

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.

Hamilton's debt is \$3,100,000. The miners at the Springhill, N. S., colliery are on strike.

Winnipeg will lay ten miles of new macadam pavements this year.

Ottawa's population is now 51,540, and its assessed valuation \$21,947,635.

Hon. J. Israel Tarte, who has taken ill in Ottawa, is confined to his bed at Montreal.

Mr. Adam Beck of London has sold his famous horse Longshot to the Duke of Marlborough.

Mrs. Philip Bender, one of the oldest residents on the Canadian frontier, died at Niagara Falls, N. Y., on Thursday, aged ninety-two.

The contract for printing the Dominion notes, postage stamps, and postal cards has been awarded to the American Bank Note Company of New York.

The body of Mr. Robert Johnson of Port Dalhousie was found in the Welland Canal, into which he is supposed to have fallen on Monday night.

Mr. Edward Hanlan has challenged Mr. Gaudaur for the world's championship, conditional on the race being rowed in Toronto bay, three or five miles, for one thousand dollars, on May 8th.

The Dominion Government has been advised by the Indian superintendent in British Columbia that the report from the Pacific coast about the trouble among the Indians regarding potlaching was exaggerated.

Mr. J. H. Macoun, of the Geological Department, has left for England to join Prof. Darcy Thompson and assist in preparing a report to the Imperial Government on the result of their observation of seal life in the Pribyloff Islands last summer.

A new schedule of wages and duties for the men on the eastern division of the C.P.R. was arranged between Mr. Spencer, Superintendent of the division, and a number of representatives of the men hailing from points between Fort William and Quebec.

Mr. W. L. Scott, Master in Chancery at Ottawa, had to decide a knotty question as to whether Mr. Peter McRae or his wife died first in a drowning accident. As the husband was found with the body of his little boy clasped in his arms, the Master decided that he must have died first, because his efforts would be hampered by the boy.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Not a Canadian has yet subscribed to the Mansion House Fund in London for the Indian famine sufferers.

The Prince and Princess of Wales subscribed £250 to the Mansion House Fund for the Indian famine sufferers.

Lord Rosebery is again suffering from insomnia, and will not be present in the House of Lords during the opening weeks of the session.

Two more cases of cholera have developed on board the quarantine transport Nubia, which arrived at Plymouth from India on Saturday.

Mr. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, who underwent operation in London on Wednesday, is slowly gaining strength.

London papers of all shades of politics are said to approve of the signing of the arbitration treaty between Great Britain and the United States.

Hon. Edward Blake has been chosen by the Irish members to move the amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech in the Imperial Parliament.

Lord Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, states that the famine, including loss of revenue, will cost the Indian treasury between four and six million pounds.

It is remarked in London that Canada has now a chance of showing that her Imperial sympathies are more than the expression of words, by subscribing towards the Indian relief fund, on which no Canadian name has so far appeared.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. Cornelius N. Bliss, of New York, has positively declined the portfolio of the Navy Department.

United States Secretary Olney has rebuked Ambassador Bayard for making political speeches in England.

Receipts of grain at Buffalo from Fort William during the navigation season of 1896 aggregated 2,329,500 bushels.

Ernest L. Chase, son of Dr. Chase, of Ann Arbor, Mich., has been sentenced at Detroit to life imprisonment for cruelty to his wife, whom he has disgraced for life.

Mrs. E. W. Wilson, a wealthy old lady, has been abducted from Chicago. Relatives think she is in the safe keeping of a child, now married, which she adopted thirty years ago.

Frank Dougherty, a striking miner, was shot and instantly killed by Policeman Guyton for resisting arrest at Leadville, Col., on Monday. Dougherty had first fired at the policeman.

Maggie Messer, a Canadian, aged 27, was arrested in Buffalo on Tuesday for shoplifting. A wagon load of silks and gloves was found in the home where she was employed as a servant.

