

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.

Berlin is to have a bicycle factory. London's tax rate this year will be 21 2/3 mills on the dollar.

Woodstock has asked the Dominion Government for a new public building.

Sir Donald Smith, Chancellor of the University of McGill, has promised to endow a chair in zoology.

Mr. Dobell has returned to Ottawa from England, where he was in connection with the fast Atlantic service.

London, Ont., will invite the international convention of the Young Men's Christian Associations to meet there in 1899.

Mr. Wm. Gibson, M.P., for Lincoln, has the masonry contract for the Victoria bridge enlargement at Montreal.

The Forty-eighth Highlanders of Toronto have accepted the invitation to visit Brantford on the Queen's Birthday.

Sir Henri Joly has effected a saving in the Inland Revenue Department by amalgamating the districts of Kingston and Belleville.

Frederick G. Morris, warden of the Episcopal church, Halifax, has confessed to misappropriating some \$2,000 of the church funds.

A steamer to relieve the settlers in distress from floods along the Red River has been sent out by the Manitoba Government.

The franchise of the Lower Town Street Railway of Quebec has been finally sold to the new electric railway company for \$20,000.

The Cabinet has passed an order-in-Council, making the 22nd of June the date for the diamond jubilee celebration all over the Dominion.

It is understood that the report of the court of inquiry on the Queen's Own troubles is not favorable to Col. Hamilton's reinstatement.

A petition has been presented to the Dominion Parliament, asking for the prohibition of the pictorial reproduction of the great Corbett-Fitzsimmons prize fight.

Proceedings are to be taken to unseat a number of the councillors and school trustees of Dundas who are said to have been granted tax exemptions and given town contracts.

Isidore Vaillancourt of Montreal swallowed a large dose of Paris green and afterwards went to the river with the intention of drowning himself. He was rescued and taken to the hospital.

The Dominion Government has decided to put an amount in the estimates to pay the outstanding debts in connection with the Regina Industrial Exhibition. The indebtedness amounts to fourteen thousand dollars.

A British syndicate has petitioned the Government for incorporation as the British Yukon Chartered Company. The Duke of Teck and over 50 members of the British House of Commons are among the petitioners.

Mr. McLennan's bill to control railway companies to sell second-class return tickets at the same proportionate reduction as they now sell first-class return tickets was defeated in the Railway Committee at Ottawa.

The workshops of the Canadian Pacific railway at Hochelega will be the scene of great activity for months to come on account of the extensive locomotive and car-construction operations which have been decided upon by the management.

The 48th Highlanders, of Toronto, have entered a team of eight men in various events in the Royal military tournament at Islington, Eng., which begins on the 27th prox. They are the only representatives Canada will have at the tournament.

There is a proposal to establish a large Danish and Sweden colony on the Upper Gattineau, along the line of the O. and G. and P. J. railways. The moving spirits in the plan are the officials of these roads and the Danish and Swedish Consuls in Ottawa and Montreal.

The annual report of the Minister of Militia for 1896 has been published. It contains a number of recommendations by Gen. Gascoigne regarding the new arms for the militia, annual camps of instruction and the necessity for the thorough organization of the forces of the Dominion.

The Militia Department has sent out instructions regarding the composition of the jubilee contingent. All the rank and file must be non-commissioned officers possessing certificates. Toronto will furnish 17 men, four each from the Queen's Own Regiment, Grenadiers, Governor-General's Bodyguard and 48th Highlanders, and one from the Field Battery.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Canadian Government officers in London have had numerous enquiries lately from persons going out to work in the Yukon district. Much interest is taken at present in England in the reports from the Canadian gold fields.

UNITED STATES.

The United States Senate has decided to vote on the arbitration treaty on May 5th.

Mr. Samuel Colgate, head of the great soap and perfume house of Samuel Colgate & Co., died at New York.

An ordinance introduced by the Finance Committee of the Norfolk, Va., City Council provides for the taxation of city newspapers.

The 26th annual convention of the National Fire Chiefs' Association will be held in New Haven, Conn., during the third week of August next.

The United States Government will not support the demand of Edward Ivory for \$100,000 from the British Government for his imprisonment.

Edward Clayland, a lineman for the Missouri Electric Light and Power Company, St. Louis, was burned to death by a live wire. His smoking body hung in the air for at least 10 minutes.

President McKinley has appointed Gen. John W. Foster, a special ambassador of the United States to negotiate an agreement with Great Britain to secure joint action for preventing the destruction of seal herds in Behring Sea.

