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.

There were 1,595 arrests in Hamilton last year, against 1,821 in 1896.

Winnipeg's new directory gives the city a population of 45,000, an increase of 5,000 in the year.

The Wentworth County Council has 30 applicants for the position of County Clerk.

London now embraces 4,478 acres, according to City Clerk Kingston's new hand-book of civic statistics.

Returns of the Dominion land sales for the year 1897 shows the sales to have been $104,700. In 1896 they were $71,796.

The Minister of Justice has fixed the trial of Mrs. Sternaman for the May Assizes, which will be held by Judge Robertson.

It is reported at Winnipeg that a committee of the Commons will be appointed to enquire into the elevator system throughout the Dominion.

The G. T. R. authorities deny the report that the railway will shortly take over the cartage business from the Shedden and Hendrie companies.

The steamer Commonwealth, abandoned off the coast near Victoria, B. C. has been picked up by the coaster Willapa. The prize is worth $400,000.

Since the death of County Clerk Counsell at Hamilton no one knows the combination of the safe in his office, and all attempts to open it have failed.

Ninety applications have been made to the Department of the Interior for dredging locations on the Yukon, Stewart, and other rivers in the Yukon district.

The Welland Aqueduct Power Company has been organized, with a capital stock of $24,000, to supply electricity for light, heat and power, and water-power for manufacturers.

The Government will place over 90,000,000 whitefish in Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, and St. Clair next summer. The eggs are now being hatched in the Sandwich hatchery.

The C. P. R. has just issued a map of its roads and connections, showing routes to the Yukon gold fields, Alaska, Klondike and the northwestern mining territories of Canada.

W. F. McCreary, immigration Commissioner, who has been at Regina, states that the records show that in 1897 about 10,000 immigrants came into Manitoba and the Territories over the C.P.R. main line.

Application will be made to Parliament for an act to incorporate a company to construct a railway by steam or electricity or other motive power between London and a point in or near Grand Bend on Lake Huron.

Mr. John Bell, chief counsel for the Grand Trunk, gives notice that an application will be made to Parliament this session, for an act to incorporate the Windsor & Detroit Union Bridge Company for the purpose of constructing a bridge over the Detroit River.

The Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, has been giving consideration to the question of improvements in the cold storage arrangements for next season, and will, it is predicted, give a weekly service to both Liverpool and Glasgow such as we now have to Bristol. The accommodation in many of the boats will also be improved.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The engineers in Great Britain have voted in favor of accepting the employers' terms.

Gen. Sir Fred Middleton, who commanded the forces of Canada during the last Northwest rebellion, is dead.

Mr. John Laird, the shipbuilder of Birkenhead, is dead. He built the Alabama, the famous southern blockade runner.

The action of Richard Croker's brother, manager of the Cork and South Coast railway, in arbitrarily dismissing a signal-man, has provoked a strike which threatens to spread throughout all Irish railways.

Jabez Spencer Balfour, now serving 14 years for fraud in connection with Liberator Group, was examined in the London Bankruptcy Court on Thursday. The convict was in ill-health. He said he had left the country in 1892 owing to the advice of those who ought to have known better.

UNITED STATES.

There is no change in the New England cotton mills strike.

San Francisco grain operators say there will be good prices for wheat this year.

A terrific thunderstorm at St. Louis, Mo., on Tuesday killed a man, woman, and a boy.

A shipload of cattle arrived at New York on Monday from Texas—the first by the water route.

It is reported that Italy has presented to the United States a proposal for a treaty of commerce.

It is reported in New York that the New York Central and the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railways will unite.

Eugene E. Burt was reprieved while on his way to the scaffold at Dallas, Texas, on Saturday. He murdered his wife and three children, but they say he is insane.

It is reported at Bay City, Mich., that the United Alkali Company, of Liverpool, Eng., will erect at Bay City a million-dollar plant for the manufacture of alkalies.

Two tow boats foundered off New York in a heavy gale. Crew of one were rescued, but of the other nothing has been heard, and it is feared she has gone down with her crew of seven.

A well authenticated report has reached Seattle that the steamer Corona, which left there January 25 with passengers for Dyea and Skagway, Alaska, has been sunk. All her passengers and crew were saved.

