

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.

Mr. E. P. Flynn, ex-M.P. for Richmond, N. S., is dead.

Earl Harker, an 11-year-old boy, was drowned at Kingston.

The Standard Bank has contributed \$1,000 to the Patriotic Fund.

Mr. C. Stan Allen, a well-known western Ontario journalist, died at Lorain, Ohio.

Grants of \$500 to the National Patriotic Fund have been made by the County Councils of Welland and Dufferin.

The western railways, with the exception of the C.P.R., have decided to abolish all commissions to passenger agents.

York County Council asks the Ontario Government to appoint a commission to control electric railways operating in the Province.

The Canadian Engine and Locomotive Works, of Kingston, Ont., have gone into liquidation. The works will continue running.

The Frontenac County Council has decided to petition the Ontario Legislature to amend the law in relation to the summoning of jurors as to reduce the expenditure without lessening the efficiency of the service.

Chancellor Burwash, of Victoria University, who was stricken with heart failure, while preaching at Ann Arbor, Mich., on Sunday night, was brought back to Toronto on Tuesday. He is very much better, and no serious results are anticipated.

"Jack" Freeborn, who played centre scrimmage for the Granite Football Club, was fined \$10 or 30 days at Hamilton Police Court for assaulting his wife.

Grave fears are entertained for the steamer Ashanti, which left Mobile Jan. 6 for Halifax, with mails. She has no passengers.

The Hamilton Horticultural Society has decided to give 6,000 young plants to school children next April, the plants to be shown in competition for prizes at the society's exhibition in June.

Mayor Teetzel asks the citizens of Hamilton to make all the demonstrations possible by the ringing of bells, blowing of whistles, etc., when authoritative news comes of the relief of Lausmith.

The thirteenth annual provincial convention of the Y. M. C. A. of Ontario and Quebec will be held in Woodstock, Ont., from February 8th to the 11th.

Mr. J. K. Osborne of the Massey Harris Company, Toronto has received a cable from the War Office stating that his son, Lieut. J. W. Osborne, of the Scottish Rifles, Cameronians, had been killed in action in the Tugela district on January 24.

Herbert J. Somerset, operating manager of the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway, has received and accepted a position as general manager of the tramways, Perth, West Australia. He is a son of Mr. W. B. Somerset, business manager of the Winnipeg Free Press.

The Canadian Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons paid a visit to the Michigan Grand Lodge at Detroit on Tuesday. The visitors presented to the Michigan Grand Lodge a silver loving cup, on which the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack are engraved together.

An important deal was put through at Montreal, when the Mascouche Lumber Company sold a portion of its valuable timber limits in the Counties of Berthier, Maskinonge, and Joliette to Mr. A. A. Larocque, of Montreal, for \$72,000.

BRITISH.

At Sydney, N.S.W., a wharf laborer has been stricken with the bubonic plague, and the attending doctors are of the opinion that he was inoculated with the disease through the bite of a flea.

Col. Gough will not be tried for alleged disobedience of orders, General Methuen not having preferred accusations against him. Col. Gough himself is reported as denying that he refused to order a cavalry charge at the Battle of Modder River.

A woman at Northampton died from grief for her two sons, severely wounded in the war.

The American ladies resident at Cape Town held a reception on Tuesday, in honor of Lady Churchill and the entire staff of the American hospital ship Maine.

Prof. Max Muller has suffered a relapse, and his condition is causing anxiety.

A memorial service in honor of Mr. Ruskin was held in Westminster Abbey this morning and was largely attended.

A request by the Dean of Westminster Abbey that John Ruskin should be buried in Westminster Abbey has been declined by Mr. Ruskin's relatives, who say in their reply to Dr. Bradley that it was the professor's own wish to sleep in Coniston churchyard, where his remains will be interred on Thursday.

The transport Cymric has been sent from Cape Town to search for the disabled transport Manchester Corporation and tow her here.

Montagu White, former Consul-General of the South African Republic in

London, had a conference with Secretary Hay, at Washington, on Tuesday.