It is stated that the Dingley Tariff bill has been so hacked to pieces by the sub-committee of the Senate, and the duties so reduced, that it is doubtful if the Senate will pass the bill. It is understood the retractive clause has been eliminated.

Our commercial advices from New York as to the condition and prospects of trade in the United States are on the whole, encouraging. The improvement from week to week is slight, but it is steadily progressive. In several lines a reduction of wages is threatened, and as a result labour troubles will probably follow. Wool and dry goods generally are quiet. However, some cities report a decided improvement in trade. The commercial failures for the past week in the United States were 213, as compared with 238 for the corresponding week of last year.

GENERAL.

Pietro Acciarito, the man who attempted to stab King Humbert on Thursday, has been declared insane.

Twelve persons have been drowned and \$100,000 damage done to property by floods in Eastern New Zealand.

A squadron of eight British warships entered Delagoa Bay on Wednesday evening, and caused great excitement.

An attempt has been made to assassinate the President of Uruguay. He was shot at, but the bullet missed its mark. The President's assailant was arrested.

The Spanish are reported to be carrying on a ruthless war of extermination in Cuba. Gen. Weyler has issued orders to destroy all Cuban hostilities.

Edhem Pasha, who succeeded in carrying Milouina pass, has been recalled by the Sultan, and Osman Pasha, the hero of Plevna, will be given the command of the Turkish army on the frontier.

It is learned that the visit of the eight British warships to Delagoa Bay was intended to frustrate the intrigues of Germany, Portugal, and the Transvaal, to change the status quo to the disadvantage of Great Britain.

The French mail steamer Pro Patria left St. Pierre ten days ago for the French shore of Newfoundland. No news has been heard of her and it is feared that she is lost with all hands. She took a large number of fishermen as passengers.

The fighting between the Greeks and Turks is still in progress at Tyrnavp, where the Greeks have the best positions. The Greeks have won important victories on the Thessalian frontier, and the Turks are correspondingly depressed. Fighting continues in Crete.

BRITAIN'S FOOD SUPPLY.

What She Would Do in the Event of War With a Foreign Power.

The Birmingham Gazette in a recent issue discussed the question of Britain's food supply in case of war. It finds that the supply of wheat from abroad was diminished during the Crimean war from six million quarters in 1853, to two million quarters in 1854. The price was increased from 53s 3d to 72s 5d per quarter. In 1896 twenty-three million quarters were imported. The Gazette very truly says that if this flow of food were stopped for a month most serious results would follow, and a stoppage for a longer period would bring the British Isle to the condition that now afflicts India. That being the case, the Gazette does not think that those who would plunge the country into war over the woes of Crete fully realize what it would mean. As a measure for partially meeting this critical state of affairs the writer in the Gazette thinks it incumbent to take steps to encourage a greater home production of wheat. He agrees with a correspondent that as a precautionary measure a small duty should be placed upon foreign wheat, and the produce thereof paid as a bonus to native farmers for every acre of wheat they cultivate. The establishment of huge Government granaries containing a six months' supply of wheat is also advocated.

Mr. Balfour dealt with this subject the other day, and gave it as his opinion that the wheat-selling nations would not allow cereals to be declared contraband of war. More especially was this the case with the United States. That country, which exports more wheat to Britain than all other foreign countries combined, would never consent to wheat being treated as contraband, and with such an ally, Mr. Balfour added, they need fear no possible combination of powers. The reduction in the importation of wheat during the Crimean war could not have been because the ocean avenues were closed or obstructed. Russia, with whom we were at war, was then our chief source of wheat supply, and importations would of course be upset for the time being.

QUITE A DIFFERENCE.

All disciples of Izaak Walton will appreciate the story which is going the rounds, concerning Mr. Andrew Lang, the English critic and essayist. An exchange publishes the anecdote which one of Mr. Lang's literary friends tells:

It happened to me to spend a few days last summer in an English village. Having noticed a pleasant river which seemed to promise excellent fishing, I spoke of it to my landlady.

Oh, yes, sir, she said, there is very good fishing here—many people come here for fishing.

What kind of people come here? I asked.

Literary gentlemen come here very often, sir. We had Mr. Andrew Lang staying here.

Oh, really, does he fish? Is he a good fisherman?

Yes, sir, he fishes beautifully.

Really? Does he catch much?

Oh, no, sir, he never catches anything, but he fishes beautifully.

