

# 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.

Kingston's tax rate is 18 1-2 mills.

Vesselmen are anticipating good freight rates on the lakes this season. Another party of about 1,000 Doukhobors are expected to reach Montreal in May.

It is said that 90 per cent. of western Ontario peach trees have been killed by the frost.

The Deseronto Smelter Company has received an export order for England of ten cars of charcoal iron.

Kingston will invite Lt.-Col. Roosevelt, Governor of New York State, to spend the Queen's Birthday in that city.

The Manitoba Legislature has adjourned until June 15, after a debate upon the administration of the school system.

Kingston City Council has increased the salaries of the City Clerk, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer by \$100 each per annum.

It is announced that the main line of the Northern Pacific in Manitoba is to be extended northwesterly to Birtle, with spur lines to Rapid City and Brandon.

Winnipeg is asking the Dominion Government for better equipment at the East Selkirk immigration building for what is understood to be a check quarantine.

The Postmaster-General has decided to grant increases of salaries, not to the well-paid officials, but to those letter carriers and others who are in receipt of small pay.

The Minister of Militia has decided to make a change in his proposed recall of the regulars at Dawson, and Fort Selkirk, and will leave 100 of them at the gold fields.

The contract for carrying the Dominion mail has been awarded to the Allan and Dominion Lines up to July 1. After that date it is expected arrangements will be made for a faster service.

At a meeting of the general council of the bar of Quebec, it was decided to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the regular organization of the bar by a convention in Montreal on September 26, 27 and 28.

A considerable part of Ontario, especially the cities and towns of the west, are verging upon a wood famine, and dealers in wood all over the province are casting about for supplies of dry hardwood, but in vain.

The Kingston City Council will ask the municipalities throughout Ontario to petition the Assembly to repeal the act creating commissioners of the court of Revision. It costs Kingston \$900 for this service, and the work is not any better done than formerly.

Dr. Smith, inspector of leprosy, in his report to the Government, says there are now 21 lepers in the Tracadie, N. B., Lazaretto, representing all stages of the disease. He says that vaccination for small-pox is a frequent cause of propagation of the disease.

A prediction, made at Winnipeg by a gentleman who claims to know the situation, says that this year will see 75,000 settlers go into Manitoba and the Territories, and that within the next six years there will be a million inhabitants between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains.

The late Hiram F. Inglehart, of Hamilton, left an estate of \$10,158, of which \$2,000 goes to the Centenary church, \$2,000 to the Y.M.C.A., \$3,000 to the Missionary Society of the Methodist church, \$1,500 to Victoria University, and \$1,000 to the Superannuated Ministers Fund of the Methodist church.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

It is reported in London that Lord Rosebery will re-enter political life. Sir Monier Boden, professor of Sanskrit at Oxford University, is dead at London.

A London syndicate is reported to be after wireless telegraphy rights across the ocean.

S. S. Gladstone has been appointed Governor and Augustus Provost Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

G. R. Birt, the defaulting manager of the Millwall Dock Company, London, has been committed for trial, bail being allowed at \$60,000.

Mr. Herberl Gladstone, son of the late Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, has been appointed Chief Whip of the Liberal Opposition, in succession to the late Mr. T. E. Ellis.

The Albatross, a new type of torpedo-boat destroyer, just built at the yards of Thornycroft & Company at Chiswick, has attained a speed of 33 knots on her trial trip.

Mary Ansell is charged at London with the murder of her insane sister, Caroline Ansell. Poison was sent to her in a cake, her life having been previously insured by the accused.

An important engineering firm at Sheffield has just placed a large order for heavy machinery in the United States, the British makers being unable to promise sufficiently quick delivery.

The complete returns of the Irish County Council elections are now to hand, and show an overwhelming victory for Nationalism, the Nationalists having elected 544 candidates, as against 119 Unionists.

England's delegates to the disarmament conference will be Sir Julian

Pauncefote and Henry Howard, Minister at The Hague, with Vice-Admiral Sir John Fisher and Major-General Sir John Ardagh as naval and military experts.