A workman was employed on the fifth floor of a new building in New York on Thursday, when he fell down the elevator shaft. He carried the scaffold on the fourth floor with him, and two other men also fell to the ground. All will likely die.

While agents and lawyers were searching the world over for Edward Oheinstich, one of the heirs to the millions of Budapest's greatest banker, the object of their quest occupied a maniac's cell at the county asylum, Chicago. His death is recorded, with a pauper's number opposite it, on the books of the asylum.

GENERAL.

The finding of a gold nugget of 74 pounds is reported in Siberia.

Prince Bismarck's condition is not serious according to his physician.

The consorship at Havana over foreign newspapers has been abolished.

Spain will ask the next Parliament to vote $40,000,000 for strengthening the navy.

It is said that Italy will have to import 40,000,000 bushels of wheat before next harvest.

British troops have occupied Okute, in Borgu territory. The possession of Borgu is disputed between France and Great Britain.

The statements regarding Germany's intention to open the port of Kia Chou to the commerce of the world are practically correct.

Russia will make experiments to find means of communication between her north coast and Siberia by crossing the Arctic sea.

An Italian warship is about to sail for Hayti to enforce Italy's demands for the treatment to which Italians in Hayti have been subjected.

General Sir Herbert Kitchener has telegraphed the officers at Cairo that it is needless that they should ascend the Nile, as the dervishes are quiet.

An ice blockade has again closed the harbour at St. John's, Nfld. Absolutely the worst Arctic floes in years are reported from the northern coast.

Political leaders at Madrid have pessimistic views of the Cuban war, and declare that the insurgents have means.

The French Amabssador to Germany, Marquis de Noailles, is to receive the Grand Cross of the Order of the Red Eagle from the Emperor.

It is reported from Rome that out of 490 applications for the annulment of marriage during the past year, the Congregation of Cardinals granted but six.

Herr Trojan, editor of the Kladderadatsch, of Berlin, has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment in a fortress for lese majeste, in cartooning Emperor William.

It is reported in London that Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, will shortly announce the betrothal of the Archduchess Elizabeth to the King of Spain.

The appeal of Capt. Boitcheff formerly aide-de-camp to Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, from the sentence of death for the murder of his mistress, and the appeal of his accomplice, Novelitch, have been refused.

Russia is about to present a note to Turkey demanding payment for the whole balance of the indemnity of the Russo-Turkish war, amounting to £28,000,000, with a view of making the Sultan more docile in the settlement of the Cretan question.

While Lord Brassey, Governor of Victoria, was attempting to board his yacht in Melbourne harbor from a launch a wave carried the gangway away with Lord Brassey and the boatswain on it. They narrowly escaped being crushed between the yacht and launch.

The capture of the steamer Baluchistan, loaded with arms and munitions of war in the Gulf of Oman by a British gunboat is thought to throw a good deal of light on the mysterious manner in which the Afridis were supplied with arms during the Indian frontier outbreak. It is assumed the seized cargo was intended for the use of the insurgents of Baluchistan.

MINOR USES OF ELECTRICITY.

In the realm of hygiene, electricity has been applied to curing deafness by producing vibrations of any desired rate of frequency, which are found, it is claimed, to be efficacious in improving the hearing power of the partially deaf. In line with this is the substitution of an electric light bath for a sun bath, and the production of ozone for inhalation by means of the high potential discharge. For the insect-collector the incandescent lamp is suggested as a bait or attraction for nocturnal lepidoptera and other insects. It is proposed to surround the lamps with a globe coated with a sticky composition. The light attracts them, and once they touch the globe, they are secured.

HIGGIN'S WISDOM.

When I was in the country last summer, remarked Hunker, I discovered that a cow is always milked on one side.

And I know which side that is, replied Higgins, who was never in the country in his life.

Which?

The outside.

THEOLOGICAL.

Ah, he said, as the postman handed him a letter, an epistle?

No, said his wife as she opened the envelope and a tailor's bill fluttered to the floor. Not an epistle; a collect.

THE FARM.

THE COMMON INSECTS ATTACKING FRUIT AND FOLIAGE AND HOW TO DESTROY THEM.

