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.

Guelph's rate of taxation is 24 mills.

The Stikine River is open for navigation.

The Northwest elections will be held next October.

Over 5,000 immigrants arrived at Winnipeg last month.

Western miners are asking for an increased duty on lead imports.

The Hamilton Gas Company has increased its discount to 30 per cent.

The London City Council fixed the rate of taxation for 1898 at 21 1-2 mills on the dollar.

A. T. Bryages, a Hamilton Klondiker, who left about a year ago, has returned, poorer by $600.

Corporal McNair of the Northwest Mounted Police jubilee contingent committed suicide at Wardner.

Five Spaniards, cigar-makers, have arrived in Hamilton, Ont., from New York, and will live there.

It is rumored at Kingston that Mr. George H. Bertram, M.P., will purchase the locomotive works there.

The entire town of Northport, British Columbia, was wiped out by fire, but the Le Roi smelter was uninjured.

Andrew P. Scott, former cashier of the insolvent Farmers' Savings & Loan Company, has returned to Toronto.

The navigation season has opened at Montreal with a rush. The receipts of grain were the largest on record.

Hamilton citizens have given seventy plots of land for use as potato patches.

Hamilton temperance people are organizing on the assumption that the plebiscite will be taken in September.

Last month the C.P.R. sold 43,145 acres of land for $140,275, or four times as much as was sold in April, 1897.

Hon. Sidney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, will visit Great Britain this year and may attend the Paris Exposition.

The celebrated Le Roi mine has passed into the hands of a British syndicate. Three million dollars was the consideration.

The influx of Americans to Toronto to escape the inconvenience occasioned by the Spanish-American war, promises to be large.

The members of the Canadian Marine Association have given up all hopes of having the canals opened for Sunday this season.

Mrs. Patrick Canovan, on trial at Woodstock, N. B., on a charge of murdering her sister, Minnie Tucker, has been found not guilty.

A rumor is current at Stratford that all Grand Trunk employees over 50 years of age engaged in the shops are to be discharged.

H. M. S. warship Pelican, which arrived at Halifax on Saturday, is to be fitted out for the Newfoundland fishery protection service.

Clearances in the Winnipeg clearing house during April aggregated $6,240,000, compared with $4,162,000 for the corresponding month of 1897.

The Wabash Railway people intend putting a good service on the Southern Grand Trunk line between Detroit and Buffalo. There will be four trains daily each way.

Convict McGuire, of Cobourg serving a life sentence in Kingston penitentiary for attempted murder, has completed a large oil painting of Christ's ascension.

On Friday the steamer W. R. Lynn brought 232,000 bushels of corn to Owen Sound harbor. This is thought to be the largest cargo of corn ever floated in fresh water.

Cyrus Seymour, who has served three terms in penitentiary for horse stealing and bigamy, has been arrested at Kingston with a stolen horse and carriage in his possession.

Preparations are being made for the enlargement of the Provincial Parliamentary library at Toronto, to admit the books which have been purchased from Sir Oliver Mowat.

An extensive snowslide occurred on the line of the C. P. R., near Glacier House and broke through 200 feet of snowsheds. Luckily the evening train had passed. There will be no interruption of traffic.

Mr. C. Ross, president of the Ottawa Board of Trade has accepted an invitation to the meeting of the British Association in September next on the occasion of the Cabot memorial celebration at Bristol, Eng.

The Humane Society has awarded the parchment of the society to John Meyers, the coloured porter, who braved escaping steam and live coals to rescue Engineer Hutchinson and Fireman Clark from the G.T.R. wreck at Burlington.

UNITED STATES.

The price of beer has been advanced at Chicago to $5 a barrel.

John Yore, father-in-law of Michael Davitt, the Irish agitator is dead at St. Joseph, Mich.

The claim is made that the American roads are boycotting the Soo branch of the C.P.R.

Waterspouts and tornadoes have resulted in loss of life and great destruction of property in Arkansas.

John Y. McKane, the former Coney Island political leader, was released from Sing Sing on Saturday.