The United States Deep Waterways Commission has submitted its report to Secretary Olney. The report is an unqualified endorsement of the ship canal project between the United States and Canada, and embraces a recommendation for two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for preliminary surveys.

According to the returns from the commercial agencies of Messrs. Dun and Bradstreet there are no new special features to trade in the United States. Business is quiet and prices continue low, but the feeling among business men is generally a feeling of confidence, and the more steady tone and healthy tendency is considered more satisfactory because it is slow. Stocks in some lines are too large, especially in textile fabrics, and lower prices for these goods are probable. There have been some large purchases

of leather and of wool; hides at Chicago are lower. During the week there has been little variation in wheat. Mercantile collections are reported as usually poor. In some directions an increased demand for dry goods, hardware and groceries is said to exist. But practically the business situation is unchanged.

GENERAL.

Mr. Willis, United States Minister to Honolulu, is dead.

The proposed naval yard extension at Hong Kong will cost \$1,250,000.

The Dowager Empress Asalia, mother of Emperor Mutsuhito, of Japan, is dead.

Sir John B. Thurston, Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, is dangerously ill, and his recovery is doubtful.

The Maharajah of Durbhangah has remitted eight lakhs of rupees of his revenue, and will expend a similar amount in the famine relief work.

The Turkish Reform League has issued a circular from Brussels, declaring that another massacre is in contemplation, and calling upon the powers to dethrone the Sultan.

The Hamburg-American Liner Fuerst Bismarck, which ran aground in the Elbe on January 6, is still aground, all efforts to float her having thus far proved futile.

Paris papers state that the Admiralty Council is in favor of using squadrons in time of war, and has rejected Admiral Anbe's proposal for a fleet of fast cruisers with a view to privateering.

The Princess Chimay, who eloped with a Hungarian musician, has been engaged to appear in tableaux vivants at the Berlin Winter Gardens, after her divorce from her husband, at a salary of seven hundred and fifty dollars a night.

INVITATION TO THEFT.

The loss of nearly \$2,000 in cash by Mrs. Belle Helmuth in Fifth avenue, New York recently caused many police detectives to make remarks about the carelessness of women and the ease with which they can be robbed in public places.

Talking about her loss, a detective said the other day that he had heard of several cases in which women had lost property of considerable value in their anxiety to save trifles.

"Clever thieves understand and take advantage of that failing," he said. "Many women, not content with carelessly carrying their purses in their hands when they walk about in crowds in the shopping district, will lay their purses down on counters when they are examining goods in the stores.

"Thieves are on the lookout for such opportunities, and all they have to do in many cases is merely to edge up to a careless woman, crowd her a little, perhaps pick up her pocket-book, when she isn't looking and walk away with it. Sometimes it is necessary to divert her attention, and also the attention of the salesman at the counter.

"Thieves often travel in pairs for that purpose, and the most common trick is to drop a handkerchief, usually a cheap one with no marks on it, near the woman's skirt.

"Excuse me, but you have dropped your handkerchief," one thief says politely, and the woman looks down, and perhaps stoops to pick it up. Then there is an examination and a denial of ownership, and the handkerchief is handed over to the salesman to be returned to the real owner who may call for it later, and in the meantime, the woman's purse has been stowed away in the pocket of a confederate, who makes tracks out of the store.

"My gracious! the woman exclaims presently, 'I wonder what I did with my purse!' and then there is another diversion. By that time both thieves are beyond pursuit. The police hear of many such cases, but there are many women who never make complaint to the police, and are even ashamed to tell their friends how easily they have been robbed.

"Many women are robbed although they think they are taking care to protect their purses and other valuables by carrying them in satchels when they are on shopping trips, and in most cases the women fail to take one small precaution which would baffle the ordinary thief. The trouble is that vanity of the women and the fault of the manufacturers of satchels combine to favor the thieves.

"Nearly every satchel carried by women has some ornamental device on one side, and always on the side where the clasp is. A woman carries the satchel so that the ornamental device can be seen and the clasp is exposed to the touch of every light-fingered thief who passes her. It is the easiest possible trick for a thief to open a satchel in the hands of its owner, when carried that way, and take out a purse or some jewelry. It is done in crowded places every day or two.

