In Russia passport regulations are enforced with great stringency. No traveler is allowed to enter the empire until he has obtained a passport and convinced the Russian consular officers at the port from which he sails that he is neither a Roman Catholic priest nor a Hebrew. The question ordinarily asked is, "What is your religion?" but it is designed to provide against the entry of either of these two classes. When the traveler arrives at a Russian port, with a passport which has been properly viseed and countersigned at a consular office, it is critcally examined by a police officer and duly registered. At the entrance of the hotel another police officer takes possession of the document, and, in the course of twenty-four hours, returns it with a permit for a limited residence in the country.

When the traveler departs for another city in the empire he must have the passport countersigned by the police. This process continues until he reaches the frontier, which he cannot cross unless the passport has been viseed and stamped by the police. Not infrequently tourists are stopped at the frontier and subjected to serious inconvenience, because they have neglected to comply with the police regulations respecting passports.

All this red tape causes annoyance and irritation among tourists, who are apt to overlook the fact that Russians as well as foreigners are compelled to observe these police regulations. It is the business of the police to know where everybody lodges. A permit is required if a native removes from one quarter of a town to another. Everybody is registered by the police when he arrives or departs, and foreigners when they are in Russia are dealt with on equal terms with permanent residents.

THE PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE.

Every man is painfully aware that a proposal is a ludicrous business. Probably none of the sex was ever known to enjoy it, or to look upon putting his fate to the test as anything but a ghastly affair, however delightful the ultimate consequences of that testing may be. He writhes at the thought of a rejection. Even if he is accepted, it does not seem to him to make the proposing itself any more agreeable. An act of the legislature that would abolish proposals and put some pleasanter form of courtship in their stead would have a chance of being passed by both houses without a voice raised against the bill.

But men, while quite aware of the light in which a proposal appeals to themselves, have a haunting idea that it has a different aspect indeed to a woman. They believe that what is so unpleasant to themselves is a real source of joy to the other side. It is a deeply-rooted conviction in their minds that no woman lives who does not take as keen a rapture in being proposed to as he himself feels in bringing down game he has been hunting.

But that this is a thorough mistake he would be aware if he knew more about the mind and character of woman.

True, there are some of the sex who may take a delight in seeing a man at their feet. These are either women who have had a disappointment in their own lives, and revenge themselves upon mankind in general by enjoying their pain, or else they are so devoured by vanity that anything that proves their power of commanding admiration is a joy to them, and they care little, as long as their ruling passion is gratified, how other people suffer.

The woman who enjoys receiving a proposal she does not mean to accept is always a low type of her sex. She is selfish and vain, and shallow, and devoid of tenderness and sympathy. No true woman and no really good woman ever feels anything but pain at inflicting pain. When she has to refuse a man the love he asks for, no matter whether he is worthy of it or not, the task is distasteful to her, even hateful.

That is why so many women unmeritedly gain the claim, in men's eyes, to be regarded as flirts, since they avoid a proposal by every means in their power, and try not to let matters come to a point. The unsophisticated male, seeing these coy retreats, supposes they are only meant to lure him on, and his ardor becomes the greater. Then, when he is refused, he accuses her of having encouraged him, and he retires in the sulks, feeling himself deeply injured.

How unpleasant it is to have to say "No," to a man who is urging you to take him, no man can ever realize. He is quite well aware, keenly aware, that it is horrible to be said "No," to; he doesn't for a moment suppose it is equally horrid to have to do the saying. He thinks a girl refuses him as she would refuse an invitation to waltz or a suggestion that she should take a chair.

A man, it may broadly be laid down, finds a proposal unpleasant whatever its issue is going to be. A woman naturally does not find the matter so disagreeable when she loves the proposer. She has this tremendous advantage over her wooer, that she knows what answer his proposal is going to have, and he doesn't. To a woman who loves a man it is a delightful thing to be told that she has not given her love in vain—that is, when it is all over. But even if she cares for him, and means to accept him, it is an open question whether the proposal itself is all clear pleasure.