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 Bank of British North America is to establish a branch in the Yukon.

Fall wheat is reported to be damaged by the recent frosts in several sections of Ontario.

The Quebec City Council has decided to tax all telephone and telegraph poles 25 cents each.

Mr. Ira J. Flatt, ex-M.P.P., is said to be heir to a Philadelphia estate, his share amounting to $700,000.

A syndicate of Hamiltonians will shortly make the experiment of trying to acclimatize English game in Canada.

Mr. E. P. Davis, Q.C., of Victoria, B. C., is mentioned as likely to be appointed Chief Justice of British Columbia.

The Government is reckoning upon an expenditure of $250,000 to transport the military contingent to the Yukon.

Diver Kilker of Montreal was caught in the gates of the Canada Paper Company's mills at Windsor mills and lost his life.

McNamee & Simpson, of Montreal and Toronto, have been awarded the contract for dredging in Toronto harbor this summer.

It is now proposed to raise by 25 cent subscriptions the $20,000 required for the proposed monument to the late Premier Mercier.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries announces that the Government are considering the advisability of establishing a naval militia corps.

Two thousand visiting troops are expected in Ottawa on the Queen's Birthday, including the Queen's Own Rifles, 700 strong, from Toronto.

J. W. Harkom, master mechanic of the eastern division of the G. T. R. system will be assistant mechanical superintendent of the C. P. R.

A blaze in the Star Theatre at Hamilton destroyed a lot of costumes belonging to the troupe playing there, besides doing other damage.

The new seven-pound guns of A Battery were given a satisfactory test at the Royal Military College by Capt. English in the presence of the cadets.

Mr. S. E. Wilkins, a Hamilton merchant, was fined one cent by the Police Magistrate for violating a city by-law in selling a pair of shoes after 7 o'clock in the evening.

The British Government is sending 2,000 troops to reinforce the garrison of Jamaica. The second battalion of the Leinster Regiment, now stationed in Halifax, have received orders to prepare to embark on May 5.

G. L. White, representing the Van Camp Packing Company, of Indianapolis, was in Quebec on Sunday, became insane, and had to be placed under restraint.

The Grand Trunk is inaugurating a new fast freight line to operate over the Grand Trunk Railway system in conjunction with the West Shore Railway.

Rev. Dr. Carmen, General Superintendent of the Methodist Church, has left Toronto for Vancouver, on route to Japan, where he will visit the various missions of the Church.

The Inland Revenue officials at Quebec have seized two barrels consigned to a merchant supposed to contain flour. They had 338 pounds each of very fine American plug tobacco.

Sixteen Mogul engines have been purchased by the Canada Atlantic and Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway for their freight business. They will be delivered during April and May.

One of the main features of the celebration of the Queen's birthday at Kingston will be the placing of bronzes on the base of the monument, erected in the City Park in memory of Sir John A. Macdonald.

The Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa has been advised that merchant ships of Japan will be afforded the same facilities for dealing with deserted seamen in British ports as is now accorded to British vessels.

A portion of the new bridge on the Crow's Nest line of railway over the St. Mary's River was blown down, and with it eight men. A man named Ferguson of Renfrew was killed and the others seriously injured. The men fell about 60 feet.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Manchester has subscribed £350,000 to provide a new steamship service to Montreal.

The torpedo-boat destroyer Sparrow Hawk has been ordered to Halifax. She has a speed of thirty knots.

The suspicion is confirmed that it was the German steamer Magnet from Pomaron, March 6, for Stettin, that was sunk on March 16, in collision off Gabbard Lightship, England, with the British bark, British Princess, Captain Scott, from Leith for Liverpool. Eighteen of the crew were drowned.

UNITED STATES.

Work has been suspended in all the coal mines of the Ohio district, because the ten per cent. increase in wages agreed upon by the miners and mine owners at Columbus and Chicago has not yet been applied to the common laborers in the mines.

GENERAL.

The condition of the insane King Otto of Bavaria has suddenly become worse and it is feared that he is dying.

The worst snowstorm of the season raged on the Newfoundland coast on Monday. The railroads are blocked, and steamers have been unable to leave port.

