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.

The New Brunswick Legislature is in session.

The Hamilton Horticultural Society has been incorporated.

Mr. G. M. Rose, the well-known Toronto publisher, died Thursday, aged 69 years.

It is reported that the G.T.R. will build a mammoth hotel at Quebec.

Mr. R. K. Hope has received his commission as Registrar of Wentworth County.

Imports from Canada during January increased $147,582, compared with January, 1897.

The life insurance companies doing business in Montreal are accepting risks on Klondikers.

An electric railway between Ottawa and Metcalfe is proposed. The distance is 20 miles.

Hamilton temperance people are petitioning the City Council to reduce the number of liquor licenses.

The C. P. R. Telegraph Company will string a large copper wire between Montreal and Vancouver.

The Toronto City Council has appointed Mr. Chas. H. Rust as City Engineer in succession to Mr. E. H. Keating.

The fancy and staple dry goods firm of Boisseau Freres, Montreal, has suspended payment. The liabilities are $110,000.

American secret service detectives are still at Montreal, hunting for counterfeiters, with the aid of the local force.

Reports received at Victoria from Dawson state that five men have been frozen to death near Skaguay, and three near Dyea.

There is a probability of the Montreal Park and Island Railway being consolidated with the Montreal Street Railway Company.

A syndicate is being formed in Quebec to purchase Lord Mount-Stephen's property opposite the Governor's gardens, to build a large block there.

Lieut. March, who had the base of his skull fractured by falling from his sleigh while tandem driving at Kingston, died from his injuries.

The Montreal Cotton Company intends to extend its plant by the erection of a spinning mill for the manufacture of goods which are now imported.

Evangelist Moody, who is addressing large meetings in Montreal has received a letter enclosing $395 from a man who had defrauded the Customs of that amount.

Hon. C. H. Mackintosh will leave shortly for England, and during his absence will arrange for the development of properties purchased by the British American Corporation.

The Lang Tanning Company will shortly begin the erection of a tannery in Berlin, which will be the largest in Canada. Three hundred hands will be employed.

A well-made one-dollar American certificate was discovered in Montreal. There is reason to believe that a clever gang of counterfeiters is working in the district.

Mr. H. J. Beemer has asked the Hull City Council for a bonus of $70,000 for the interprovincial bridge and the Toronto Rubber Co. asks $40,000 as a bonus for establishing its rubber factory in Hull.

Japan is going to invade the Klondike. It is stated that an army of 5,000 able-bodied laborers is being got together for the gold fields and in a month it will make a descent on Dawson City.

A landslide occurred five miles below the Town of Quesnelle, B. C., and buried three miners named Wm. Allen, Joe Rich, and Alexander McLean. The slide is 1,000 feet wide, 800 feet long and 25 feet high.

It is stated that the Dominion Steamship Co. will run a weekly in tead of a fortnightly passenger service between Montreal and Liverpool, and will place a new steamer, the Dominion, on the service.

City Clerk Henderson, of Ottawa, has received a cheque for $5,000 from the Provincial Treasurer of Ontario, for the Casselman fire relief fund. The Ontario Government also sent a cheque for $5,000 last autumn.

A despatch from Quebec says that it is rumored that a cable has just been received there that the Messrs. Petersen have succeeded in their negotiations, assuring the success of the fast Atlantic steamships.

The Customs Department has decided to send two officers to Skagway and Dyea to furnish information to Canadians going through to the Yukon by that route, and to assist in the carrying out of the customs regulations there.

The Dominion financial statement for the month of January shows the total revenue for the month as $3,512,000, an increase over the same month last year of half a million dollars, while the expenditure for the month has decreased by a quarter of a million.

UNITED STATES.

The population of Greater New York is 3,438,899, according to an official estimate.

During the last fiscal year the United States exported domestic merchandise to the value of over $1,032,000,000.

The Luetgert jury at Chicago has brought in a verdict of guilty fixing the penalty at life imprisonment.

The Spanish Minister at Washington is likely to be recalled for having in a letter savagely attacked President McKinley.

Edward Hodgman, the absconding treasurer of the Chicago Building Trades Council, has been arrested in a remote part of the North-West and will be taken back to Chicago.

