

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 City Council has thrown out a Curfew bell by-law.

British Columbia salmon cannery have formed a combine.

The number of patents issued at Ottawa last year was 4,013.

Natural gas has been struck on Fenton's farm, near Hamilton, Ont.

A block of buildings to cost \$120,000, are being erected in Winnipeg.

Some Ottawa capitalists propose to build a new music hall in that city.

There is a big rush of settlers from Ontario to Manitoba and the North-West this spring.

The seven persons who were injured in the avalanche at Levis, on February 22, are now convalescent.

The citizens of Vancouver have decided by popular vote against a proposition to open a music hall.

The Toronto City Council on Monday voted down a proposition to deprive themselves of their annual allowance of \$300.

D. De Montigny, of Montreal, who was arrested at Vancouver for having an illicit still in his possession, was fined \$200.

Ship building for Klondike traffic is very active in Vancouver just now, no less than six boats are being built.

A carload of thoroughbred stock was shipped from Guelph to the Northwest by the Dominion Breeders' Association.

Louise Nadeau, of Quebec, for enticing and harboring young girls, has been sent to the penitentiary for two years.

The Grand Trunk Railway has decided to reduce the freight rates on live stock for breeding purposes in Canada by fifty per cent.

A rumor that Hon. Robert Watson was to be appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West is denied at Winnipeg.

It is stated that a large sum will be placed in the Federal estimates for the stringing of a telegraph line to the Straits of Belle Isle.

The report of Mr. E. E. Sheppard, Trade Commissioner to South America, has been delivered to the Minister of Trade and Commerce.

"Commissioner" Eva Booth is arranging to send a small staff of Salvationists to the Klondike from Vancouver, Victoria, and Seattle.

The copper telegraph line which the C.P.R. is to erect between Montreal and Vancouver is being manufactured at Lachine. It will cost \$250,000.

The management of the Grand Trunk has contracted with the Pullman Company, Chicago, for the construction of twenty first-class passenger coaches.

W. C. Macdonald, who has already given a million and a half dollars to McGill University, has given another \$15,500 to the department of architecture.

The Geological Survey of the United States has ordered a large number of canoes from the Peterboro' Canoe Company for the use of exploring parties in Alaska.

A. Filigiano, who was sent to Kingston Penitentiary from Hamilton to serve a three years sentence for embezzling from the Grand Trunk, has been pardoned with a six weeks reprieve.

Considerable talk is heard in Ottawa of new industries and the revival of old ones. J. R. Booth is at present erecting what will be the largest grist mill in Canada.

There is a prospect of the wholesale clothiers of the Dominion forming a combination for the purpose of reducing the length of credits, and in other ways regulating the business.

The project for the construction of a chain of canals from a point on Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains, recently described, has been brought before Parliament, and will be pressed.

The London Street Railway Company have paid Mrs. Kate Pitt \$1,500 and all costs in settlement of her claim resulting from the death of her brother, Wm. Spice, in a trolley accident.

News comes to Quebec of the disastrous results of the recent snowstorms to the wild animals. A farmer near L'Islet found twenty-eight caribou and deer stuck in the snow and cut their throats.

The Montreal Street Railway Company has received an order from the Kingston, Jamaica, Street Railway Company to build twenty electric motor cars for use in that city.

Private George Stewart, of the 48th Highlanders, who gained the bayonet championship of the world in London last June has been appointed to the Toronto Customs House staff.

Mr. J. H. Luthrie, who is promoting Union Stock Yards for Toronto, is urging the Council to take immediate action as he claims the city will be the gainer of \$20,000 a year from every new industry which springs up in connection with these yards.

The Ontario Government are about to take over the industrial schools of the province. The Mimico School will be done away with. The boys there will be placed in the provincial reformatory, which is soon to be removed from Penetanguishene to Oxford County.

Several officers of the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto, waited on the Minister of Militia at Ottawa on Saturday and asked for a bill authorizing the formation of a volunteer reserve throughout Canada, such as now exists

in connection with several of the Canadian corps. The matter will be considered.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The order of the King's Sons and Daughters is to be started in England.

It is reported that Lord George Hamilton will be appointed Governor-General of Canada.

A London dressmaking firm has been fined for keeping women at work after the regulation hours.