Large quantities of Minneapolis flour are being sent to Montreal for export. Effect of the war.

The Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain railroad has been sold under mortgage foreclosure, for $2,500,000.

Maus Bros. and Wolf Bros., Cincinnati, shoe factories, each seven stories, were burned on Friday morning. Loss $200,000.

At Jericho, in Cedar County, Mo., a torpedo killed thirteen persons outright and fatally injured five or six more.

A great Catholic demonstration is being held in New York in celebration of the silver jubilee of Archbishop Corrigan.

Fire at Chicago on Wednesday destroyed Armour's felt works, at a loss of $250,000. The fire caused a panic among the employes. None were killed.

One hundred and thirty-five passes, giving permission for correspondents of newspapers to accompany the army, have been issued at Washington.

The Cramp Shipbuilding Company of Philadelphia have received an order from the Russian Government for the construction of two important vessels, one a battleship and the other a protected cruiser.

Mildred Brewster, on trial at Montpelier, Vt., for the murder of Anna Wheeler, of whom she was jealous, has been acquitted on the ground of insanity.

Edward Gruen, who is really Baron Unterrechter, has confessed to the immigration authorities at New York to having stolen 67,000 florins from his aunt.

Jacob Gramm, aged 50, of Morton street, New York, on Tuesday murdered two of his children, mortally wounded a third, and then inflicted fatal wounds on himself. The murdered children were five and one year old. The other one is seven years old.

Lewis Warner, president of the County National Bank, of Northampton, Mass., is wanted for the embezzlement of ten to fifty thousand dollars. The issuance of a warrant was the result of a meeting of the bank examiner and the directors of the institution.

The First National Bank of Carthage, N.Y., has closed its doors. The president of the bank, Mr. E. H. Myers, has absconded. An investigation of his accounts revealed the fact that he has been defrauding the bank for eight years. The amount of the defalcation is estimated at $110,000.

A fire panic occurred in the California theatre, San Francisco, at which Madame Melba was performing, on Saturday night. The fire was in the next building, but the people, disregarding the statement of the management, started a rush for the street. Fortunately no one was severely injured. Madame Melba fainted on the stage.

The contractors engaged on corporation work for the city of New York have decided in self-defence to suspend operations owing to the decision of the comptroller that the city has largely exceeded its debt limit, and that no funds will be available for the completion of much work under contract. Forty thousand men are thus thrown out of work.

GENERAL.

Bread riots continue at Piaenga, Italy.

Prince Koung, President of the Chinese Foreign Office, is dead at Pekin.

Mr. and Mrs. Cain and the Misses Archer, Hatfield and Schenck American missionaries, were murdered in Sierra Leone.

Fourteen escaped prisoners from New Manamacca, New Guinea, are reported to have attacked a neighboring village, killing and eating 18 men.

The Transvaal Government wants a loan, and it is said that neither Germany nor England will negotiate until more concessions have been granted.

THUMBSCREWS.

A King's Experience With the Instrument of Torture.

William Carstairs, the Scotch divine who for fourteen years served William III. as confidential secretary and adviser-in-chief, has been implicated in the Rye-house Plot, a conspiracy to assassinate Charles II., and place Monmouth on the throne. He was put to the excruciating torture of the thumbkins or thumbscrews, which he endured heroically, without confessing or implicating others.

After Carstairs became the private adviser of William, he was presented with the instrument by which he had been tortured. The king, wishing to see the measure of fortitude necessary to endure the terrible torture without making a confession of some soft placed his thumbs in the machine and told Carstairs to turn the screw. He turned slowly and cautiously.

"It is unpleasant," said King William, "yet it might be endured. You are trifling with me; turn the screw so that I may really feel pain similar to that you felt."

Carstairs turned the screw sharply. The king cried out and when released said that under such pain he would have confessed to anything, true or false.

CORRECT.

That hospital, said the guide, was built and endowed by a deaf mute.

Indeed, said the loquacious lunatic. Then it is the first authentic case of being dumb-founded that I ever encountered.

WHAT IT IS FOR.

The European nations manifest an inclination to sit down on Turkey, said Spykes.