A rumor is current in Paris that Alfred Dreyfus, the former Captain of artillery, who was sentenced to imprisonment for life after having been convicted by courtmartial of having betrayed important military secrets to a foreign power, is dead.

WERE NOT DERANGED.

Brilliant Men Who Get Along With Only Half a Brain.

Without the connecting structure there can be no exact co-operative action of the double brain. Now there is ample evidence to show that deficiency of the corpus callosum has not necessarily been attended with the effects, which, on the theory of the single nature of the brain, we should have expected. In instances in which it was discovered after death that the connecting bridge between the hemispheres was entirely wanting, neither darangement in intellect was observed nor any other abnormality of life in the way of movement or sensation.

Thus, in the notable case of Bichat, one of the foremost anatomists of his day, one lobe of his brain was found markedly smaller than the other. He was, in fact, deficient in one half of his brain, and yet his mental and physical life was in its way notably of a high order. In another case, reported by Cruveilhier, a man died in the hospital at the age of 42 years from heart disease. He exhibited no lack of intelligence, yet after death it was discovered that his left brain was practically destroyed and replaced by a watery substance. Another case, reported by Andral, was of a man who died at the age of 28. He had suffered from a fall when 3 years old, and as a result was paralyzed on his left side. The right half of his brain had practically disappeared, so that the parts below this half constituted the floor, of an empty space. Andral says of this man that he "had received a good education and had profited by it; he had a good memory; his speech was free and easy; his intelligence was such as we should expect to find in an ordinary man."

THE NEW HANDKERCHIEFS.

Daintiness appears to be the characteristic feature of the new handkerchiefs—the finest of linen and linen lawn being used, with real lace and delicate embroidery by way of ornamentation.

A pretty specimen is of sheer linen cambric, square in shape, and finished with a very narrow hem-stitched hem, inside of which runs a vine of fine embroidery. Another is finished with the narrow hem alone, while a third has the small hem, and in each corner a delicate embroidered design. An attractive one has the favorite narrow hem, and in one corner an artistic embroidered design, circular in outline, with an initial letter in the centre.

One, square in shape, is embroidered all about the edge is small scallops.; another has the edge in large scallops, each one formed of three small ones. A third is scalloped, and inside the edge runs a line of embroidery.

The unlaundered hand-made handkerchief is much liked, and is more reasonable in price than the laundered article. It ranges from seventeen cents upward, and for fifty cents one of excellent quality can be bought, either lace-edged or plain hem-stitched, with the initial letter in one corner. A dressy specimen of this kind is edged with narrow lace overhanded on the linen, there being no hem. About an inch from the edge, on all four sides, is let in a band of lace insertion, in one corner is a handsome initial worked, and in the other three corners an embroidered spray. This is valued at forty-eight cents. One of fine quality, lace-edged, and with an initial letter in one corner, is found for twenty-two cents, while the same thing is forty-eight cents where the lace edging is the real article. These two handkerchiefs are exceptionally good for the price.

Lace is in high favor, and is seen on more than half the new handkerchiefs, from the finest real point and Valenciennes to the narrow and serviceable imitation edging. A noticeably pretty article is of finest quality, has an embroidered edge of tiny pointed scallops, inside of which runs a narrow line of embroidery, and set under the scallops a full edging of lace about an inch in width.

Colored handkerchiefs, which a few years ago were so much in vogue, have entirely disappeared, except in a few examples seen in the silk China crape. These are used for "dress-up" occasions, and are ornamental. They come in pale pink, green, lavender, yellow, and blue, and are embroidered in floss-silk of the same color or contrasting colors. For instance, a blue one has a blue embroidered edge of scallops and garlands of pink rosebuds, or a vine of delicate pink trailing arbutus. These silk handkerchiefs come also in plain white.

A SOLDIER WITH A RECORD.

It is true that he wears the uniform of a soldier, said the doubting one, but I understand he never has been in any real engagement.

What! cried the posted one, Why, he has been sued twice for breach of promise. Engagements! Well, I rather guess.

TOO SLOW.

Your elopement didn't come off?

No; the wretch asked me to fly with him, and then told me that he thought a horse and buggy would be more comfortable than a tandem.

FORCE OF HABIT.

What makes Bigly bolt his food?

He's just back from the Klondike where they had to bolt and padlock both, in order to keep anything to eat.