THE NEW TRIPLE ALLIANCE

RUSSIA, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA GETTING TOGETHER.

Italy is Too Weak and France Too Fickle For This Partnership.

It is understood on reliable authority that another great shifting on the political chessboard of Europe is imminent, the relations of France and Russia having steadily grown worse, to the extent that they are being artificially bolstered up, and the adhesion of Italy to the Dreihund being merely nominal since the financial and military impotence of Italy became glaringly apparent by the Abyssinian adventure. Therefore, a new arrangement for preserving the peace balance of Europe has been deemed necessary. Since last September private letters on this subject have been repeatedly exchanged between Berlin, St. Petersburg and Vienna, and in German diplomatic and political circles it is considered a foregone conclusion that an understanding has been reached. Italy will little longer belong to the Dreihund, even nominally, and the force of events is gradually driving her into the arms of Great Britain and France. With the probable speedy victory of the Radical party in Italy this change will be accomplished. On the other hand, the Czar and his advisers are said to be decided that France is too fickle for a reliable ally, and on the best possible authority the Associated Press is informed that an entente, which perhaps later will be followed by a formal alliance, is to be reached in the spring and summer between Germany, Russia and Austria. Some of the preliminaries will be agreed upon between Emperor William and his ally, Emperor Francis Joseph, during the former's visit to Vienna. Three days later Emperor Francis Joseph will visit the Czar at St. Petersburg. During these visits the preliminaries for the understanding between the Emperors will be discussed and will probably be ratified. Emperor William's visit to the Czar, soon after, will serve the same purpose. The proposed agreement is directed mainly against the policy of Great Britain in the eastern question, and the maintenance of the European status quo.

JAPANESE MATCHES.

The Very Cheap Labor By Which They Are Manufactured.

Osaka, Japan, produced last year 1,200,000,000 boxes of matches, employing 3,629 men and 9,711 women, to say nothing of the innumerable children who earn a few sen a day in the work. One of the largest factories employs 2,500 hands. The sticks are cut by machinery. They are sifted into boxes by women and collected and put in frames by tiny waifs of children, some of whom do not look to be over 3 or 4 years old, and the majority of whom are under ten. The sulphur and paraffin are put on by hand presses and then dried by the sun. The boxes are made and the labels put on by little girls whose fingers are so nimble that the human eye is incapable of following their movements, as the purple and yellow boxes drop more than one a second into the huge baskets at their sides. Over twelve hours a day these little creatures labour for a wages which range from one cent to five cents of our money. Here the wonderfully cheerful temperament of the Japanese is seen to perfection. They sing, and chatter, and laugh and eat their tiffin, consisting of rice and fish, from tiny boxes, with chopsticks, which they handle with as much dexterity as they do the matches. Here they sit the 12 long hours on the floor in small pens about four feet square, marked off by bamboo poles, and no expression of discontent is ever seen. There are no factory laws, and no regulations as to the age at which children should begin work, and no limitations of hours of labour in Japan. For the moment there is a scramble to utilize every pair of bright eyes and dextrous hands, regardless of future consequences, but the Government and the sanitary authorities have taken the matter up, and in a few years in all likelihood, a more human system will be evolved.

SHE REMEMBERED HIM.

An Interesting Incident of the Winnipeg Land Boom.

"My first good start on the road to fortune," said the speculative capitalist, "was during the boom in Winnipeg. I landed there with little money, but turned it and increased it so rapidly that in time I had real estate worth \$75,000, according to the current quotations. I realized that a break must come some day and watched the indications with all the care that a mariner studies a threatened storm.

"At the head of the controlling syndicate was a grim old Scotchman who adhered to the same code in speculation that is generally accepted in love and war. He was the man who would precipitate the collapse and he would have been drawn and quartered rather than confide in anyone but his immediate associates.

"One night I was sitting in my dingy little office, smoking a pipe as an aid to thinking clearly on the course I had best pursue. I had just decided to hang on a few weeks longer, when there was a knock at the door and I admitted a woman dressed richly in the furs demanded in that o'inate. She did not raise her veil, but I recognized her voice as she hurriedly told me that I must dispose of my land inside of forty-eight hours if I did not want to be caught in the crash. Through a score of agents the syndicate was selling to those who would put all their money into the property and there would be an end of the craze.

"It was tough on the victims, but I sold and cleaned up all I had hoped for. Did I marry her? Bless your heart no. She was the second wife of the Scotchman, and I had saved her little boy once when he was lost in a Winnipeg snow storm."