It is the Ottoman Empire, you know, replied Spokes.

Agricultural

BEST TIME FOR CLOVER HAY.

There is no other hay that is as good for all kinds of stock, especially for growing animals and milch cows, as clover hay, provided the clover is cut at the right time and properly cured, writes C. P. Goodrich. And yet a great many farmers—I am not sure but I could truthfully say a majority — fail so completely in one or the other, or both of these particulars, that the result is, a great proportion of the clover hay in the country is of inferior quality, and we often hear men say: "I do not think much of clover hay; it is the poorest hay there is." According to my experience, the best time to cut clover is when it is in full bloom. As all of the blossoms do not come out at the same time, I would, if I were sure the weather would permit, and if I could cut it all in one day, wait till about one-fourth of the heads had turned brown. But in practice, because I cannot cut it all at once, and to guard against any of it becoming too far advanced, I usually, and always if the weather is good, commence cutting before any of the heads have turned. Clover is a plant of rapid growth, and matures very rapidly, so that, after it has passed the full-blossom stage, every day is working great damage to it by changing the soft and digestible stems into hard, woody and indigestible fiber. I find by consulting my record, that the time of commencing to cut clover for hay on my farm in southern Wisconsin for the last twenty years or more, has varied from the 7th to the 25th of June. Many let it stand longer before cutting because they get a greater weight of hay. But the increased quantity is at the sacrifice of quality which no farmer can afford. Beside this, the quantity will usually be fully made up by the increased amount of the second crop when the first one is cut early. Then there is another thing. If one wishes to get a crop of clover seed, in parts of the country where the midge is liable to do damage, the crop of seed will stand a chance of getting, to a certain extent, ahead of the midge when the first crop is cut early. Another reason why many do not cut clover early is because they say it is so very difficult to cure. They have tried cutting it early, and could not get it dry enough without leaving it out a long time, at the risk of having it wet with rain, and as a consequence, hauled it into the barn or stack with so much moisture in it that it was heated and mow-burned and nearly worthless. I had just such an experience forty years ago and believed then that clover was "poor stuff for hay." But I learned better than to do that way, and also learned better than to leave the clover—if I cut it green—spread out on the ground for two or three days, scratching it over with the tedder once or twice every day till the leaves and fine parts were nearly all knocked off and the stems were dry like sticks so they would not heat. For many years I have practiced cutting in the forenoon after the dew was off, or, what is fully as good, cutting it late in the afternoon, and, if the sun shines bright, let it wilt during the middle of the day, but not have it dry enough to have the leaves crumble off. Then rake and put up in small piles, narrow at the bottom. Clover put up in this wilted stage, will pack together, if the piles are topped out good, so that they will shed rain good, if rain should come. It is left in these piles two or three days, or longer, according to the weather. Before the hay is hauled to the barn it is usually necessary to open the piles and spread them out some so that the sun and air will take out some of the moisture, but do not think to get it perfectly dry. It may seem quite damp and soggy after this, when it is drawn to the barn, but it has had a time of heating and sweating in the piles and will not heat again in the barn, but will come out in the winter the finest of hay. Some object to this way of making clover hay because it takes more work than it does to let it lie spread out on the ground until it is thoroughly dry before raking. It may be a little more work, but that is compensated for many times over by the great improvement in quality.

HOW TO SET FRUIT TREES.

When any kind of a plant has its roots exposed, it is sure to suffer loss of vitality by evaporation. These should be kept covered with damp straw or cloth, and if to be kept several days before setting, placed in a cool place, writes one who knows. Trees sometimes arrive in a shriveled condition, caused by delay in shipment or transportation. These should be immediately placed horizontally in a trench and covered with puddled earth and allowed to remain for several days. If the branches are still shriveled, they are worthless. They should be plump when removed.