AGRICULTURAL

PRUNING AND THINNING THE PLUM.

My first illustrated lesson in pruning came to me thirty years ago. My father bought a farm of a man who was quite a horticulturist, in his way, the same as a great many other people are; that is, he would buy trees, set them out on land that was worthless for any other purpose, and then sit down and await results. He had bought a few plum trees, about eighteen, some of which were put out at the back of the house, the balance being planted within about a foot of a pricket fence at one side of an open lane where his horse and cow were pastured. You can probably guess the result, says a writer, not a single sprout from one of these trees got above the top of those fence pickets. At the end of about five years, when my father took the farm, the trunks of those trees were some three or four inches in diameter, with not a branch over four feet high, but the head was browsed off as square as if cut with the pruning shears. My father get the tence back several feet from the trees and the growth those trees made was truly wonderful, with their low, wide branching heads. Those trees gave annually large crops of the choicest plums I have ever seen. In the fifteen years that my father owned this farm there was only one off year when these trees did not produce a money crop of from $50 to $100 yearly. I have always looked upon this as horse sense in pruning plum trees. My method of pruning plums can be told in a few words: To cut back two-thirds all new wood; that is, all the new leading shoots are cut back at least two-thirds of the entire length. This is my rule, and I follow it as closely as circumstances will admit. I would not dare send a man into my orchard with instructions to follow this rule to the letter. For there is not, cannot be, any set rule for pruning trees. My ideal shape for a plum tree is a low, spreading, well-balanced head. I buy small trees from the nursery, and by cutting back severely at the time of planting, then cutting back one-third of all new growth each year, I secure my ideal shape. Such trees give me well-ripened wood, bear better crops of better fruit, are more vigorous, longer lived, and do not cost more than one-half for the labor of caring for them, or for gathering the fruit, because it is borne low down near the ground. The past season has quite fully demonstrated the advantages of my close pruning system over the more commen method of letting the trees take care of themselves. While my own orchard was laden with fruit, not a single tree was in the least overcropped, and not a prop was used in my orchard, the tall, slim, unpruned trees of my neighbors were bending their long, willowy branches to the ground with their overload of fruits, which were so small and poor that they could not be sold at any price. Thousands of these trees are now dead, and all of them more or less permanently injured. A plum tree well pruned will have at least three times the amount of bearing wood of the unpruned tree. The advantages of low over high pruning are: The low branches prevent the trunk and larger limbs from becoming sunburned and infested with borers; it brings the fruit nearer the ground, thereby saving at least 50 per cent. in the cost of gathering; the trees and fruit are better protected from hard winds, and the lower branches being the oldest will produce first. A low spreading tree is better balanced, and in seasons of heavy yields will not need propping up, and the fruit will be more evenly distributed over the tree. A tree at a given age will have a larger bearing surface if trimmed low than the same tree would have had with a high head. Still another advantage of the low head is, that it keeps the plow and cultivator farther from the tree and thus saves many of the roots that would otherwise be injured or destroyed. A low head is usually an open head which admits of more sunlight, and therefore better colored fruit. High pruning has caused more loss and disappointment to plum growers that any other one cause. Every fruit grower knows that different varieties of plum trees require different treatment. For instance, the Burbank, being naturally of a low, sprawling habit requires more side and less top pruning than the Abundance, which is an upright grower, and should be severely top pruned to spread the top as much as possible. If large trees are bought from the nurseries, the heads will be formed too high and the tree will never be of the proper shape. To suit me it would be hardly possible to get too low a head on a plum tree. A plum grower, who, the past season, not only lost his entire crop of plums from over one hundred trees, but lost his trees as well, from overbearing, said to me: "You could thin your fruit, for your trees are so low, but how could I get into th etops of twenty-fgive or thirty-foot trees to thin them?" True, he could not, and thus his orchard was ruined! If we train our trees too low, spreading heads, and properly thin the fruit, taking off all inferior, wormy specimens (destroying the same), and make it a rule never to prop up a tree, we will have few off years and will always find a ready sale for our fruit at the highest market prices.

SEEDING SPRING WHEAT.