"If a woman carries her satchel so that the clasp is next to her person, however, the satchel can not be opened without her knowledge. She may not gratify her vanity by exposing to view the ornamental side of her satchel, her property will be safe in the crowd while she hangs on to the satchel."

CHANGE OF HEART.

Sweet Girl—I hope, you will call again Mr. Coolhead.

Mr. Coolhead (new admirer)—Thank you, I should be delighted to call very soon again, if I were sure of finding you at home.

Oh, I'm nearly always at home; but—let me see—it won't do for you to call Tuesday evening, for that is the night of the Home Mission meeting; and Wednesday night the Emperor's Daughters meet; and Thursday the Blue Ribbons have a most important session; and Friday is the monthly meeting of the Dorcas Club; and Saturday the Browning Club—really, I hardly know what day to set; but—

Um—do you expect to belong to those societies always?

Oh, yes, indeed; I'm a life member of them all.

Er—I should like to call again soon, but this is our busy season, and I shall be confined very closely to the office for several months. Good-evening.

FACTS MANY AND VARIOUS

SOME CURIOUS FACTS CULLED FROM CANADA'S LAST CENSUS.

Figures Which Show the Country's Progress—Statistics on Local and Other Topics.

The law of Canada requires that a census shall be taken every ten years. The Census Act was first passed in 1870, was revised in 1879 and again in 1886, the last act being that under which the census of 1891 was taken. It provides that the census shall be taken so as to ascertain with the greatest possible accuracy in regard to the various territorial divisions of the country, their population, and its classification as regards age, sex, social condition, religion, education, race, occupation, and otherwise; the houses and other buildings therein and their classification as dwellings inhabited, uninhabited, under construction, and otherwise; the occupied land and its condition, whether town, village, country, cultivated or uncultivated; the produce, state and resources of the agricultural, fishing, mining, mechanical, manufacturing, trading and other industries; and, lastly, the municipal, educational, charitable and other institutions, and whatsoever matters may be deemed desirable by the Government at the time of the taking of the census.

THE CENSUS NECESSARY IN CANADA.

Under the constitution the electoral representation in the House of Commons is based upon population, and is regulated by the number of persons living in the Province of Quebec. Therefore, it is necessary to ascertain carefully the population in each province and also to follow in the enumeration of the people the electoral division provided by Parliament.

The last census of Canada was taken in 1891, the organization consisting of 14 census officers, 241 census commissioners and 4,366 enumerators. The largest census district was that of New Westminster, with an area of 204,050 square miles. In Ontario the total census area was Algoma, with 143,517 square miles; and in Quebec, Chicoutimi and Saguenay, with 118,921 square miles. To accomplish the task of counting the population in these immense areas enumerators had to take camps and camp furniture with them, be ready to ride on horseback, paddle a canoe and walk miles all in one day.

HISTORY OF OUR CENSUS TAKING.

The first census of the Dominion of Canada was taken in 1871, and comprised the four provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The population of these four provinces was found to be 3,485,761. A census of Prince Edward Island, then an independent province, was taken the same year, giving a population of 94,021, and a census of British Columbia was taken in 1870, when the population was found to be 36,427, including Indians. This province was also at that time independent. The population of Manitoba at the taking of the census of 1870 was 18,995, including 6,767 Indians. The population, therefore, of what at present constitutes the Dominion, exclusive of the Northwest Territories, may be set down as being, in 1871, 3,635,024. The population of the Territories was at the time estimated to be about 60,000.

The next census was taken in 1881, and comprised the whole of the present Dominion, the total population being 4,324,810. The third census was taken in 1891, when the total population was placed at 4,833,239.