The American Society in London is to provide a fund to erect a memorial to the sailors of the Maine.

British Board of Trade returns for February show decreases of \$7,350,000 in imports and \$1,014,000 in exports.

A colliery at Muirkirk, Ayrshire, was flooded. Nineteen persons failed to reach the bank and are still in the mine.

Salviati, the noted Venetian glass and mosaic artist, who laid the mosaics in St. Paul's cathedral, committed suicide in London.

Mr. Petersen confirms the statement that his firm had placed with Hawthorne, Leslie & Co. of Newcastle-on-Tyne an order for two of the four new steamers required for the fast Atlantic service.

London street hawkers are now doing well with a portrait of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain. Hanging out of one of his pockets is a small strip of card, and under the picture are the words "Find Lord Salisbury." You pull the card board strip and a small sketch of the Prime Minister comes out of Mr. Chamberlain's pocket.

A Fifeshire village has a distillery managed on communistic principles, which makes a yearly profit of £500. With part of these profits the villagers are equipped with reading and recreation rooms and now proposes to light the village with electricity and put electric lights in every house at half of what it costs now.

In the famous Peabody model tenements. The London Daily News says there is a population of no less than seven hundred and twenty-five to an acre, yet the birth rate is five in one thousand above the average rate, and infant mortality is twenty-two in one thousand below the average. At this rate the population will soon grow faster than the profits of the trust, which were last year \$210,000.

UNITED STATES.

The Globe shipyard strike at Cleveland has been settled. The men lost.

The British cruiser Cordelia, of the North Atlantic squadron, has arrived at Key West, Fla., from Belize, British Honduras.

The Manchester, N.H., Board of Trade has adopted resolutions favouring a treaty for reciprocal trade relations with Canada.

Mr. John Wanamaker has consented to be the candidate of the business men's Republican League for Governor of Pennsylvania.

William Hutchings, one of the best known manufacturing jewelers in the East, was shot and killed at Providence, R.I., on Tuesday night by a burglar.

The jury in the case of Sheriff Martin and his deputies for shooting strikers at Lattimer, Pa., on September 10, returned a verdict of not guilty.

A large repatriation movement is taking place among French-Canadians in New England, and many are expected to return to Canada this spring.

Rev. Stephen A. Northrop, at Kansas City, Mo., on Sunday said from his pulpit, "It is time Uncle Sam clutched the throat of Spain to rescue Cuba."

Sadie Storer, aged sixteen, is in gaol at Huntsville, Ark., together with her sweetheart and mother, charged with the murder of her father. The girl shot her father, and was aided and abetted by the other two.

Mr. Stearns, of the firm of Stearns Bros., Brooklyn, has received the order for machinery ordered by the Quebec Bridge Company, to make required soundings through the ice for testing the bed of the river in the vicinity of the Chaudiere.

A combination of the steel rod manufacturers of the United States has been practically consummated. The combination will represent about \$50,000,000 in capital. The name selected for the combination is "The American Steel and Wire Company."

GENERAL.

The Pope is in excellent health. Russia will spend ninety million roubles for new warships.

The Prince of Wales laid the foundation stone of the new pier at Cannes.

Forbes Robertson, the English actor, has made a great success in Berlin.

Experts estimate that a million tons of wheat will be exported from Cawnpore, India.

The floating debt of Spain was augmented by 13,220,681 pesetas during February.

Four fishing vessels belonging to Memel, Prussia, were wrecked on Saturday. Sixteen fishermen were drowned.

Zola's new book, "Paris," is said to be selling very well in France, and its sale in England will be far in excess of that of any of his other works.

Severe earthquake shocks were felt on Friday at Antigua, St. Kitts, Guadeloupe and Montserrat, of the Leeward Islands. Much damage was done at Antigua.

Emperor William is to visit Palestine in October next, his object being to determine for himself the exact sites of Golgotha, the Temple of Jerusalem, and the place of the Crucifixion.

"General" Booth states he has just completed arrangements with the West Australian Government to take up 19,000 acres of land for a Salvation Army Colony.

At Constantinople the Bulgarian agent has asked the Turkish Government for explanation regarding the alleged movements of Turkish troops towards the Bulgarian frontier.