It is usually advisable to seed spring wheat as early as the soil is in good condition after the ground has warmed sufficiently for the seed to grow. The last part of the growing season is the uncertain one for wheat. When seeded in drills a bushel and four quarts to a bushel and a peck of seed have given best results as a general rule. The amount of seed which will give the best yield will vary with the season. A season which favors the stooling of the plants requires less seed than one which is unfavorable to their stooling. The shoe drills are preferable to the hoe drills or to broadcasting wheat. The shoe drill puts the seed into the ground and usually into moist ground, and covers it over, ready to grow. The broadcast seeder and the hoe drill ar emore uncertain, as some of the grain is covered deeply, some shallow and some of it not at all. If the reader will bear in mind that to sprout or start growth every seed requires a certain degree of warmth, moisture and air, he will understand what he is required to furnish to the wheat kernels to induce them to start growth.

Shoe drills can be divided into two classes, viz., the shoe chain and the shoe press drills. The shoe like those of the corn planter and garden seeders opens a furrow in the ground and drops the seed into it while the sides of the shoe hold the dirt back. When the shoe moves past the point where a certain seed has been dropped, the loose dirt falls in, covering the seed more or less completely. Following the shoe is a short, large-linked chain in the case of the shoe chain drill and a small wheel in the case of the shoe press drill, which covers the seed more completely. In addition to covering the grain the press wheels compact the ground over the seed, which tends to make moisture rise into the soil which surrounds it. This firming of the soil tends to produce one of the necessary conditions for growth, viz., moisture.

It is often a good plan to harrow the ground after seeding if it has not been fined enough before the wheat was sown. It will not hurt the grain to harrow the ground after the wheat is up. Wheat that is four inches high will not be injured by harrowing with a peg toothed harrow. If it rains after the wheat is seeded and before it is four or five inches high, harrowing the ground after it has dried sufficiently will usually prove beneficial. In that case the harrow loosens the surface of the soil and prevents the loss of water by evaporation at a time when the wheat is not high enough to mulch and shade the ground well.

FORMATION OF SMALL LAWNS.

Sodding is most satisfactory. Success depends upon the thorough preparation of the soil. This should be spaded up deep and made as rich as possible. In laying sod, it is important that the pieces are cut with a sharp knife and made of even width so that they match well, making an uninterrupted turf which should be beaten down with the back of a spade firmly, after which it should be thoroughly watered. Of course if there are any roots of perennial weeds in the sod, they should be removed before laying, but the main point is to select a good, clean piece of turf from which to cut the sod. If seed is sown, Kentucky bluegrass makes a nice lawn, but the special lawn mixtures are adapted for various conditions.

SLEEP IS SOUNDEST

When One Dreams, Because Dreams Control the Brain.

"The popular idea or impression is that when persons dream much during a night to that extent their sleep is interfered with," says a well-known physician; "and it is a frequent thing to hear persons say that they dreamed so much during the night that they did not sleep or rest well. Now, the fact is, dreaming is as much rest or mental recreation as actual sleep in some respects, although it may not appear so on first thought. It is hard to prove this by actual experiment, because the conditions are so difficult to produce. There is a certain amount of evidence which can be used, however, to prove the proposition. Time and time again when persons have been waked up by others they have explained as a reason that they did not respond quicker that they did not hear the call. It is as clearly proved as anything can be that persons who are in a dreamy condition are much harder to wake than those who are sleeping, as they suppose, soundly. Take a parent, for instance a mother, when she is sleeping soundly, as she thinks, she can hear her child when it turns over or moves in its crib. Now, the same parent in a dreamy condition would hardly hear a knock at the door or other loud noise. The dream so controls the brain that during its pendency the sense of hearing is blunted."

ONLY WOUNDED MONARCH.

Humbert I., King of Italy, is the only European monarch of the present time who has been wounded in warfare. The occasion was the battle of Custozza, which, for the Italians, ended so disastrously. The Austrians, under Archduke Albert, were victorious.

NATIVE SHREWDNESS.

In the recent Abyssinian campaign an Italian Captain who wore a glass eye was accustomed to remove the counterfeit optic every evening, and put it in his purse before retiring for the night. Seeing this the natives declared that he took out one of his eyes and left it to look after his money and prevent anybody from stealing it.