Of the total population Ontario contained 1,926,922 people and Quebec 1,359,022. The urban population was 1,390,910, or 28.77 per cent. of the whole. In 1871 the percentage of urban population was only 18.8. The growth of the urban at the expense of the rural population is one of the features of the percentage throughout the world, and prevails in Canada as elsewhere.

MORE MEN THAN WOMEN.

At the last census there were 2,460,471 males and 2,372,763 females. Ontario had 1,069,487 males and 1,044,834 females, while Quebec showed an almost equality, there being 744,141 males and 744,394 females. In British Columbia there were 63,003 males and 35,170 females. In each census group of 10,000 persons there were 249 infants, 1,000 children between 1 year and 5 years old, 2,350 boys and girls from 5 to 15 years, 1,061 youths and maidens from 15 to 20 years, 1,781 young men and women from 20 to 30, 2,105 middle-aged persons from 30 to 50, and 1,325 elderly persons over 50 years.

Out of every 10,000 persons in Canada 6,317 were single, 3,286 were married and 397 were widowed. Of these last 267 were widows and 130 widowers. In each of these groups of 10,000 there were 1,907 families, the average number of persons in each being 5.2.

SOME INTERESTING STATISTICS.

Computing by averages the following facts were found with regard to every 10,000 of population; 949 bachelors over 20 years old; 684 spinsters; 2,907 were French or Acadian, 8,661 Canadian-born and 1,339 born in other countries; 1,014 were British-born and 325 were foreign-born. Engaged in agriculture, mining and fishing were 1,635; 386 were engaged in trade and transportation; 662 in manufacturing; 131 were in the professions; 509 were in domestic and personal occupations; 110 belonged to the non-productive classes; 1,521 were farmers; 56 were fishermen; 31 were miners, and 27 lumbermen.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CANADA.

Out of every 10,000 persons 140 died during the year preceding the census, of whom 38 were infants. Of the causes of this 140 deaths, phthisis or consumption was accountable for 15 and lung diseases for 12. Old age gathered in 9; 47 died from local diseases and 19 from constitutional; violent deaths were responsible for 5, and there were 22 of an average in each group ill-defined and not specified.

To each group of 10,000 persons there

were, on an average, 2,982 horses, 8,402 cattle and 5,201 sheep.

Out of each 10,000 people nearly 3,000 could not read and 3,500 could not write. The insane numbered 28, the blind 7, and deaf mutes 10. The amount of life insurance at risk per 10,000 people was \$562,549, and fire insurance to the extent of \$1,655,9.

Taking the population as a whole, 4,185,877 of the people were born in Canada and 647,362 born in other countries. To show the intermingling of the people it was found that there were 11,658 people from Ontario in British Columbia, 46,620 in Manitoba, 344 in New Brunswick, 738 in Nova Scotia, 105 in Prince Edward Island, 15,541 in Quebec and 13,594 in the Territories. On the whole there has been a very considerable movement of population between the Provinces, the general trend being from east to west.

RELIGIONS OF CANADIANS.

According to the last census, the total population of Canada by religions was as follows:—Roman Catholics, 1,992,017; Church of England, 646,059; Presbyterians, 754,193; Reformed Presbyterians, 708; other Presbyterians, 425; Methodists, 839,815; Bible Christians, 7,183; Primitive Methodists, 160; other Methodists, 607; Baptists, 257,449; Free Will Baptists, 45,116; Tinklers, 1,274; Brethren, 11,637; Lutherans, 63,982; Congregationalists, 28,157; Disciples, 12,763; Adventists, 6,354; Unitarians, 1,777; Universalists, 3,186; "Protestants," 12,253; Salvation Army, 13,940; Quakers, 4,650; Jews, 6,414; other denominations, 33,756; not specified, 89,355. The number of pagans, or Indians still adhering to the belief of their fathers, was 16,427.

INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

The following facts were ascertained at the last census with respect to Canadian industries:

Capital to the extent of over a million dollars was employed in the making of arms and ammunition; 495 employes were engaged, to whom wages to the extent of \$175,394 were paid, the value of output being \$1,105,205.