The first consignment of Canadian creamery butter from the creameries of the North-West Territories has reached Japan in splendid condition, and has been quickly snapped up by purchasers.

Japan is about to float a new loan of a 150,000,000 yen. If in gold this would amount to practically \$150,000,000, but if in silver to only \$75,000,000. The loan will probably be floated in London.

The Queensland separation movement is not dead yet. A delegation is to be sent to England to urge the Imperial Government to divide the north part of the colony from the south and give each part responsible government.

The American steamer Columbia, which left New York, bound for the Yukon, is at Valparaiso, Chili, waiting for funds. The captain has been unable to obtain money for repairs, and there is a prospect of her supplies running out unless her owners come to time.

At a meeting of the Canadian Military Institute at Toronto on Saturday a committee was formed to frame a petition asking the Dominion Government to authorize the enrolment of two batteries of artillery to be called the Toronto Naval Artillery. It is proposed to equip this corps on the lines of the British Royal Naval Volunteer Artillery.

Dr. Edwin Klebs, professor of pathology and bacteriology in the Post-Graduate Medical School, of Chicago, is alleged to have discovered the cause of yellow fever. As a result of a series of experiments extending over two months he has isolated the amoeba, and has been able to trace its development through a number of stages in various organs in the body.

SPRING SMILES.

Have you ever noticed how war promotes a literature of its own? Yes; that is one of the horrors of war.

Is it true that a perfect gentleman never thinks anything he wouldn't say? Of course; there are lots of perfect gentlemen who never think at all.

Willie Boy—If I promise to learn my lesson papa, will you give me a quarter? Papa—Yes, my son. Willie Boy—And what will you give me if I do learn it?

Man's Inhumanity.—Mrs. Reader—What are the dead languages, my dear? Mr. Reader—Oh, they are probably the ones that women have talked to death.

Mrs. Roamer—What measures do you adopt to get rid of boarders who are bad pay? Mrs. Board—Oh, I just give them a little cold shoulder.

Palmer—Did you say you couldn't arrest the flight of time? Johnson—No one can, Palmer—Well, this morning, when I was coming down town, I stopped a minute.

Mrs. Quiverful—Do you know, dear, that I think the baby sometimes cries in her sleep? Mr. Quiverful, savagely—I don't know about that, but I know she often cries in mine.

In the Nursery—Little Hans, to Karl—Look here, Karl; we must be very naughty to-day, so that we can promise on papa's birthday to-morrow that we will do better.

Young Mother—He is somewhat cross to-day. He is teething. Old Bachelor, in great awe of the mite of humanity—And when do you expect him to commence—er—commence hairing?

Senior Partner—We must discharge that traveller of ours. He told one of our customers that I was a fool. Junior Ditto—I'll see him at once and insist upon his keeping the firm's secrets.

Alfred—Papa, do you use snapping-turtles for soup? Papa—No, my son. Alfred—Why do they call them snapping-turtles? Papa—Because they have a 'snap' in not being used for soup.

Saving His Nerves.—What! shouted the stern parent, not marry my daughter? Why, sir, you have sat with your arm about her hour after hour. Yes, that was to keep her from singing.

By Jove, old man, you sat your horse like a Centaur. Thanks. Glad to hear it. I was afraid I didn't ride very well. Oh, you didn't. You were right up on the animal's neck all the time.

Yes, she sighed, for many years I've suffered from dyspepsia. And don't you take anything for it? her friend asked. You look healthy enough. Oh, she replied, it's my husband that has it.

His idea—Papa, said Sammy Snaggs, what does a candidate mean when he says he has burned his bridges behind him? He means, replied Mr. Snaggs, that he has begun a hot campaign.

What intensely red hair that young man has! exclaimed Maud. I'm surprised that you seem to like him so well. Oh, replied Mamie. I don't like him very well. I never invite him to anything but pink teas.

Little Tompkins—That fellow Brown tried to stuff me up with some of his travellers' tales the other day. Talked about his trip to Italy, and the waving fields of macaroni, but he didn't catch me, you know. They don't wave.

Tourist But it is terrible to think of hanging a man under such circumstances. No time to repent—no clergyman present—Westerner—Well, we invited a minister to join the lynching party, but he wouldn't have nothin' to do with it.