WONDERFUL BLIND GIRL.

HAS GIFT OF SECOND SIGHT AND SEES INTO THE FUTURE.

The Wise are Puzzled, the Ignorant Fear—But Nobody Knows the Secret of Her Powers, Which are the Talk of the Country Where She Lives.

People who believe in the significance of dreams and in the power of "second sight," may find strength for their opinion in the case of little Lucy Starling, the blind girl of Oldtown, Maine, whose wonderful gifts astonish all who know her.

Four years ago little Lucy began to conjure up, with startling accuracy, dream pictures of past, present and future events, and since then her fame as a prophetess has spread and brought many curious persons to see the wonderful child. All who know her or hear about her agree that she is inspired, and the simple folk among whom she lives believe that heaven has given her this gift of second sight to compensate for the loss of her own precious eyesight.

Lucy was born in Oldtown, Me., on Jan. 3, 1884, so that she is now just fourteen years old. She is the only daughter of poor laboring folks; her father being a retired seaman. From her birth Lucy has been a delicate child, and, as they watched the development of their only daughter, the anxious parents feared that the spark of life which flickered in Lucy would soon go out altogether. When she was ten years old Lucy suddenly became

TOTALLY BLIND.

The cause of her affliction was an enigma to the doctor, but they all agreed that she would go blind to the end of her days. The sorrowing parents thought this new grief would kill the girl, but she appeared to be resigned to her lot and soon began to show signs of the marvellous power with which she is gifted.

On the night of Nov. 19, 1893, Lucy dreamed three times of a ship in distress going down into the slough of the waters with all hands on board. The dream left vivid effects upon the child's mind and frightened her so much that she called her father to her bedside. The man tried to sooth her, but in vain. She described what she had seen down to the minutest detail, and insisted that she had recognized her absent brother's face among the drowning sailors.

Her father asked her if she could discern the name of the ship, and learned to his surprise that it was the "Princess." Although she had never seen the Princess, she described the vessel so accurately that her father was filled with wonder. A short time afterward the newspapers reported the loss of the Princess, of Sunderland, England, on the night of Nov. 19, 1893, off Flamborough Head. Lucy's brother, John Starling, had left home some years before to serve before the mast, and nothing had been heard of him. It was ascertained, upon inquiry, that he was among the crew of

THE ILL-FATED PRINCESS.

and thus the child was found to be correct in every particular.

Not only does Lucy dream of the present, but of the past and future. Her parents say that she prophesied the devastation of St. Louis by the great tornado of a year ago a month before it occurred. Although she could not name the locality she described the city of her dream so exactly that her parents, who knew St. Louis well, were not surprised to hear, some time after, of the havoc the tornado played with that city.

The blind girl has given many evidences of her strange gift, and she is said to have foretold the death by burning of a neighbor, describing the accident exactly as it afterward occurred.

These revelations invariably come to her in the form of dreams or visions, and when she awakes she remembers what she has dreamt to the smallest detail.

Lucy is a beautiful child, with blue eyes and long golden hair. In spite of her affliction she attends the village school, and is said to be advanced in her studies. She is of a cheerful disposition, and is able to do lots of things that other blind people cannot do.

EUROPE'S POPULATION.

While the population of Europe which was estimated at 175,000,000 in the beginning of the century, rose to 216,000,000 in 1830 increasing to 300,000,000 in 1870, and is now nearly 370,000,000, there has been a still more remarkable increase in the number of towns with over 100,000 inhabitants. There were only 21 of these in 1801, with, 4,500,000 inhabitants, 42 in 1850, 70 in 1870, with 20,000,000 inhabitants, and 121 in 1896, with about 37,000,000 inhabitants.

AFRICAN TELEGRAPH

Cecil Rhodes has now got his great African telegraph line working from Cape Town to Tete on the Zambesi, and poles up as far as Lake Nyassa. That brings him within 1,000 miles of Uganda. The Sirdar is about to move on Khartoom, carrying a telegraph line with him. Another year, therefore, may easily see an unbroken line in working order from the delta to the cape.

APPRECIATION.

He—That is a remarkably bright girl I was just talking to.

She—But isn't it rather hard to keep up with her?

He—That's just it. I can't tell you what a relief it was to meet you.