The annual loss to fruit-growers through insects was very great. In Ontario there were 10,000,000 apple trees, 6,000,000 of which were in bearing. These produced in 1896, 56,000,000 bushels of apples, but only a few of them were absolutely perfect apples. The apples sold in our stores and put upon the tables at our hotels were a disgrace to the country. By spraying with the proper mixture and at the proper time there was no reason why 80 or 90 per cent. of the fruit should not be perfect. In some cases 100 per cent of perfect fruit was obtained. Spraying has been demonstrated to be a success, and the fruit was larger, cleaner, brighter and possessed superior keeping qualities. People are gradually awaking to the fact that the spraying is indispensable to the up-to-date orchardist.

There had been catalogued, 356 species of insects which feed upon the apple. These were divided into two classes, according to the formation of their mouths.

1st, Masticatory insects, such as caterpillars and beetles.

2nd, Suctorial insects, such as lice and scales.

The first were treated by putting poison on their food. The second were treated by using some solution which killed by contact.

For Masticatory insects, Paris Green should be used, 1 lb. to 200 gallons of water for apples. For suctorial insects, Kerosene Emulsion should be applied. To make Kerosene Emulsion take

Hard soap, 1-2 pound, or soft soap, 1 qt.
Boiling water, soft, 1 gallon.
Coal oil, 2 gallons.

After dissolving the soap in the water, add the coal oil and stir well for 5 to 10 minutes. When properly mixed, it will adhere to glass without oiliness. A syringe or pump will aid much in this work. In using, dilute with from 9 to 15 parts of water. Kerosene emulsion may be prepared with sour milk, 1 gallon, and coal oil, 2 gallons, no soap being required. This will not keep long. For Scale, Bordeaux mixture according to the following formula:—Copper Sulphate, 4 lbs, Lime 4 lbs., Water 40 galls. It is usual to add the Paris Green to the Bordeaux mixture, thus making a combined insecticide and fungicide. The first application should be made just before the buds begin to swell, the second, just before the blossoms open, the third just after the blossoms have fallen, the fourth and subsequent spraying at intervals of 12 to 14 days, as long as there was danger of scale. 75 per cent. of the so-called spraying was not spraying at all, the trees were only drenched, the spray should be broken like a fag, and when the sun was shining you could see a rainbow around the nozzle. Don't drench the trees, spray them.

A great deal of care should be taken in selecting a pump, the points to be looked to are:

1. Ease of operation.
2. Evenness of distribution.
3. Compactness.
4. Durability.
5. Power.
6. Agitator.

A lance should be used to elevate the nozzle into the tree and a double or triple discharge should be used as in this way work could be done much faster.

THE SAN JOSE SCALE

Probably the advent of no insect has caused such wide spread alarm in this country, as has that of the San Jose scale.

It is uncertain where the San Jose scale originated. It is known to exist in Australia, Chili, the United States and Canada. The first reliable information that we have of it is that it was found in the San Jose Valley, California in 1870. It was at once recognized as a serious menace to the fruit-growing interest of the State. The spread of the scale from the point of original infestation was rapid, its area increasing in every direction. In 1873 it had become a serious pest. In 1880 Professor Cumstock said it was the most pernicious scale insect known, and that he had never seen any other species so abundant and so injurious. It was not discovered east of the Rocky Mountains until 1895. Now it has been found in nearly every state and quite extensively distributed in some of them. Trees from New Jersey nurseries have been the source of the infestation in the Eastern States and Canada.

The source of their infestation was Japan plum stock imported from the San Jose Valley, California, in 1886 or '87.

Prof. P. H. Rolfs reports that the orchard where the scale was first found is now practically killed, less than 5 per cent. of the trees being olive.

The scale is new in Canada, and as we have little experience with it, the opinions of those who have known it for years are valuable. Professor J. M. Aldrich, of Idaho, says that it is the most dreaded of all insect pests, and earnest effort is made to prevent its getting a foothold in new localities. In Massachusetts frequent occurrences have been found, among them being four points near Boston. This is of special interest in view of its being the most northerly occurrence of the scale. In Talbot county, Maryland, J. H. Reid's orchard of fourteen acres, consisting of apple, cherry, plum and peach from one to eight years old, are all infested. At Riverside, E. Dow's orchard of twenty acres is practically all infested and many trees have died. In Briggs and Showman's orchard, of 20,000 acres, the scale was discovered. After a critical examination only fifty trees were found infested. On a further examination within three months about 1,000 trees were found infested. In some cases the infested trees have been uprooted and burned. In other cases thorough spraying has been given them. The results from spraying have been far from satisfactory and matters are worse than they were a year ago.