Remove all bruised and injured roots with a sharp knife or pruning shears. Also cut off all fibrous rootlets, as new growth starts from the large roots. Cut back the top quite severely, the peach to a whip and the pear and apple to three or four short branches equally distributed around the trunk and not more than three feet from the ground. The branches should not exceed the roots in length and quantity. Dig a hole large enough to admit the roots in a natural position. In the center of the hole place a small amount of earth. On this set the tree and gently press it into the earth. This insures sufficient soil among the roots to prevent any open space. It is these open spaces which often cause the death of the three. Pack the soil above the roots as fast as it is filled in, leaving the upper three inches loose to act as a mulch to preserve moisture.

It is best to set the trees a little deeper than they stood in the nursery This place may be known by the difference in color of the bark. It is customary to set a tree as near verticle as possible, but I have learned that it should be set so as to lean slightly toward the direction of the prevailing winds, then as the tree grows, it gradually straightens and at maturity is able to maintain that position. A tree should never be mulched the first year, as it will cause the roots to grow near the surface. There is nothing better than frequent and shallow cultivation to conserve moisture and promote growth. It is better to grow some cultivated crop among the trees than to allow the ground to become occupied by weeds and grass, but all seeds should not be planted closer than four feet to the tree. Careful attention should be given the new growth, cutting back any branches which are growing out of proportion to the others, keeping the top as nearly balanced as possible. Rub off all shoots on the trunk which are not needed for main branches.

CONTROLLING ROT OF PLUM AND CHERRY.

There is great complaint each year about cherries and plums rotting on the tree. There is no doubt good cause for the complaint, as sometimes nearly all the crop is spoiled by it, writes Prof. Platt. Few people seem to know how to save them. I have had great loss with cherries rotting, yet I do not fear the rot nearly so much as I do the black aphis that I have found unmanageable and the cause of the death of more cherry trees than all other causes put together. My treatment for cherries is to spray with sulphate of copper 1 lb to 25 gals of water once just before the buds open and once with bordeaux when the cherries are one-third or one-half grown, then pick the cherries a day or two before they are fully ripe. If the weather is not persistently bad this will be successful, at least it has been with me for several years.

As to plums, I have never sprayed the Japanese varieties except in a small way as a test, but have depended on picking off the decaying fruit by hand. They might be sprayed with bordeaux or sulphate of copper mixture while dormant, which would kill spores of rot then existing on the bark, but I have found the foliage of the Japanese varieties uniformly too sensitive to admit of spraying with bordeaux while in leaf. The European varieties, however, seem to like the bordeaux. They should be sprayed at least twice with it, the first time when the new growth is three to five inches long and the second when the fruit is half grown. Applied at this time it will not show when fruit is ripe.

ORIGIN OF LONDON BRIDGE.

Its Buildings Traced to the Handiwork of Roman Engineers.

When was the bridge built? It is impossible to say. It was not there A. D. 61, when Queen Boadicea's troops sacked the city, and murdered the people. It was there when Allectus led his troops out to fight the Roman legions. It was there very early in the Roman occupation, as is proved by the quantities of Roman coins of the four centuries of their tenure found in the bed of the river on the side of the old bridge. It is also proved by the fact that Southwark was a settlement of the wealthier class, who could not have lived in a place absolutely without supplies, had there been no bridge. We may take any time we please for the construction of the bridge, so long as it is quite early—say, before the second century.

The Britons themselves were quite unable to construct a bridge of any kind unless in the primitive methods observed at Post Bridge and Two Bridges, on Dartmoor, by a slab of stone laid across two bowlders. The work, therefore, was certainly undertaken by Roman engineers. We have, in the next place, to inquire what kind of bridge was built at that time by the Romans. They built bridges of wood and stone; many of these stone bridges still remain, in other cases the pieces of hewn stone still remain. The bridge over the Thames, however, was of wood. This is proved by the fact that had it been of the solid Roman construction in stone, the piers would be still remaining; also by the fact that London had to be contented with a wooden bridge till the year 1176, when the first bridge of stone was commenced. Considerations as to the comparative insignificance of London in the first century, as to the absence of stone in the neighborhood, and as to the plentiful supply of the best wood in the world from the forests north of the city, confirm the theory that the bridge was built of wood. We have only, therefore, to learn how Roman engineers built bridges of wood elsewhere in order to know how they built a bridge of wood over the Thames.