In the books and stationery manufacturing business over \$10,000,000 was invested; nearly 10,000 hands were employed; wages to the extent of \$3,875,543 were paid, the value of the output being \$10,553,487.

In the manufacture of carriages and other vehicles \$10,000,000 was invested, and over 1,400 men employed, whose wages aggregated \$5,000,000. The value of the output was nearly \$20,000,000.

There was the sum of \$7,054,000 found to be invested in distilleries, which employed 404 hands, whose wages amounted to \$178,950. The output was \$2,19,600.

Brewers and malsters had \$8,533,164 invested, employed 1,885 hands, whose wages aggregated \$906,681. The annual output was \$5,955,253.

Bakeries to the number of 1,656 were found, with capital invested \$4,781,605. The number of employes was 4,551, and the annual output \$11,148,567.

There were 2,059 grist mills, using a capital of \$23,039,011; employing 6,317 hands, whose wages aggregated \$2,306,931. The total output was \$52,423,286.

In the whole Dominion there were found 226 establishments for the production of light. The total capital employed was \$21,335,314. Their employes numbered 3,942, whose wages were \$1,295,965. The total output was \$7,485,721.

No less than \$55,598,434 capital was invested in 12,631 establishments engaged in the manufacture of machines, tools and implements. These manufacturers employed 49,422 hands, who received \$17,815,445 in wages, and turned out goods valued at \$62,016,178 yearly. Carpenters and builders had 4,618 places of business. The capital invested was \$5,012,670. They hired 10,137 hands and paid \$2,949,803 in wages.

No less than 5,666 sawmills were enumerated, having an invested capital of \$50,203,111, 51,378 employes, with wages aggregating \$12,625,895 and a yearly output of over fifty million dollars.

MANUFACTURERS OF CANADA.

Summing up the results of the census with regard to industrial establishments, the following facts are gleaned: There were in all 75,968 industrial establishments, having an invested capital of \$354,620,750, employing 370,256 hands, distributing to wage earners \$100,663,650 a year and producing articles valued at \$476,258,886. Of the capital invested \$31,466,324 was in land; \$60,303,043 in buildings; \$81,401,247 in machinery and tools, and \$181,450,136 was capital other than "fixed."

Of the employes, 273,424 were men, 70,280 women, 19,476 boys and 7,076 girls under 16 years of age.

HERE AND THERE A GEM.

If the soul has the least scintillation of a desire to be holy; much more, if it is bent on being holy; still more, if it is striving and struggling to be holy; is it conceivable that the incarnate Love should not meet that desire, that longing, that striving, and visit the soul with power?—Gouldburn.

What makes selfishness such a deadly sin is that it is such a self-deceiving one. A thief knows he is a thief, a liar that he has told falsehoods; but a selfish man will not know that he is selfish; hence he never repents, and the sin grows with his growth, and strengthens with his strength.

The courage and heroism which accept the burdens of life and follow the call of duty, however footsore and weary, bring to the heart a peace and serenity which are not far from true happiness.

When ease and comfort and pleasure stand in the way of our moral advancement they must be swept away by a hand as relentless as that of the general who burned his ships that his army might be compelled to move onward.

Frugality is good if liberality be joined with it. The first is giving up superfluous expenses; the last is bestowing them for the benefit of those who need. The first, without the last, begets covetousness; the last, without the first, begets prodigality.

Intercourse with persons of decided virtue and excellence is of great importance in the formation of good character. The force of example is powerful; we are creatures of imitation, and by necessary influence our habits and tempers are very much formed on the mode of those with whom we familiarly associate.

THE PLAGUE AT BOMBAY

BUSINESS AT A STANDSTILL IN THE DESERTED CITY.

Native Doctors Desert Their Post—The Cemeteries Overflowing—Difficulty in Burying the Dead.