At a meeting in London on Tuesday in celebration of the Church Missionary Society's centenary, the Right Rev. Geo. Rodney Eden, D.D., Bishop of Wakefield, created a sensation by attacking the Sunday newspapers issued for the first time here on Sunday last.

The House of Commons on Wednesday by a vote of 167 to 69 rejected the bill introduced by William O'Malley, anti-Parnellite, providing for the compulsory re-instatement of Irish tenants evicted since 1879. Mr. Gerald Balfour, chief secretary for Ireland, described the bill as being "bad in principle and mischievous in practice."

### UNITED STATES.

Mr. Bellamy Storer has been appointed United States Minister to Spain.

North Dakota courts are said to be granting divorces at the rate of about three per day.

The Great Northern and the Northern Pacific Railways have been badly damaged by floods.

It is said at Niagara Falls that the Gorge Road may be abandoned this summer, owing to the landslides.

Wednesday morning James Doyle, a detective, shot and killed Martin Carey, and slightly wounded August Miller, in a Brooklyn bar-room.

Daniel Kelly, of Hill County, Georgia, has just married his third wife in ten months, the first two dying a few weeks after the weddings.

Directors of the Maurice Grau Opera Company at New York have ratified the dividend of 35 per cent. The company's profits for the year were \$100,000, on a capital of \$125,000.

Claude A. Thompson, an Englishman, gave himself up to the police authorities at New York last night, charging himself with the embezzlement of \$2,500 from a company in London. He had spent the money.

An order has been prepared at the War Department for a re-organization of the army on a peace basis. Most of the general officers of the volunteer establishment will be mustered out and radical changes will be made in the staff departments.

### GENERAL.

An exodus of Finns to America is beginning.

The King and Queen of Italy are visiting Sardinia.

The plague is reported to be spreading throughout Asia.

A Paris physician is said to have discovered a cure for cancer.

Hon. James Service, ex-Premier of Victoria, is dead at Melbourne.

Armed bandits practically own Sicily, according to reports from Messina.

Monuments to the late philanthropist, Baron Hirsch, will be erected at Budapest and Lemberg.

A Paris story says that a centenarian there has committed suicide, fearing he would never die.

Vienna courts are trying Michael Szogy, a former millionaire and leading financier in Budapest, for burglary.

The Argentine Republic last year imported 4,500 bicycles, of which 2,500 were of American and 500 of British manufacture.

Three fishing smacks were wrecked and twenty-one members of their crews lost their lives during the recent gale off the French coast.

The University of Tomsk, Western Siberia, has decided to send three of its professors to search for the remains of the Andree balloon expedition.

The British steamer Kingswell reports at Malta having collided with the Greek coaster Maria in the Mediterranean, sinking her, with the loss of 45 lives.

It is the opinion of army men in Manila that it will require the presence of 50,000 American troops to occupy the territory taken and to keep open communication.

A complete overhauling of all the Russian arsenals and supply depots has been ordered, the St. Petersburg authorities being ignorant of the actual amount of the reserve supply.

Lieut.-Col. G. F. Browne, military attaché of the British Legation at Peking, was arrested for refusing to remove his hat while a religious procession was passing. He was afterwards released.

### POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

The toast of the evening is taken from a bottle.

It's as hard to hide indifference as it is to conceal love.

When money talks the cream of the conversation is rich.

Every time you forgive a man you lower him in his own estimation.

One seldom has the price of the man who is really worth buying.

Hope is a pleasing acquaintance, but one you can seldom depend upon.

The shadow of the family tree accounts for a good many shady reputations.

Time may be money, but it's hard for a man to make his creditors believe it.

When a man marries an heiress he isn't very anxious for her to retain her charms.

Ungrateful persons are about as rare in proportion as benevolent ones are uncommon.

Never give up—unless it's in a lonely spot and the other fellow has a sandbag or a revolver.

## DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

### What the Legislators of the Country are Doing at Ottawa.

#### A SENSIBLE MOTION.

Mr. John Charlton has given notice of the following motion:

That the prevailing practice of delivering in the Canadian House of Commons, speeches of great length; embracing voluminous and often irrelevant extracts, has introduced a discursive and diffuse, rather than a concise and incisive style of public speaking; is destructive of pertinent debate upon public questions; is a waste of valuable time, unreasonably lengthens the sessions of Parliament; is in a marked contrast to the practice that prevails with regard to debate in the British House of Commons, and tends to repel the public from a careful and intelligent consideration of the proceedings of Parliament.

That it is expedient that rules be adopted limiting the length of speeches and regulating the general conduct of debate in that regard. That a special committee should be formed to consider the question of parliamentary debate, length of speeches, general conduct of debate, and proper methods for securing the greatest promptitude in the despatch of business consistent with the parliamentary rights of the minority, and the general interests of the public; and report its recommendations to this House.

#### RAILROAD TO DAWSON CITY.

The standing Orders Committee considered the petition of William Mackenzie, D. D. Mann and R. J. Mackenzie, praying for power to construct and operate a line of railway from a point on the Stikine river in British Columbia, thence by a practicable route to Teslin Lake or thereabouts, thence by a practicable route to Dawson City, also a line from a point on or near the Stikine river by a southerly route to a point in British Columbia capable of being made an ocean port; also a line from a point on or near the Lynn canal, via Fort Selkirk, to Dawson City, and branch lines along the creeks. The lines are to be known as the Canadian Yukon Railway. There is a rule of the committee that all bills applying to this section of the country must be advertised in Dawson City papers. It was pointed out that though several companies applying for charters have conformed to this rule at a very great expense, this company had not. The petitioners by their solicitor, stated that they had mailed their application from Ottawa on December 3rd, but that owing to the delays with the mails no paper had come out later than December 7th. The Clerk of the Council, in rebuttal, produced a copy of the Yukon Sun for February 14. The bill was reported, no motion to waive the rule being submitted.

#### AFTER THE C. P. R.

Robert L. Richardson, M.P., has moved for the appointment of a commission of the House to ascertain the amount of capital expended in the construction of the C. P. R. His object is to try to abolish what is known as the ten per cent clause. This clause enacts that until the C. P. R., earns 10 per cent on the capital actually expended on the road the Government is not permitted to control the rates. What Richardson wants to know is how the subsidies voted by the country to the road are to be considered in estimating the cost of construction. The motion reads thus:—That the Parliament of Canada has provided aid in cash, land, constructed railway, and in other forms, to a very large amount, in order that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company might be able to furnish transportation to the western settlers at rates which need be calculated to produce little beyond the cost of operation and maintenance, and that the 10 per cent provision is embodied in the act incorporating the C. P. R., Company;

That there seems to be no well defined understanding as to whether the gifts and grants aforementioned were not to be considered as a part of the "capital expended on the construction of the road," and that there seems not to have been any method or process provided or indicated by the Charter Act for determining the actual amount of the "capital expended on the construction of the road," and

It is resolved, therefore, that this House appoint a commission for the proposed enquiring into and (1) determining the original cost of the C.P.R. Company's main line and the equipment thereof; (2) the original cost of all the branch lines constructed and at present owned and operated by the Company in Canada; (3) the original cost of all lines acquired by purchase and at present owned by the company in Canada; (4) the original cost of all the lines at present owned and operated by the company in the United States of America; (5) the rentals or other consideration paid for all lines leased and operated by the company in Canada; (6) the rental or other consideration paid by the company for all lines operated by it or operated, subject to its control in the United States of America; 7 the revenues and expenditures of each of these railways as aforementioned in separate form in so far as such separation of accounts is feasible, that this commission be given full power to examine witnesses under oath, to demand production of books of account or correspondence and of all documents relating to the subject matter of this resolution.