A court at Topeka, Kas., has decided that a bicycle was exempt from execution under a judgment, being a "tool" essential to a man's profession or occupation.

The New York Municipal Council and Board of Aldermen have passed a resolution condemning the expenditure of $9,000,000 on State canals, and calling for an investigation.

The Treasury Department at Washington have given a ruling on the importation of furs as wearing apparel. Hereafter muffs, boas, etc., will be dutiable when out of season.

Edward Bellamy, author of "Looking Backward," and Eugene V. Debs, late head of the American Railway Union, and leader of the Social Democracy, have united to launch a new political party.

A boat containing five men went over the falls at Oregon City, Ore., on Thursday, George Freeman, sr., his sons George and James, and L. J. Shannon, were drowned. Harry Freeman held to the boat and reached shore.

Four thousand overhead wires in Chicago belonging to the telegraph, telephone and other companies in the down-town districts will be cut down by the city unless steps be taken to place them underground before Mar. 1.

Mrs. William W. Place, wife of an insurance adjuster at New York, is charged there with the murder of her mother-in-law. The father-in-law may die from the injuries she caused to him. Her subsequent attempt to commit suicide failed.

GENERAL.

Excellent rains in Northern and Central India have ensured successful spring crops.

British troops have occupied Beregouron and Bashere, in the Borgu country of West Africa.

The result of the Transvaal elections was the return of President Kruger by a big majority.

A telegram from San Jose, Guatemala, announces the assassination of President Barrios.

The Spanish Government has decided to send the Spanish crusier Almirante Oquendo to Havana and thence to New York.

Despatches received from Manilla, capital of the Philippine Islands, announce that 200 buildings, some of them of importance, have been destroyed by fire.

A PILGRIMAGE TO JORDAN.

The Annual Exodus of Russians for the Holy Land.

The Russian peasantry have a strong belief in the sacred properties of the waters of Jordan, says the London Graphic. Nothing but Jordan water must be used for baptism, and to be buried in shrouds which have been made from linen which have been dipped in the Jordan, or, still better, in which the wearer has bathed in the Jordan, is extremely desirable.

So strong is this feeling that an annual exodus of pilgrims sets out for Palestine. Hospices have been built throughout Russia and at Jerusalem, where the pilgrims have free accommodation for a period not exceeding twelve months. They walk from all parts of Russia, some of them even as far as the White Sea, to Odessa, where they take steamer for Jaffa. Thence on to Jerusalem, where they wait until the Saturday before Epiphany. On that day both men and women walk in thousands down the twenty miles of continually descending road to Jerico, where they encamp for the night.

On the Sunday the whole troop, headed by the Bishop, go on to the Jordan, and after the Bishop has blessed the waters they fill bottles, tin kettles, and, in fact, any available vessel with Jordan water, and most of them, men and women alike, taking no notice whatever of the thousands of Arabs, Jews, Greeks, Mohammedans, and even English and American tourists with cameras who are there, calmly divest themselves of clothing and putting on their shrouds and crossing themselves three times, stumble placidly down the muddy river banks in the cold waters of the Jordan.

There is a strong contrast between the broad, simple, honest-looking countenances of the Russians and the keen and crafty faces of the wily Arabs by whom they are surrounded. There is a surprise and a pleasure in hearing for the first time the sweet and tuneful voices with which the pilgrims reverently chant their service, each taking his or her own part, and producing a weird and beautiful melody which will long dwell in the memory of those who hear it.

At the Brook Cherith, memorable as the spot where Elijah was fed by ravens, an Arab, with a view, to the main chance, has provided a plank, for the use of which he demands toll. Much to his disgust, however, the pilgrims prefer to wade the stream.

SYMPATHY.

Applicant for Advice (to Magistrate)—My wife won't obey me, Your Worship. What am I to do?

Magistrate (wearily)—I'm sure I don't know; I'm in the same predicament myself.

PRACTICAL FARMING.

WAYS OF MILKING.