The Australian colonies have declared Adelaide a plague infected port.

According to a special despatch from Pretoria, it is reported there that fourteen field cornets will be exchanged for fourteen British officers.

A regiment of cavalry was kept idle at De Aar for a fortnight, because the War Office had sent no bridles with the horses, but had despatched them somewhere else.

The scheme proposed by the Dominion Government for the repatriation of the 100th Regiment is commented upon by the St. James' Gazette. The Gazette says that the repatriation proposition should meet with no discouragement in Britain.

UNITED STATES.

Manager Ramsay, of the Wabash Railway, has promised a definite and early reply to the demands of the employees for higher wages.

It is announced in New York that William F. Miller, of Franklin Syndicate fame, has been located in Canada and is under police surveillance.

After deliberating for over three hours, the jury, at Albany, N.Y., in the case of William N. Clemmish and Moy Loy, charged with alleged conspiracy in smuggling Chinese into the United States from Canada, returned a verdict of not guilty. Judge Cox thereupon discharged the accused.

News comes from Presque Isle County, Mich., that John Smith, a word estimator, formerly of Detroit, strayed away from a logging camp and was attacked and eaten by wolves after a desperate struggle.

The success of the negotiations instituted by Secretary Hay with a view to insure the "open door" for American trade in China, may now be regarded as assured. Every one of the Powers that participated in the negotiations has returned to the State Department this written agreement with the exception of Japan and Italy, and there is not the slightest doubt in these cases.

A report from Frankfort, Ky., says 800 men, armed with rifles, reached that city today and have been supplied with badges bearing the portrait of Governor Taylor. A fight between the Taylor and Goebel political supporters is feared.

Representative Roberts, of Utah, accused of practising polygamy, was expelled from the House of Representatives at Washington, the report of the committee recommending this action being adopted by a vote of 278 to 50.

To offset the Pro-Boer meeting recently held at the Lyceum Theatre, a number of prominent Buffaloians held a meeting at the Tiff House, and adopted resolutions of sympathy for the British. A fund was started for the relief of the widows and orphans of British soldiers. Circulars calling for subscriptions to this fund are being sent out.

Among the bills introduced in the Senate was one by Senator Ellsworth empowering the Buffalo & Niagara Falls Electric Railway Company, when authorized by the Province of Ontario or the Dominion of Canada, to acquire the property of any railway operated in the Province of Ontario.

John D. Rockefeller will give the University of Chicago \$50,000 as a result of the recent acquisition of the Gurley paleontological collection. The Gurley specimens include 700,000 Mississippi Valley fossils. The collection was valued at \$25,000, and its gathering agreed to contribute \$50,000 of the sum, the rest being paid by the University. Mr. Rockefeller has offered to pay \$50,000 of the \$75,000 necessary to make up the required amount, if the rest is raised by President Harper.

GENERAL.

Denmark continues to negotiate with the United States for the sale of her possessions in the West Indies.

The case of Pastor Sarns, the German missionary, arrested in Natal last month for aiding the Boers, continues unsettled.

The Dutch cruiser Zeehond sailed for Delagoa Bay on January 25th.

Official reports giving details of the recent inundations in Japan show that property valued at over 6,000,000 yen was destroyed. Thirty-five towns were devastated, 7,288 houses submerged and 189 lives lost.

Arrangements are being completed for the establishment of a Russian consulate in Canada.

The signatures to the national address prepared at a mass meeting held in Brussels on Jan. 4, which asks President McKinley to intervene in the South African war number nearly 100,000. Twice as many are expected in a fortnight, when the address will be forwarded to Washington.

A second load of beef for the use of the Boers is being purchased at Chicago by an agent of the Transvaal Government. On account of recent seizures by British war vessels of ships, bearing supplies destined for the Transvaal, packers have refused to sell the beef for delivery beyond Chicago, and negotiations for transportation are pending.

The steamship Yamuri reports that when she sailed from Bocas del Toro the Norwegian warship Ellida was at that port on the way to Blufffields to investigate the seizure of a Norwegian steamship for use as a troopship by the Nicaraguan authorities.