An Aggrieved Class—I suppose said Mr. Frankstown, as he handed a dime to a tramp, that you find people more willing to give now than they were a year ago, when times were much harder? Well, sir, replied the tramp, you will scarcely believe it, but the return of prosperity is very hard on us. How can this be? They offer us work now. A year ago they didn't.

PRACTICAL FARMING.

"SMUT" IN SMALL GRAINS.

Prof. Henry L. Bolley of the Dakota State Agricultural College, has evolved a method for the prevention of smut in grain and especially of smut in oats. His plans have had three years of trial and have been very successful. "Farmers are especially interested in the easiest method of preventing smut in oats. That grain is so generally diseased by loose or flying smut that a very large per cent. of the crop is actually lost. While the disease seems to do no damage to stock and as, after thrashing, all grains found in the bins are otherwise normal in appearance, it is quite usually supposed by farmers that the smut does very little damage. Now and then, however, it becomes very much more evident. When the seed has once become badly infested by the spores of the fungus it is a common thing to find that a very large percentage of all the heads in the field are completely smutted and destroyed. In my own investigation of many fields I have found that it is not uncommon that as high as 20 and even 40 per cent. of the heads of the grain actually developed turn into smut before harvest time. The result of this is a very much lessened yield. Furthermore there is a very much greater decrease of the yield, due to the smut hidden within the straw and to be seen only by the most careful observer. I have found in the field which shows 10 to 20 per cent. of smutted heads that the actual number of plants diseased in the straw by the smut is very much greater. It is also found that such diseased straws, even though they eventually head out, and appear to ripen normal grains, are very considerably weakened in their growth and lessened in the size of the straw and the weight of grains produced. Always there has been a difficulty in treating oats to prevent this disease. The oat smut gets ripe and the spores blow about in the field while the shucks around the individual grains of other straws are still open in the blossom. The result is that nearly every grain receives some smut spores sealed up in close contact with the grain inside of the shucks, which close up at the time the grain finishes ripening. Such spores are out of the reach of any treatment which is very effectual. People who have been in the habit of treating oats with copper sulphate, invariably have injured the yield, because in order to thoroughly soak the grain so that these inclosed spores may be killed, the copper solution comes in contact with the soft grain of the oat and the germinating power of the grain is injured by the poison. Since I ascertained the cause of this trouble, after a great number of carefully conducted germination tests, I have been attempting to find some substance which would kill the smut spores and still not be detrimental to the germinating power of the oat grains. This substance is a liquid sold in the market under the name of formalin. Formalin is a 40 per cent. solution of formaldehyde. By a very great number of germination tests and field trials, it is ascertained that this substance when properly applied will disinfect wheat, oats and barley, so as to prevent the appearance of smut and even increase the yield of the grain, germination being improved rather than injured. The method of treatment of grain with formalin is as follows: Make up a solution using at the rate of one pound of formalin to fifty gallons of water, pile the grain upon the barn floor and sprinkle the pile thoroughly with the solution, shovel the grain over thoroughly and sprinkle again and shovel over again and sprinkle again, so that in the process one may see that every grain is thoroughly wet. If wheat is being treated, it will be sufficient to see that the grains are thoroughly wet on the outside. If oats are being treated enough of the solution should be put upon the pile to insure that each grain is quite thoroughly saturated so that the solution may get inside of the shucks. It will be better if the oats are sprinkled and shoveled quite thoroughly once, and then after two or three hours they are given another treatment. In the meantime they will have swelled some, and the second application of the water will be more effective. As to the amount of the solution that one should use to each bushel of grain, I will have to leave to the judgment of each one applying the treatment, inasmuch as the success of the work depends very much upon the manner in which the sprinkling and shoveling is done than upon the amount of solution put on. It is found, however, that properly treated oats take up about two and one-half gallons of water to the bushel; that properly treated wheat takes up about one and one-half gallons of water. This will give a rough estimate of how much formalin to use. The treatment will be more effective and satisfactory if it is done one day and the grain allowed to remain in the pile until the next morning, being shoveled over a few times in the interim. One need not wait until the grain is thoroughly dry before seeding. In the case of wheat if it is still damp and swollen, one should set the drill to sow approximately a peck or more to the acre in order to get the necessary number of plants upon the ground. In the case of oats after treatment, if it is your habit to sow two and one-half bushels an acre, the drill should be set to seed slightly more than three and one-fourth bushels. Of course,