At a recent meeting of the British Dairy Association, Mr. Primrose McConnell had the following to say about the two ways of milking—stripping and squeezing: In the stripping method the fingers and thumb are forcibly drawn down the teat and the milk squirted out; but the operator resembles a man at the pump from the way in which his arms, elbows and shoulders are moving, and he sometimes gives one the idea that he is drawing the milk down from the very horns of the cow.

The teats, to stand this sort of work continually, would require to be made of India rubber, and not living tissue, and there is no wonder that where there is a scratch or a chap, or any slight soreness on them, it is torn open every time of milking, and the animal goes down in yield, and has to have the hind legs strapped together to prevent kicking.

The squeezing method, or "nievling" as it is called in Scotland, is infinitely superior. In it the operator grasps the teat and squeezes it only, without any pulling—the arms and elbows never moving. There is no jerking and no cessation of the sound, for the stream is started from the one teat before it is stopped to take a new hold at the other.

The principal superiority of this method lies in the fact that it deals gently with the teat, so that where there is a tendency to soreness the sores are not continually being reopened, and thus the animal stands more quietly during the operation. Sores heal up more quickly, new ones are not formed, and, consequently, the animal will be a better milker.

I have seen a cow stand quite quietly to a "nievling" milker, when she would get wild with one employing the stripping method.

I may now take up shortly the general treatment of the cow in connection with the operation of milking. The two main points to be attended to are gentleness and quickness; indeed, of the two quickness is the chief, for a quick milker can seldom be a bad one.

Where milking is done by piece work, and the tough cows are eliminated, it is customary for one person to do ten in an hour; a little longer time being required when all come together in full yield in the beginning of summer. Where it is not done by piece-work, and the cows are of all sorts, it may take half an hour longer; but the more quickly it is done, the more will the milk-yielding power of the animals be stimulated. If the milk is frothed in the pail, it may be taken for granted that the speed is all right; but, if it is not frothed, then the milker is doing an injury to the cows, and, if kept to the one lot, he would put them prematurely dry.

But the quality of the milk, as well as the quantity, is influenced by the milking of the cows and the manner thereof. Dr. Babcock found, in some experiments he tried regarding this matter, that slow milking had a very decided effect in reducing the butter fat in the milk, there being an average decline of over 11 per cent in his trials as a result of slow milking, while there was also a decided diminution in the quantity; though a prolonged trial with cows naturally going dry, the differences tended to disappear. The total result over a season, however, is beneficial to the milk yield in the case of quick milking, not to speak of the saving of time.

HOW TO HAVE PLENTY OF FRUIT.

There is hardly one farmer in fifty that has a full supply of fruit for his family during the year, including small fruits, and yet there can scarcely be any excuse except negligence in providing them. Perhaps there is not one in ten, that has a full succession of apples, peaches pears, plums, grapes, etc. There are generally some farmers who feel satisfied in saying that they can buy small fruits and vegetables cheaper than they can afford to raise them; but the poor wife knows about how much is bought, the amount depending too often upon her own scant supply of pocket money. Now, does any of this strike you? If it does, this winter is a good time to plan and arrange to have such things. Go to work in earnest, make out a bill of what you need, set out a few strawberries, currants, gooseberries, blackberries, raspberries, grapes, rhubarb, etc., this coming spring. Have you a few worthless trees, such as apple, pear, peach, etc., or trees whose fruit is not satisfactory or not prolific enough? You can change them by grafting or budding; you can make a worthless tree become one of profit and delight. Grafting is usually considered the better way, as we gain time. Suppose you wish to introduce new kinds of apples on trees already in bearing. Produce your scions, of desired variety, the latter part of winter, while the buds are yet dormant, and stow them away in moist earth in a cool cellar; there to remain until ready for use. When spring comes, the air warms up and the buds on the trees begin to swell, then you may proceed to graft. The limb to be grafted should be cut off smoothly, a slit made through the centre with a sharp knife and the wedged shape scion inserted. There is not much to do with the scion, except to cut it, to allow of as many as two second buds. The scion need not be as large as the stock—seldom so large; but the bark on one side should be even. Often when the scion is inserted the spring of the stock is sufficient to hold it in place; but to make sure of it you had better tie with a string. The parts in contact should be waxed over, to exclude air and moisture. A good grafting wax is made as follows: Take six pounds of resin, two pounds of beeswax and one pound of tallow; melt together and apply warm with a brush. Budding is done in the following manner: Procure some good buds of variety wanted, from strong, well-ripened shoots of this season's growth. With a sharp knife make a T shape cut in a strong young shoot of this year's growth; commence at the upper of cut and gently force the bud into place. See that all fits snugly, then tie with a narrow strip of cloth or string to hold parts firmly and to exclude air — when the young bud starts to grow, which is usually from four to six weeks, the bandage should be removed, as it will not rot away as in root grafting. The time to bud will depend somewhat on the season and the kind of trees budded, but the season is usually from July to September. The most of your success will depend on the sap, which should be flowing freely enough, in the latter part of summer, to allow of lifting the bark without injuring the wood.