According to the Taegliche Rundschau, the German Emperor is planning to reform the higher schools of Prussia according to the demands of modern practical life.

Wireless telegraphy is to be employed on the Dover-Calais and the Folkestone-Boulogne boats from a central station at Dover, where a pole will be erected. The masts of the boats will suffice for the other end of the circuit. The system will then be

extended probably to the Dover-Ostend boats, too.

A Thracian triumphal car has been dug up on the slope of Mount Rhodopus, near Philippopolis in Bulgaria. All the metallic fittings of the chariot, including bronze decorative figures, and the harness for one horse, were found together with human remains. The car belongs to the fourth century after Christ.

AMERICAN MULES MAKE TROUBLE

Many of the British Purchases Die on the Voyage to South Africa.

While the British Government announces that it is perfectly satisfied with its investment in American mules, and will buy 10,000 more men who have returned here from Cape Colony declare that the mules have caused a great deal more trouble in South Africa than has been reported. Five British ships are on their way here, all of which will be loaded with mules. Nearly half the required 10,000 animals have been already purchased, and so heavy a purchase at one time has sent the price of mules up \$20 apiece, England having to pay some \$2,000,000 more than expected.

The British are buying one special grade known as small mules. The large animals used on the sugar plantations in the South are, their veterinary surgeons say, not so vigorous and tough, although able to haul larger loads. The small mule bought by the British are tough and wiry, with more vitality than the large ones, and less liable to disease.

All those bought in this country have been green—that is, they have not been broken yet—and they seem to have caused some of the trouble in Africa. From the day the shipment of mules began the British have had trouble with them. They packed their too closely on one of the vessels and a considerable proportion of the animals died in transit. Another lot developed glanders as soon as they landed in Africa and either died or were killed; and quite a number of others died from the climate and insects of South Africa, to which they were unaccustomed. But the heaviest loss was on the Corinthia, which landed 500 of her cargo of mules at Port Elizabeth. No sooner did the animals find themselves on shore, after being cooped up for thirty-one days on a vessel, than they made for the interior, and the entire lot escaped with the exception of eleven. A reward has been offered for their recapture by the British authorities, but without result, and a herd of some five hundred American mules is now wandering somewhere in the interior of Africa.

These losses reader it quite certain that the 20,000 American mules shipped or to be shipped to South Africa for the use of the British Army will not suffice, but a fresh lot will have to be ordered.

Of the several hundred American mule drivers who went to South Africa, all with one or two exceptions, have returned. They went to Cape Colony with the intention of remaining there, believing that it offered opportunities to energetic and pushing young men. They found the situation there very bad and no prospects ahead, so they all took advantage of their contract with the British Government to be brought back home; and they would unanimously declare that they were harshly treated on the voyage, getting in inefficient and unsatisfactory food, and being worked far too hard. The British Government has expressed a preference for American drivers as well as American mules, but it will not get them.

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ELEPHANTS CAN KEEP COUNT

They Display Almost Human Intelligence in Their Work.

Of the elephant's marvelous mathematical precision and ability to count no doubt can exist in the mind of any one who has ever visited Mandalay, in Upper Burma. There large forests of teak are cultivated by the government for building purposes; the squared timbers are placed and secured one above the other, till a raft is formed to float down the Irrawaddy for easy conveyance to various other stations.

Elephants do the whole work. They convey the enormous logs down to the water's edge and pile them one above another, both lengthwise and across, till a perfect cube is formed. They show an intelligence and interest in their work that seem human, as any eye witness can affirm who has watched an elephant at his loading and then has seen him move a few paces to one side in order to judge of the effect of his work.

If the appearance of the heap is not quite symmetrical two elephants force the logs one way or the other with their trunks till they get the desired result: and the perfect evenness and symmetry of the finished cube are astounding. They never miscalculate the number required for each cube, and never overweigh it in any degree.

IS THIS TRUE?

"I take it," said the man who had been reading about one of the fights in South Africa, "that this was a real, genuine British victory."