if grain is allowed to lie too long after wetting it may begin to heat and be injured, so the after shoveling is a necessity, if it is not seeded at once. Formalin is a comparatively new substance in the drug market and few local druggists make have it on sale in quantity, so that it may be necessary for those who wish to use it to notify their druggists a sufficient length of time in advance to allow them to send to wholesale houses for the desired quantity. It may be obtained from wholesale druggists for about 60 cents a pound, in five-pound lots. There are a number of different formaldehyde solutions sold under slightly different names, but this drug may be obtained, however, from about any wholesale drug house in the country under the name 'formalin,' and there will be little doubt of its quality. Farmers who have been using the corrosive sublimate treatment, as recommended by me for the treatment of wheat, need not change the method. Formalin is not better for wheat than is the corrosive sublimate solution recommended in bulletin No. 27. The corrosive sublimate, however, must not be used for the treatment of oats, as it is damaging to the germination of that grain."

BREED GOOD HORSES.

There probably never was a time in the history of horse breeding when the importance, yea, the absolute necessity, existed of careful selection and mating of brood stock as now. Times have greatly changed, touching this business within the last few years. Electricity, steam power and other modern inventions have been applied to many of the uses formerly monopolized exclusively by horses, and the demand for a certain class of these animals no longer prevails, says the Indiana farmer. The time was, when, under fair conditions, it would pay to raise a colt from any sort of a mare stunted to a cheap stallion without regard to his breeding or structure.

There is now, and likely will be for another half century, perhaps longer, as strong and widespread a demand for horses that are adapted to the various capacities for which they are used, in city and country, as there ever was and at prices that were never heard of in the experience of earlier breeders. but the call is for good horses only; little plugs and all kinds of inferior stock are out of fashion, and it is an utter loss of time and money to raise them.

This being so, the importance of care in selection of both sire and dam, cannot be too deeply impressed upon the attention of the breeder for unless this first step be taken with judgment and skill, he cannot hope, through any after management to make his business encouraging or a paying one. It costs no more to raise good horses than poor ones, in fact it is cheaper and more desirable every way to put the investment into good stock; the more valuable horses the most economical for all purposes. The team capable of plowing an acre in the same time that another does half an acre, or that can carry a load of passengers ten miles while another is going five, independent of all considerations of taste, amusement or what is generally known as fancy values; such a team is absolutely worth twice as much to his owner as the other.

The question will be asked, by what means is this result to be obtained? It may be stated in reply that the first requisite is to be looked for in the sire of the stock intended to be raised. He should have in his veins the greatest amount of pure blood, compatible with size, weight and power, according to the purpose; the blood horse possesses these to a degree entirely out of proportion to the size or apparent strength of his frame, in the texture, form and symmetry of the bones; the elements of capacity for resistance and endurance are contained in the blood horse many fold greater than those of a similar character found in the common, cold-blooded cart horse.

The impression prevails with a class of breeders that the thoroughbred principal use is upon the turf; that he is a race horse and without value for any other purpose, but a casual study of the origin of the different breeds of magnificent draft, coach, road and saddle horses of the country, will disclose that this strongest factor of excellence and value is traceable to the proportion of thoroughbred blood used in laying the foundation of their ancestry, and the more of it that has been introduced in the beginning and resorted to in later generations, the better have been results.

The horse for the farmer-breeders' purpose should be of medium height, say 15-1-2 hands, short, back well ribbed up, short in the saddle place, long below. He should have high withers, broad loins, broad chest, a straight rump, a high muscular, but not beefy neck; a lean, bony, well set head, clear, bright well placed eyes, well apart, broad nostrils and small ears. His fore legs long, well muscled above the knees also, his hind legs above the hocks, lean, short and bony below these joints. The tones cannot well be too flat or too large, and the sinews ought to be straight, firm and hard to the touch.

TRUE HAPPINESS.

Mrs. Muggers—I see a prominent society belle is dead. If there ever was a perfectly blissful existence on earth, she enjoyed it while she lived.

Mr. Muggers—Because she was a society belle?

Mrs. Muggers—No. Because she was engaged twenty-four times and never married.