A CURIOUS LEGEND.

Concerns a Piece of Gold One of the Wise Men Gave Christ.

The 6th of January was a marked day in the calendar of mediaeval times, for upon it fell the feast of the Epiphany—the most popular of Christian festivals—Christmas day only excepted. All good churchmen know that the word Epiphany—meaning the "appearing"—has reference to the star which guided the "three wise men" to the cave-stable at Bethlehem twelve days after the birth of the holy child.

Tradition says that they were three Kings—their names, Melchoir, Balthayar, and Gaspar—the one an Arabian, a descendant of Shem; the second, an Egyptian, of the race of Ham, and the third, Japhat's representative—typical of the world-wide homage to be paid to the incarnate Jehovah.

"Three Kings the King of kings three gifts did bring." Melchoir presented gold in recognition of the sovereignty of the babe; Gaspar, frankincense, in acknowledgment of his divinity, and Balthayar, myrrh, as typical of his human life—destined to be so full of bitterness.

Of the gold offered by Melchoir, there is, according to ancient legend, a very curious history. Originally coined by Terah, the father of Abraham, the money was given by him to his son, upon his departure from the land of the Chaldees. It is stated in the Koran—adopted from Mesopotamean traditions—that the patriarch was forced into exile on account of his montheistic convictions, and because he would not engage in his father's business, which was the manufacture of idols, of gold and silver. These idols were of the moon-god, "Sin,"—whence the name of the highest mountain of that region—Sinai. The money given by Terah to Abraham was next used for the purchase of the Cave of Macpelah of Ephron the Hittite.

When Joseph's brethren sold him to the Ishmaelites they received these identical pieces of gold in payment—so runs the legend—which they afterward paid to Joseph, when driven,

IN TIME OF FAMINE,

to buy corn in Egypt. Upon the death of Jacob, Joseph sent the money to the land of Sheba to buy spices, wherewith to embalm the body of his father, and they remained in the royal treasury until the Queen of Sheba made her famous visit to Solomon, when, among other gifts, she presented the coins to that opulent monarch.

During the reign of Rhehoboam, Solomon's son, Shishak, King of Egypt, made a successful invasion into Judea, and despoiled the temple, whereupon he presented to his ally and companion in arms—the King of Arabia—the famous pieces of gold as the share of the plunder.

Nearly 1000 years later Melchoir, the apocryphal successor of the Arabian monarch, brought them as a gift to "him, that was called the King of the Jews."

It would seem that the ingenuity of our visionary archeologists might be overtaxed to further connect the itinerant coins with the subsequent events of the New Testament—wherever money plays a part—but they stumble at nothing. The story goes on to say that in the hurry of the flight into Egypt the Virgin mother dropped the gold pieces in a field, where they were afterward found by a shepherd. Not daring to disclose his good fortune, lest he be suspected of dishonesty and the money be taken from him, he kept it by him for many years. In his old age, being afflicted by an incurable disease, he besought the aid of the Christ, who healed him. As a thank-offering he carried his treasure to the temple and laid it upon the high altar. Thus falling into the hands of the high priest the money was paid to Judas as the price of his treachery in the betrayal of his Master.

The fact that the reward agreed upon to be paid to Judas, is spoken of as thirty pieces of silver seems to offer no difficulty. It is explained upon the ground that in the translation "silver" is used as the generic term for money—like "argent" in France.