#### NEW LINE OF STEAMERS.

Application has been made to the Dominion Parliament for the incorporation of the Canadian Inland Transportation Company, those interested being Messrs. Wm. Christie, J. K. Osborne, Geo. H. Bertram, M. P., of Toronto; Alex. Lumsden, M. P. P., and John McRae, of Ottawa, and Hon. Senator Forget, of Montreal. The company proposes to have a fleet of ten solid steel carriers, 276 feet in length, by 43 feet beam, with a capacity of 78,000 bushels of wheat, with a fourteen-foot depth in the canals. The promoters think they can carry cargoes to Montreal from Lake Superior cheaper than the present 6-cent rate to New York, and in return do a profitable business in return cargoes. The carrying of ore from Lake Superior to the blast furnace at Hamilton, and to the proposed one at Toronto, is also contemplated. The capital stock of the company will be \$4,000,000.

#### TO SPAN PACIFIC OCEAN.

The long-talked-of Pacific cable will shortly, according to present appearances, be an accomplished fact. The co-operation of the Australian and the Imperial authorities is already assured, and within a fortnight it is expected the Dominion Government will introduce a bill which will declare what Canada is prepared to do as its share in forging this great link in the imperial Federation scheme.

The Government's bill will provide for supplying funds equivalent to five-eighths of the cost of the construction of the proposed cable, so soon as Great Britain signifies its readiness to provide a like sum, and the Australasian colonies formally agree to contribute eight-eighths of the cost.

The control of the cable is to be vested in a commission to be appointed by the Imperial Government, each contributing colony nominating representatives on the commission in proportion to the amount contributed. Thus will be secured the principle of government control of rates and management, a desideratum second only to that of having the cable entirely under British management.

The Canadian terminal point will likely be Vancouver, although this has not been finally decided upon. Thence the cable will run to Fanning Island, on to Fiji, thence to Norfolk Island, where connections will be made with Australia and New Zealand. The length of the cable will be about 7,150 miles.

It is expected that within three years after its completion the cable will be successfully operated as to yield a substantial income, so substantial that dividends will be paid on the several contributions of the various states interested. The estimated cost will not be more than £1,500,000, and at the outset only a percentage of this will be called up. The Government believes that it can be made entirely self-supporting.

Lord Strathcona and Hon. A. G. Jones have reported on the financial aspect of the project. Their report shows that after the first year the cable would pay expenses, and that from time to time, as business increased, rates could be lowered. Thus the cable will become an integral factor in the prosperity of the countries which will be its proprietors.

Sir Charles Tupper said: I would like to take the opportunity of congratulating my right hon. friend who leads the Government upon the announcement made in the press with regard to the arrangement which has been arrived at concerning the construction of the Pacific cable. I regard that as a most important matter, and I think the Government and the country are very much to be congratulated upon the matter having been finally, as I hope it is, and satisfactorily arranged. I have long since satisfied myself that the construction of the cable will involve no obligation upon this country whatever, and I am satisfied the time is not far distant when it will be a source of revenue.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier—I must express the gratitude of the Government to my right hon. friend. Of course I might have expected it, for I know what his views have been. I hope that in future when we bring in as good measures we will receive the same support from my hon. friend.

Sir Charles Tupper—Hear, hear.

#### NIAGARA AND TORONTO RAILWAY.

Messrs. J. A. Powers, A. B. Calvin, J. W. Herbert, and J. L. Hees are seeking incorporation as the Niagara, St. Catharines, and Toronto Railway Company, with power to acquire the old St. Catharines and Niagara Central Railway, and to extend the line to Hamilton and Toronto.

#### CANADIAN GROWN TOBACCO.

A deputation composed of Rev. Dr. Rose, director of the Agricultural College at L'Assomption; T. G. A. Marsou, professor of agriculture; M. Duhamel, and Beeve De Salaberry, called on the Minister of Inland Revenue on the subject of home-grown tobacco. It is thought that the export of Canadian tobacco to Europe this year from Essex and Kent, in Ontario, and from several parts of Quebec, will be large. Specialists in Sweden, Denmark, and Germany have reported, it appears, very favourably on several samples of Canadian growth, which were submitted to them. The deputation want the Government to do something to help them to find a market.

#### SIAMESE SUPERSTITION.

The Siamese have so strong a superstition against even numbers that they will have none of them. The number of the rooms in a house, of windows, or doors in a room, even of rungs on a ladder, must always be odd.