"What makes you so certain?" asked the other man.

"Why, the cable is still working. A British defeat falls on the cable with a dull, sickening thud and breaks it."

Agricultural

DISTRIBUTION OF SAMPLES OF SEED GRAIN.

Under instruction of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture another distribution of sample packages of the best and most productive sorts of cereals, etc., is now being made from the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. The distribution will consist, as heretofore of samples, of oats, spring wheat, barley, field peas, Indian corn and potatoes. Each sample will weigh three pounds. The quality of the seed will be of the best. The varieties true to name, and the packages will be sent free to applicants, through the mail. The object in view is the improvement of the character and quality of the grain, etc., grown in Canada, an effort widely appreciated, and the choice of varieties to be sent out will be confined to those which have been found to succeed well at the Experimental Farms.

These samples will be sent only to those who apply personally, lists of names from societies or individuals cannot be considered. Only one sample of one sort can be sent to each applicant, hence if an individual receives a sample of oats he cannot also receive one of wheat or barley. Applications should be addressed to the Director of Experimental Farms, Ottawa, and may be sent any time before the 15th of March, after which date the lists will be closed, so that the samples asked for may all be sent out in good time for sowing. Parties writing will please mention the sort of grain they would prefer and should the available stock of the variety named be exhausted, some other good sort will be sent in its place. Letters may be sent to the Experimental Farm free of postage.

OILING WAGON WHEELS.

Oiling wagon wheels to preserve the felloes and prevent the tires from becoming loose has been practiced by many for a long time. It is better as a preventive than a cure for loose tires. Stop the swelling and shrinking of the felloes, the rusting of the underside of the tire next the felloe by a coating of oil. Fill the tenons of the spokes also with the hot oil and you have at least doubled the life of your wheel. If it is well done, a tire will never have to be reset. The tenons of the spokes cannot swell and split the felloes. The mistake made is that people do not begin with their wheels in time. Treat the wheel while it is sound. Have it well dried out, give it time to absorb all the oil it will take. Use the best boiled linseed oil, with about one-half pint liquid drier to the gallon. Devote at least one hour to a wheel. The oil should be kept up nearly to the boiling point and the slower the wheel is revolved the more oil will get under the tire where it is most needed. Two revolutions of the wheel is about right. Revolving slowly heats the wood through. This drives out any moisture, the pores readily drink their fill of hot oil, and by the time the wheel makes its second revolution some of the last coating will remain upon the surface. A portion of this will gradually be absorbed into the wood and the remainder will dry hard upon the surface. The oil should not boil, but must be quite hot—hot enough to expand the tire so that the oil will get under it freely.

CULTURE OF VIOLETS.

Violets to be successful must be grown entirely from cuttings. Young offshoots taken early in the spring give the most satisfactory results. In some cases the old plants are allowed to remain year after year, but this is unsatisfactory, as each year's crop shows a decrease in the number and size of the flowers. The best results are obtained by replanting every year. A start should be made every spring with young offshoots, baby plants, planted in small boxes. As soon as they make good roots they should be transplanted directly to where they are to stand all summer. It is at this time that they should be carefully watched. Dead leaves and runners should be taken off and the plant made to contract, each forming a bushy crown. By Sept. 15, if properly treated, these plants should cover the entire ground. By Oct. 1, they begin to blossom. At first the flowers are very small and consequently of little or no value and are thrown away. By Oct. 15, they are sufficiently large, however, to send to market.

CUTTING FORELOCKS.

The foolish and expensive habit of cutting forelocks is becoming a great nuisance. It is foolish because it does not add to the looks of the horse, and expensive because it detracts at least \$25 from the value of the horse. A large number of the best horses in this country, are bought for export, and there can be no greater "crab" for a good export horse than to have his forelock cut off. Country dealers in many cases have this done themselves, and the young man in the country who wants to take his girl out thinks that this is one of the necessities. This practice should be stopped, and dealers who buy in the country should try to educate the people to the fact that this ruins the sale of the horse. This can only be done in one way, and that is to buy the horse for less money, as he brings less on the

market with his forelock off, and if the producer finds he cannot sell his horses to advantage after their forelocks have been trimmed, he will very soon quit this nuisance.