When, tortured by remorse, Judas returned the money to the priests, they used it for the purchase of the "potter's field, to bury stranger's in"—since which time all trace of the much traveled money has been lost.

PRINCE AND THE PICK-AXE

SEQUEL TO AN INTERESTING LITTLE INCIDENT.

A Miner at a Royal Party—His Pick Brings Him Into High Favour.

Although many people may have seen in the illustrated papers of England the pictures of the aged North Country miner handing a pick-axe to the Prince of Wales on the occasion of the latter's visit to the Earl of Durham, the miner in question, being the identical man, who, when the Prince, as a 16-year-old lad, had visited a Durham coal mine, had shown his Royal Highness how to pick coal with that very self-same pick, yet there is a sequel to that little incident which has not as yet, received any publicity, but yet which deserves being placed on record, being quite as characteristic of the Prince as of the miner.

When Lord Durham presented the old fellow to the Prince on the occasion of his visit north just before Christmas, he informed the Heir Apparent that the miner had frequently during the past forty years received offers to buy the pick with which the Prince had picked coal for an hour as a lad, and that in particular an American tourist had offered him as much as $1,000 for the tool, which Collins, in spite of his being a labouring man, and as such the reverse of rich, had refused.

GAVE IT TO THE PRINCE

"I should like to buy that pick," exclaimed the Prince, shaking the old fellow warmly by the hand, "and I am only sorry that I cannot afford to pay a bigger price than that offered by your American friend."

"But I would not accept anything for it, sir," interrupted Collins. "I have brought the pick here in order to offer it for your acceptance as a present, and I should be only too glad if your Royal Highness would condescend to take it."

"All right, old friend," exclaimed the Prince, "I will accept your gift. Keep it for the present, and I will send for it when I get back to town."

About a fortnight later the old miner received a letter addressed to "Henry Collins," and stating that General Sir Dighton Probyn had been commanded by the Prince and Princess of Wales to request his company at dinner at Sandringham. The letter likewise enclosed railroad tickets and directions what train to take. At the bottom of the card, which bore the Prince's crest, was a postcript in the Prince's handwriting, as follows: "Please bring the pick."

On arriving at the Wolverton station, Collins found one of the royal carriages awaiting him, and on reaching Sandringham, he was welcomed in the hall by the Prince, who, after presenting him to the Princess and to the other members of the royal party, conducted him in person to a bedroom, as is the hospitable custom of the Heir Apparent with guests who visit Sandringham for the first time.

AT THE ROYAL DINNER.

An hour later the old miner found himself seated at the royal table at dinner, the other guests being princess Victoria of Wales, Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, and the Duke and Duchess of York. In spite of the newness of his surroundings, the sturdy old miner, who is in his 75th year, did not betray the least embarrassment, but behaved with a simple dignity, modesty, and at the same time absence of subserviency that might have constituted a lesson in breeding to many a parvenue.

He created a most favourable impression, and after dinner the whole party adjourned to the room, which is devoted by the Prince to his superb collection of sporting guns, rifles and hunting knives, where the pick was accorded a place of honor.

The miner remained at Sandringham for the night, and left on the following afternoon, after the Princess in person had shown him round her model dairy, her kennels and her gardens, the Prince taking him over the home farm. And when he left he carried away with him beautiful autograph portraits of his royal host and hostess and their children.

That is the delicate manner in which the Prince and Princess of Wales acknowledged the obligation which the old miner had placed them under by presenting them with a pick for which he had refused $1,000, and which he insisted on giving; and there is no doubt that nothing that the Prince could have done would have pleased or gratified the old fellow more than with being treated by his future King as he had behaved—namely, as a gentleman.

A GENEROUS OFFER.

Grandmother—O Thomas! Thomas! How can you bear to be all the time fighting?

Thomas—Why, 'cause I keep in training, of course! If you want me to I can put you into just as good physical condition as I am in 30 days.

FORCE OF HABIT.

Mrs. Brown—Dr. Bolus is becoming dreadfully absent minded.

Mrs. Jones—Indeed?

Mrs. Brown—Yes; when Mrs. Smith asked his advice about her six-months-old baby he said he thought it would do it good to ride a wheel.