The Georgia Experimental Station Bulletin, 1897, says: "Two years ago few orchardists in Georgia had heard of the San Jose scale. To-day fruit growers there are aghast at the prospect, for the power of the scale to devastate is better understood."

It is at last realized that not only are our ocrhards in danger, but the existence of all deciduous vegetation is threatened, should the pest once become distributed generally throughout our forests; for in that case all hope of its final extinction would be lost, and it would remain a standing menace forever. By far the best remedy is the axe and the matchbox. Where the trees are badly infested their loss is inevitable, even should remedial treatment succeed in ridding them of the pest, for their vitality will be found to have been sapped to such an extent that they will never prove profitable. Time, money and future trouble will be saved by adopting heroic treatment. Moreover it is almost an impossibility to absolutely extinguish the scale when once fully entrenched without the destruction of the wood on which it nourishes. Otur first advice, therefore, is under any and all circumstances to

GRUB UP AND BURN INFESTED TREES.

It will pay in the end. The latest bulletin published by the Ohio Agricultural Experimental Station, dated July, 1897, says: "The presence of this insect on any one's premises is a calamity, and uncontrolled becomes a public danger that should not be tolerated. Against this most insiduous pest both nurserymen and fruit growers are alike practically helpless in detecting its presence, until it has ceased to be the insignificant atom that it at first appears, and has become master. Heretofore orchards and nurseries were considered as the only places in special danger, but recent discoveries of the pest on forest and ornamental trees shows that this was a mistake. It has been found on the black walnut, mountain ash, bass-wood, maple, willow, poplar, birch, elm and chestnut. It is usually the case that as we become more familiar with a species, more vulerable point is found, or a stage during which it can be managed with greater ease than at other times. It must be confessed that in the case of the San Jose scale, the better we come to be acquainted with it, the more we see to fear of its ravages, and of the great labor involved in its eradication. No one who has not seen the work of this pest where it has had full sway can understand its fearfully destructive nature. If then, the variety affected is not satisfactory, or if the trees have passed their best, or the inner bark has been discolored, it would be far better to end the matter at once, and save expense and trouble by burning the trees. The only scale to be trusted is the dead scale. As far as any practical service is concerned from natural enemies, this subject might be dismissed with these words: 'There are none.' After making experiments, there is nothing to indicate that either the fungus or the insect enemies have had, any influence even in holding the pest in check. We have little, if anything, to expect for the present, at least from the aid of natural enemies."

When the Hon. J. Dryden learned of the existence of the San Jose scale at Niagara, he sent Prof. Panton and W. M. Orr to investigate. They soon ascertained that it hads been imported on nursery stock from New Jersey, and Mr. Orr wrote to all the nurserymen in Ontario for lists of stock imported from N. J. nurseries during the past 5 years. Many of the trees had been traced and about 20 occurrences of the scale found. Three were principally in Essex, Kent and Lincoln Counties. Eight or ten trees had been found in Wentworth Co. The government is acting promptly and wisely in this matter and fruit-growers and farmers should assist them in their effort to stamp out the pest.

Although it was thought two years ago that this scale could not exist in our country and that we had nothing to fear from it, it now appears that the climatic conditions are favorable. That we are in its life zone is proved by the rapidity with which it has multiplied in infested sections. Not only are our orchards and our vineyards in danger of destruction, but our forests also, except only conifers, pines and cedars. If unchecked there is no question, but that it would

SOON OVERRUN THE COUNTRY,

destroying all deciduous trees and plants and causing a loss of millions of dollars. As to the natural enemies of the scale as already noted, Professor Webster says there are none of any that has been effectual in every case practical service. The only treatment is burning. Whale oil soup solution has failed in some cases. Hydrocyanic acid gas has not been altogether satisfactory. Some have reported satisfactory results from the use of pure kerosene. Others have used it with partial success, but killed numbers of their trees. Our experience is limited, and reports of results of the different treatments in other localities are conflicting. There appears to be different results in different localities from similar treatment.