THE FOWLS IN WINTER.

Keep your nesting and scratching material and your bathing dust perfectly dry. Supply fresh material as soon as needed. Have the dust box wide and deep enough.

Put all table scraps, vegetable parings, meat scraps, etc., in a kettle, place on the stove, while cooking supper with enough water or broth to keep from burning. Leave on the stove until rather warm in the morning, thicken with wheat bran until it is crumbly, then feed in troughs. Give all they will eat up quickly, then set them to scratching for grain that has been raked into their litter.

Give milk or water to them warm. Pepper is a good thing for laying hens if fed judiciously; too much will result in harm.

If no other way presents itself, buy rabbits of your neighbor's boys and chop them fine with the ax, after removing skin and entrails. Feed all they will eat at one meal twice per week.

WHAT HE SAW ON THE COFFIN.

An Expressman's Story About Carrying a Corpse on the Front Platform.

"I do not believe in ghosts, nor am I particularly nervous," remarked the express messenger, "but I once was so positive that I saw a spectre that I was troubled with insomnia for many nights and I thought I never would be able to quiet my nerves again.

"It was back in the 80s when I was running. We made a small station one evening about dusk and found on the platform, as I had been advised, the grewsome pine box, telling its story of some unfortunate who had gone to the mountains in a vain search for health. It so happened that my car was full and plan as I might I could find no place for the box. The train conductor came up to find out what was the cause of the delay. I told him of my predicament. He was equal to the emergency in an instant.

"Put it on the front platform," he said. The suggestion was a good one and in another moment our dead passenger was aboard and we were rolling over the prairie.

"It so happened that I had a car with a door at the end. About 10 o'clock snow began falling and I tell you it came down thick. It was midnight when I thought of the corpse. It would never do to lose it and the jolt of the train might jar it off the platform. The night was clear. I opened the door. As it swung on its hinges I looked out. Then I slammed the door with a bang and jumped back in the car, I was perspiring from every pore and trembling like a leaf.

"What had I seen? Why, sitting bolt upright on the coffin, with his hands clasping his knees was the whitest ghost any man ever saw. I stood in the center of the car, irresolute. I looked at my Winchester, then I realized it would be of no use against a spook.

"Suddenly the door opened and there stood my ghost. It was a tramp covered with snow from head to foot. He stood there blinking at the light for a moment and then said:

"Say, Willie, you've ketches me, anyhow, can't you let me get warm afore you turn me off? Did I let him ride? Well, I guess. If I'd been going to New York he could have gone with me I'm the last man in the world not to show appreciation and gratitude."

DIFFICULTIES OF ARTILLERYMEN

Although many wonderful range-finders have recently been invented, they cannot always be trusted, and the gunners have often to trust to their judgment of the distance.

But the same distance seems different under different circumstances. When the sun is at your back things seem nearer than they are; when it is in your eyes they seem farther. Looking over level ground, water, or snow, they seem much nearer than when looking over broken ground. In misty weather and in the dusk of evening they seem both larger and farther than they really are.

Here are some of the distances at which certain objects can be seen with good eyesight, as measured by the military authorities. On an ordinary clear day you can distinguish:

Roof-tiles at 250 yards.
Window-panes at 500 yards.
Single-posts at 1,170 yards.
Chimneys at 3,500 to 4,000 yards, or 2 to 2-1/2 miles.
Men's features at 300 yards.
Soldiers' head-dress at 600 yards.
Movement of legs and arms at 1,000.
A good artilleryman ought to be able to judge accurately how far any of these things are up to 4,000 yards.

THE COW AND THE GOAT.

I have the best cow in these parts, said Bragg; she gives a pail of milk twice a day and the cream from each pail makes two pounds of butter.

And you think that's pretty good, do you? Guess you never heard of Mary's goat?

No.
Well, it turned out better.