THE GREEK COMMANDERS.

Crown Prince Constantine and the Generals Who are Fighting Turks on the Frontier.

The commander of the Greek Army at Arta, Greece, Gen. Antonios Mavromichalis, belongs to one of the most illustrious families of Greece. Born in 1829, he is about sixty-eight years of age. He enlisted in the Greek Army as volunteer in the year 1847, in 1853 was appointed sub-lieutenant, and in 1886 he attained the rank of general. He was in 1886 Minister of War under Premier Delyanni, and gave his demission at the time that the Government decided to follow the policy of peace.

The sub-commander of the Greek Army in Thessaly, Col. George Mavromichalis, is a brother of Antonios. He was born in 1836, and like his brother enlisted as a volunteer. He is one of the best-educated officers of the Greek Army and is a strict disciplinarian.

The Crown Prince Constantine, Commander-in-Chief, began his military career in the regiment of Mavromichalis, which is made up of selected men. Col. Mavromichalis is of high stature and has a very military appearance.

Col. Thrasybulos Manos belongs to the artillery, and is the sub-commander of the Greek Army at Arta. He is well educated. He traces his ancestry back to one of the noble Greek families of Constantinople. He was commander of the military school called the School of Evelpides for many years. He gained his military training in France and Germany as an inferior officer. He is now about sixty-two years old.

THE "CHARM" OF SERPENTS.

Instances Where Some Animals Have Paralyzed Others.

Any popular so-called prejudice, if long continued, probably is founded upon some matter of fact, although this may not have been demonstrated, writes Dr. Henry Lee in the London Lancet. That some animals have the power of paralyzing others which they prey upon is a matter of direct observation. A rabbit will remain perfectly motionless in the presence of a stoat, and without moving will allow a hole to be made through the skull at the back of the head. We may suppose that the power of feeling, as of motion, is for the time gone. Dr. Livingstone felt no pain when seized by a tiger. I have seen a mouse remain perfectly motionless under the gaze of a cat. When excited the cat's pupil becomes dilated. On one occasion in the evening I saw a cat in an excited state retire to a shady place where it could no longer be seen, but presently I saw two small red globes fixed upon me. I once saw the same, less defined, in the eyes of a kitten, but it is very difficult to get their eyes fixed when near.

A general officer who has seen long service in India informed me that on one occasion a large serpent had got into a house and taken refuge in a cellar. Being a soldier, it was suggested that he was the proper person to dislodge the intruder. He took a spear and looked through a hole in the wall of the cellar, but saw no serpent. Presently two small red globes were fixed upon him. These he supposed to be the serpent's eyes and thrust his spear, as he thought, between them. The spear caught the serpent just behind the head and killed it.

BRICKS OF STRAW.

Mixed With Tar and Formed Into Cubes Under Pressure.

A Polish newspaper announces a new invention made by a Warsaw engineer, who proposed to the city authorities a quite original material for street paving. He uses cubes of compressed straw instead of the wooden blocks used in some other European countries. The manufacture of these straw cubes is carried on according to a peculiar process. Straw is cut in pieces of a certain length, impregnated with a fluid, the composition of which is a secret of the inventor, and then pressed in blocks. The inventor buys up straw in bales, binds them closely together with wire and then immerses the entire bundle into a hot solution, the smell of which indicates that several materials like pitch, rosin, tar and others of the same kind form part of the mixture. These bundles of straw remain for a certain length of time in the solution and are then subjected to heavy pressure in a machine, which they leave in the shape of ready cubes. According to the inventor this paving material is cheaper than wood but more durable and stronger, and at the same time more elastic.

THE WATERS RISING.

The Situation at Morris and Emerson Growing Worse.

A despatch from Winnipeg says:—The wife of Conrad Noar, a German settler, was drowned on Monday while endeavoring to escape to a place of safety from the rising waters at Emerson. Noar also had a narrow escape. The flood situation is growing worse at both Morris and Emerson, as the Red River is still rising. An Emerson despatch says:—"A cold, sleety rain has prevailed all day, which adds to the misery already existing in the families cooped up in second storeys. Their close quarters since the flood commenced have made them feel very dependent, and they would gladly welcome some means of exit to their friends in Winnipeg on dry ground. The citizens have all they can do to look after their families and property. All are doing the best they can under the circumstances, but the outlook is gloomy for some time to come. It is a serious matter for Emerson."

HARD WORK.