ROUND THE WHOLE WORLD

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

Old and New World Events of Interest Chronicled Briefly—Interesting Happenings of Recent Date.

In Berlin the firemen wear water jackets, with a double skin, which they are able to fill with water from the hose.

The income tax of India is levied on all incomes of £33 and upwards, and then only one man in 700 comes within its scope.

There have been 71,000 deaths from plague in India so far, according to a recent report by the Secretary for India to Parliament.

Jealousy of the first husband of the widow he had married drove a Frenchman to kill his wife and then himself recently in Paris.

A 130 pound conger eel has been caught in Lock Long, Scotland. It measured 6 feet 10 1-2 inches in length and 2 feet 7 inches in girth

Russia's estimated population is 106,800,000; the combined population of Germany and Austria is 98,400,000, and that of the United States is 72,300,000.

There are annually killed in Africa a minimum of 65,000 elephants, yielding the production of a quantity of raw ivory the selling price of which is £850,000.

There are in Galicia 600,000 children who cannot get any schooling. As many as 1,173 new school-houses are called for, the cost of which is estimated at 4,622,000 florins.

An eighty-year-old elephant, whose life has hitherto been devoted to crushing the life out of condemned criminals in India, has been acquired by a Hamburg dealer for a Berlin menagerie.

A French author, M. de Mesguil, has written a book on Madagascar, in which he claims that that island was colonized by Greeks, and that Homer was no one else than Ulysses himself, a great traveller.

The Swiss Government is making efforts to protect useful birds, but nothing can be done without Italian co-operation, and the Italians, even in Switzerland, continue to slaughter birds in the most ruthless manner.

The town of Dornstettin, in Wurttemburg, has its funds so well invested that the inhabitants instead of paying taxes receive a bonus of $25 each annually, besides free firewood and free use of land for raising vegetables.

Lord Bate has tried to encourage marriage at Cardiff, Wales, by offering a dowry once a year to a deserving girl. The Mayor of the town reports, however, that during a whole year he has received not a single application.

Liverpool's Chamber of Commerce is considering the plan of bridging the Mersey by a suspension bridge 150 feet above high water, with a central span 2,000 feet long, and two side spans each of 1,000 feet. The estimated cost is $12,500,000.

Karl Marx's daughter Eleanor, has completed a consistent Socialistic career by ending her own life with prussic acid. She lived with the Socialist Dr. Aveling and bore his name, but at the inquest he asserted that they had never gone throught the form of marriage.

British trade ethics are about to apply to the Klondike. Liverpool has sent out on the steamer Manuense, bound for St. Michael, the largest cargo of liquor ever shipped. It includes 14 000 cases and 1,000 barrels of spirits, chiefly whiskey, and 3,000 barrels of beer.

Though only sixteen murders of children have been traced certainly to the murderer Vacher, and eighteen more were probably his work, it seems that in the three years after his release from a madhouse there were no less than ninety-eight murders and attempts to murder and outrage in France, where the police were unable to find any clue to the perpetrators.

At rehearsal Sir Henry Irving will sit upon the stage among his players, watching every movement and listening to every word, and constantly stopping any one—Miss Terry as readily as the messenger—who does not do exactly right. Mr. Irving rises, explains the fault, and gives the proper form, and that part of the scene is immediately repeated. As he is very exact as to every detail, and requires its elaboration to a nicety, you can readily imagine that the scene does not quickly reach perfection. But his patience holds out against every test it receives. Over and over again the line is recited, or the bit of action done, until all is perfect. At the Lyceum one sees the perfection of stage discipline, and in Mr. Irving the perfection of stage patience.

SPAIN'S STATE RELIGION.

The state religion of Spain is the Roman Catholic, which is maintained by the Government. The constitution permits non-Catholics to worship as they please, but they must do so privately and without making any public announcement of their religious services.

SHE SHOULD BE SATISFIED.

Indignant Woman—This dog I bought of you came near eating my little girl the other day.

Dealer—Well, you said you wanted a dog that was fond of children, didn't you.