Professor L. O. Howard, of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, says: "The scale still exists in nurseries and orchards in nearly all the States, where it has been located, and there is little or no doubt but that its dissemination is constantly going on, and it is doubtful if it can ever be stamped out where it has been thoroughly established. It is, therefore, impossible to say that the scale is completely exterminated from any orchard or nursery until a number of years have elapsed." We know that many American nurseries are infested, and for our protection we should have legislation authorizing the thorough inspection, and, if necessary, the treating and quarantining of all nursery stock and fruit coming into the country—whether accompanied by a certificate of inspection or not. We have been receiving from the United States fruit infested with the scale for the past ten years, and nursery stock for four or five years. We found California pears this season in Toronto and London infested with the scale, which might easily have been communicated to some tree or plant.

The San Jose Act recently passed by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario provides for the inspection of suspected orchards, and the destruction of infested trees. It also provides for compensation to the extent of 1-4 the value of the trees.

The San Jose scale can be identified as follows:

1st, It is round.

2nd, It is armoured.

3rd, The bark or fruit around the scale is discolored reddish or purple.

Every fruit-grower should have a pocket lens which can be had at about 50c., and should examine his trees, especially those which are not doing well, Only by co-operation can this pest be dealt with.

Mr. Orr showed specimens of wood infested with the scale, and it was examined by a large number of people.
—J. E. ORR.

FRENCH WIDOWS.

Some interesting details concerning the lives of some dozen eminent French widows have come to light. It appears that Mme. MacMahon, the widow of the Marshal and President of that name, declined to accept a state pension when offered to her. She is, however, well provided for, and during the winter is to be found in her mansion, situated in the Rue de Bellechasse, but during the summer months she retires to her chateau in the Loiret. The royalist circles in which she moves are of a very select and exclusive nature. Mme. Carnot lives an extremely retired life, but still receives the visits of Princes and other distinguished people who come to condole with her. In her house she has a little chapel, which she has arranged herself, and filled with souvenirs of her late husband. She also, like Mme. MacMahon, has declined a state pension. The widow of the Grand Francais, M. De Lesseps, spends the greater part of the year at La Chesnage, where her husband died. She receives a pension of twenty-four thousand dollars a year from the Suez Canal Company. M. Pasteur's widow has taken up her residence at the institute bearing her husband's name, and is in receipt of a pension of five thousand dollars a year. One of the most active of these ladies is the wife of the historian Michelet, who lives quite alone and occupies her time in bringing out new editions of her late husband's works, and editing the manuscripts he left behind, including his memoirs. Madame Alexandre Dumas, too, is busily engaged, but in a different way, with her husband's manuscripts, for her object is to prevent any of the numerous works or fragments of works left behind from being published. The wife of the illustrious composer of "Faust," Mme. Gounod, goes a step further than this, and refuses to allow the performance of some of Gounod's earlier compositions, on the ground that the reputation of the deceased musician might suffer from the criticisms passed upon them.

MIXED MAXIMS.

A man is known by the trumpery he keeps.

Never put a gift cigar in your mouth.

The lack of money is the root of all evil.

Where wisdom is bliss, 'tis folly to be ignorant.

Chain up a child and away he will go.

Virtue is its only reward.

The course of free love never did run smooth.

A bird in the hand lays no eggs.

All that a man hath will he give to his wife.

Many hands like light work.

It's a wise child that owes his own father.

The rolling stone catches the worm.

Osculation is the thief of time.

A thirsty man will catch at a straw.

Straws show which way the gin goes.

"Heaven lies about us in our infancy," and this world lies about us when we are grown up.

It is not good for man to give a loan.

The wages of sin is debt.

Every dogma must have its day.

A GENTLE HINT.

Titefist—My wife is just the finest cook on top of ground, she is.

Mrs. T.'s mother—And I suppose that's the reason you don't think it necessary to hire one, is it?

SALTED.

Juneau Jake—How about that mine of salt some of the boys found up the gulch the other day?

Sitka Sam—Turned out to be nothin' but a gold mine. The thievin' scoundrels had salted it