A despatch from Bombay says:—Every day the plague situation here becomes worse, and it is estimated that nearly half the population of the city have fled to escape death. The situation is greatly aggravated by the prevalence of the famine. Thousands of natives who leave the city have absolutely nothing on which to support themselves in the country, and thus fall victims to slow death from starvation. The streets and bazaars are virtually deserted and many shops and offices are closed. One result of the plague has been a great diminution of all kinds of crime, except burglaries and petty thefts, and these in many instances are due to poverty-stricken wretches taking advantage of the fact that large quantities of property have been left without protection by refugees from the plague-infested city. So great has been the falling-off in criminal and other cases that the High Court of Justice does not now find business enough to occupy more than half its time, while the courts in which small causes are tried have abandoned their sittings altogether and the officials have taken a holiday. Eight thousand refugees are camping out at Andheri, where every condition is favorable to an outbreak of the cholera. There is a

SCARCITY OF WATER

in and about the town and the sanitary conditions are of the crudest character. The refugees however, are more afraid of the bubonic plague than of cholera, and they will undoubtedly remain where they are rather than to return to Bombay. The Government is doing everything possible to assist the people, but its efforts thus far have been productive of little real result in the direction of cleanliness. In Poona and Bandra the plague is raging with great virulence. The efforts of physicians to stay the progress of the disease in the slightest degree have been fruitless, and the death rate is extremely high. Hundreds of persons attacked by the disease have died in two or three hours after suffering dreadful agony. The customs of the natives add to the hideousness of the plague. The Mohammedan cemeteries are overcrowded, and it is impossible to find men enough to dig graves. The sound of dirges is incessant in and around the places where the Hindus burn their dead in accordance with their time-honored custom, and the funeral music has a most depressing influence on all who hear it, natives and foreigners alike. It is stated that numbers of dead bodies of Parsees, the religious sect who expose their dead bodies to be eaten by the vultures, are

SLOWLY DECOMPOSING

in the open air in the places in which they are left. They have not been eaten by the vultures, the birds having been overgorged by the great abundance of corpses furnished to them. Everywhere the greatest difficulty is found in obtaining men to carry the dead to the cemeteries, burning places and the donkhams or "lovers of silence" of the Parsees. Even relatives shun this last service to their dead, fearing that they will contract the disease by touching or approaching the corpses. In many cases bodies have been found abandoned in the streets, their bearers having been overcome by fear while taking them to their last resting place. Up to Thursday the number of cases of the plague is placed officially at 3,394 and the deaths at 2,356. The Eurasians, those of half-native and half-foreign parentage, enjoy comparative immunity from the disease. Very few Europeans have contracted the disease, they apparently not being subject to its attack. A feature of the disease that was noted in Hong Kong and southern China while it was prevalent there is also noticed here. Swine, poultry and rodents appear to be very susceptible to the plague and great numbers of them have died.

NOVEL UMBRELLA HANDLES.

Umbrellas are displaying quite as many departures in style as articles of attire supposed to be more distinctly modish. The latest edict is that the umbrella must always match the gown, and tailor-made women are having umbrellas made up in just the shade of their various street gowns. A costly fancy, but surely a pretty one and one to be commended for those who can afford it. A purple tailor gown requires an umbrella of purple silk lined with silk of a pale canary color, for the lining of the new umbrellas is always of a different shade. A green gown demands an umbrella of sapphire, lined with turquoise, and so on. In the matter of handles there is still greater novelties. The jewelled ones are more elaborate than ever, but newer than these is the handle made to represent the head of an animal. Faddish women are greatly taken with the heads, which represent the heads of dogs or cats and which are always made after a strikingly realistic fashion. Daintier perhaps are the handles made in the form of small bonbonnières, which the younger women are particularly pleased with. It is said to be particularly diverting when one is left alone with one's umbrella to be able to open the handle and extract a sweetmeat.

LEMONS USED AS SOAP.

Lemons are used as soap in many countries where they grow. When the men and women of the West Indies want to wash their hands they squeeze the juice of a lemon over them briskly in water until they are clean.