What was the hardest work you ever did for a living? asked the benevolent old lady of the weary pilgrim.

Stealin', mum.

AN EFFECTIVE METHOD.

FORT ERIE LABOURERS DRIVE ITALIANS BACK.

Free Fight at the Fort Erie Race Track—Cheap Buffalo Labourers Sent Home on the Run.

A gang of Canadian labourers, employed by Craig & Craig, of Hamilton, who have the contract for grading the new race-track at Fort Erie, drove back a gang of Italian workmen who were hired in Buffalo, and taken by boat to Fort Erie on Wednesday to help with the work. When the boat drew up at the Canadian shore, and the men landed, they were soon undeceived, for a short distance up the street, a mob of fifty or sixty Canadians had collected. "There they come boys," shouted one of them. "Let's drive them into the river."

He started on a run, followed by his fellows, and as they reached the Italians one of the mob knocked the first one down and the next one kicked him. Flows fell like rain, and the terrified labourers were too terror-stricken to think of anything but flight. They ran for the ferry landing, and the howling mob followed them, kicking and punching every man who was not fleet enough to distance his pursuers.

Down the hill the frightened Italians ran, and they dived into the boat like rabbits in a warren. After the battle the men in Canada who had headed the riot walked up the village streets, making threats against contractors Craig & Craig, and telling what they would do to prevent any American labourers from working on the new track. Some said that they would kill the first Italian labourer who was brought across the border, and others threatened to burn down the houses that had been built upon the grounds for the accommodation of the workmen.

THE ASSASSIN ABROAD.

An Attempt on the Life of the King of Italy.

A despatch from Rome says:—An attempt was made on Thursday to assassinate the King of Italy. At 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon while King Humbert was on his way to the races, a man named Pietro Acciarito, an iron worker out of employment, attempted to stab his Majesty with a dagger. The man was seized before he could carry out his purpose and the King proceeded to the Campanelle race course seemingly unharmed. On arriving at the race course his Majesty was greatly cheered. Acciarito appears to be a political fanatic. He says he has no accomplices.

King Humbert, accompanied by his aide-de-camp, Gen. Pondis Vaglia, was going to witness the royal Derby. His assailant, waiting outside St. John's gate, rushed up to the carriage in which his Majesty was seated and attempted to stab him. The King avoided the danger by rising from his seat. Acciarito, seeing he had failed in his attempt to assassinate the King, threw away his dagger and was immediately arrested by two carabinieri, while his Majesty calmly ordered his coachman to drive on. The news spread with great rapidity, and when the King reached the royal stand at the race course it was soon surrounded by a cheering multitude. The members of the diplomatic corps present at the races and a number of other distinguished people sent their congratulations to the King on his escape. King Humbert treated the matter lightly and remarked, "It is only one of the little adventures of my trade." The King remained at the race course with his nephew, the Duke of Aosta, until the royal Derby was run. Acciarito is 24 years old and a native of Arterga, a village of Italy, province of Udine.

A VANCOUVER SUICIDE

Prominent Barrister Takes His Own Life.

A despatch from Vancouver says:—Mr. E. A. Magee, a prominent barrister of this city, committed suicide on Tuesday afternoon. Some weeks ago he visited Tisdale's gun store to purchase a revolver, but not finding one to suit him said he would call again when new stock arrived. Tuesday afternoon he called at the store and selected a 38-calibre Smith & Wesson. In response to a request Mr. Tisdale loaded it to show how the ejecting mechanism worked. Magee took it up, and before Tisdale could stop him had placed it in his mouth and fired. Death was instantaneous. Deceased was a native of Nova Scotia, and a graduate of Dalhousie University, Halifax, where he took the degree of LL.B., in 1888. He came to this Province that year and has since followed his profession. About four years ago he married a daughter of Mr. George Black, one of the pioneers of 1858, who recently died. Magee had been drinking heavily of late, and it is said this and family troubles caused his act.

A DUDE PRINCE.

Prince Albert of Thurn and Taxis is spending on his clothes the fortune accumulated by his ancestors while they held the monopoly of the post as hereditary Grand Postmasters of the Holy Roman Empire. He wears a new suit, perfumed with attar of roses every day, spending \$15,000 annually on his tailor, who keeps 20 workmen constantly at work for him. He puts on a new necktie three times a day and uses up 200 pairs of boots a year. He spends \$1,000 a year on cigarettes and \$75,000 on sports. The Prince is 30 years of age and married to an Austria Arch-duchess.