#### SABLE SKINS.

A single fine Russian sable skin is worth from \$100 to \$250. It is a tiny thing about 14 inches long by 8 or 9 inches around.

## Agricultural

### THE FAMILY COW.

Official statisticians take no note of the family cow. In quality the cows kept in villages and at summer homes of city people for the supply of milk and butter to the owners are presumably somewhat above the average of dairy herds, writes Geo. A. Martin. Still the desirable points are alike in both. A cow in perfect health, docile and free from bad habits, yielding a good and lasting supply of rich milk is equally valuable for the dairy and the family. The Jersey is popularly regarded as the ideal family cow. Guernseys share the peculiar excellencies of Jerseys; the Ayrshires, Holstein-Friesians, Red Polls and Brown Swiss have all proved highly satisfactory, and in England the milking strains of Shorthorns have for years been the standard dairy cows. But even there the diminutive Kerry cows have become quite popular and are seen on many gentlemen's places.

But it is by no means indispensable that the family cow should be pure bred. This does not mean that she may be a scrub, but some of the best of them are grades out of native cows, sired by pure bred bulls of high individual excellence. Such a cow is not eligible to registry in any herd book, but inheriting good blood from the paternal side and from both parents a sound constitution and capacity for a large yield of rich milk. Scrub cows are unprofitable stock everywhere, but especially for family use, for it costs more to keep a cow in the village than on the farm. Above all, if a cow is to give profit and satisfaction she must have proper care. This includes comfortable shelter, good and plentiful food and water, regular hours of milking and feeding, with invariable kindness. I have in mind two cows kept near me. The owner of one of them has repeatedly been seen to stop with his team at evening near the pasture gate, lead out the cow, tie her by a rope around her horns to the rear end of the wagon and start off to so brisk a pace as to keep the heavy under cow on a trot all the way home. The other cow has good usage in summer, but generally comes through the winter "spring poor" and plastered from hip joints to heel with stable filth. Fully one-half of the usefulness of any cow is destroyed by such treatment. On the other hand is a farm laborer whose yearly compensation includes the "keep" of a cow. He has a grade Jersey, whose place in summer is in green pastures. In cold weather she has a snug, well-bedded stall, with plenty of food and water and the daily application of curry-comb and brush. She not only supplies the family with milk and butter, but in addition there is, for half the year, a surplus of butter which brings an extra price.

### SETTING A STRAWBERRY BED.

The selection of the plants is very important, to have good, thrifty plants of the previous season's growth. You don't want plants from an old bed that has borne fruit, but from a new plantation that has never borne any fruit. These plants should be trimmed of all dead leaves and runners, and if it is a little late the new leaves should be cut back to leave about two leaves, and the roots should also be shortened to about three and a half or four inches. Our rule is to take a bunch of plants in the hand, what we call hold handily, say five or six, and even the crowns up in your hand, shut your hand and cut the roots off at the heel of your hand, no matter how long they are. Then the plants are slushed—that is, dipped in water and put in a basket, ready to be taken to the field. In setting the plants, we don't want to go and drop a lot of them along in the row, ahead of the planter; they should not be dropped any faster than they are set. Professional growers use a tool, but if your ground is in proper condition you can set with your hands, or you can take an old ax with a short handle and strike it down in the ground, making a wedge-shaped opening. You take the plant, give it a flip to make the roots fly out, and set it so the roots will spread out in a fan shape. Let the plant set no deeper than it set before; if it is set too deep it will rot the heart of the plant, and if it is set too shallow it will dry out.

### CLEANING THE UTENSILS.

In the washing of churns and all other vessels for milk or cream, they should first be rinsed with cold or tepid water. The addition of washing soda, or a small quantity of borax to the water will increase its cleansing properties. They should then be washed with warm water, and scalded with "water boiling." The use of a brush for the cleansing of utensils is much preferable to the use of a dishcloth.

All wooden utensils and vessels should be scalded, cooled and dipped into cold water before they are used. Small wooden utensils should be kept floating or immersed in cold water.

Where closed drains flows from a dairy or creamery, they should be flushed out occasionally with a solution of crude carbolic acid followed by hot water.