

# 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.

The Toronto Police Commissioners have enforced the Chief's recommendation for an increase of the force.

The Ontario Legislature will meet on February 14.

Victoria, B.C., has offered to equip 50 mounted men for South Africa.

Rossland has raised \$2,500 for the Patriotic Fund.

Elton Vermette, Manitoba's oldest pioneer is dead at St. Norbert, aged 109 years.

The National Trust Company has contributed \$1,000 to the National Patriotic Fund.

Mrs. Young, aged 90, was burned to death, and her daughter, Mrs. Stewart, probably fatally burned in the destruction of the home of John Stewart, at Cypress River, near Winnipeg.

The Elder-Dempster steamship Monterey has been chartered to transport Strathcona's Horse to South Africa, and will sail from Halifax at the end of February.

The directors of the Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company have appointed Mr. Thos. Henry of Montreal General Traffic Manager of the system.

Four cases of smallpox have been reported to the Provincial Board of Health of Quebec from St. Bruno, Kamouraska County, and two from Carleton, in Bonaventure County. Not one has proved fatal.

The Chemainus & Northwestern Railway bill, looking to the extension of the Esquimalt & Nanaimo Road to the north end of Vancouver Island, has passed the Railway Committee of the British Legislature.

## BRITISH.

The overdue steamship Ethiopia, from Glasgow, has arrived at New York.

A special cable despatch from London says that the pinch of war is felt everywhere.

The boxes of chocolate sent to troops by the Queen have been distributed to the wounded soldiers at Wynberg.

The annual decoration of the statue of King Charles I. in Trafalgar Square on the anniversary of his execution in 1649 took place Friday.

A monster meeting of Hindus and Mohammedans in the Town Hall at Calcutta passed a resolution expressing unswerving loyalty and attachment to the throne, and deciding to offer prayers for the victory of the British in all places of worship. The meeting also subscribed 63,000 rupees to the Mansion House Fund.

Rear Admiral Lord Charles Beresford has gone to Malta to take command of the second division of the British Mediterranean fleet.

The war office gives the list of the British casualties at Spion Kop by announcing the names of 215 missing men of various regiments, including 137 members of the Lancashire Fusiliers.

It is reported at Berlin that the chief object of Dr. Leyds in visiting Paris, Berlin and St. Petersburg is to induce France, Germany and Russia to intervene in Great Britain should attempt to seize Delagoa Bay.

## UNITED STATES.

Two deaths were caused by the cold weather in Chicago the other day.

William F. Rittenberg, a Michigan lumberman, robbed of \$600 by the green goods game, searches in vain for those who victimized him.

Isaac Jacobs, a tailor, recovered \$1,164 damages against the Third Avenue Street Car Company, New York, for false imprisonment, having been arrested for refusing to pay a second fare after receiving a transfer that had been improperly punched.

John B. McDonald has not yet qualified as the builder of the rapid transit road in New York.

Thomas W. Bodger was knocked from a surface car at 125th street and Seventh avenue in New York by a stranger, who followed him from a bank, and tried to rob him in broad daylight.

The Mayor of Troy, N. Y., issued a proclamation calling on a street car company hampered by a strike either to run its cars or forfeit its franchise.

President McKinley contemplates issuing a proclamation granting amnesty to all Filipinos who lay down their arms and declaring all others outlaws.

Governors of many States say that the people favor a constitutional amendment providing for the election of United States Senators by direct popular vote.

Dr. Parkhurst favored the legal opening of saloons on Sunday, while Harlem ministers are moving to close them altogether. The Rev. Dr. Porter assailed the Raines law as responsible for much vice in Brooklyn.

Brigham Roberts, of Utah, the expelled bigamous Congressman, now seeks from the Government \$2,000 salary and mileage.

Fire destroyed the electric plant and laboratories of the Bellaire steel works owned by the National Steel Co., at Bellaire, Ohio. Loss \$100,000. Over 2,000 men are out of employment.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals has confirmed the verdict of \$2,000 recovered by Col. A. H. King in his suit against the Pullman Car

Company for being wrongfully ejected from a sleeping car at Baltimore.

A region fully ten miles square on both sides of the Detroit River was shaken by an explosion of 500 pounds of dynamite at the stone works of the Sibley Quarry Company on the American side. One man was killed.

## GENERAL.

Mrs. Mary Gray Mexia will present documents to prove her claim to the millions left by General Mexia, a Mexican statesman.

The preliminary enumeration of the population of Cuba shows 1,572,840 inhabitants; that of Porto Rico, 957,679.

A cable despatch from London asserts that well informed Englishmen believe Japan will soon strike a blow at Russia.

Spanish gendarmes have unearthed a Carlist arsenal in a house in Placencia, capital of the province of that name, and seized 100,000 cartridges and a large quantity of arms.

A special cable despatch from Berlin gives Dr. Leyds' views of the Boer terms of peace, including the restoration of the territory previously taken from the Transvaal.

Premier Waldeck-Rousseau has suspended the allowances of the Archbishop of Aix, of the Bishop of Versailles, Valance, Viviers, Tulle, and Montpellier, and the Vicar of Avignon, for sympathy with the suppressed Assumptionists.

An alleged secret decree of the Empress Dowager of China to the governors of the provinces exerts to strong measures against foreigners, even to war.

Italy and Turkey will not go to war over Sylvia Gemeli after all. She was handed over to her father at Constantinople yesterday by the Turkish officer who had placed her in his harem.

Complete official figures for Germany show that exports to the United States last year were \$90,900,461, or an increase of \$8,518,847 over 1898.

A Santiago de Chile despatch says that tidal waves, higher than have been known for a long time, have swept along the coast, doing considerable damage.

Thirteen persons were killed and forty injured by a dynamite explosion near Turin recently.

The French government expresses itself pleased with the settlement of the Santo Domingo trouble, which, it is claimed, was a complete victory for France.

## THE HUSBANDS GO FIRST.

This is a remark I made to my wife at the dinner table a few days ago, as we were discussing in a general way the possibilities and probabilities of the future. If the reader be a married man I need not give her rejoinder. It was the good old chestnut: "No, it only seems so; the men do not stay widowers long enough to be counted."

"But," I urged, give it a careful test; go over the history of our town for 20 years as to the families we know personally. You count, not the widowers, but the instances in which the wife died first, and for each case I'll give you five where the reverse occurred."

Pencils and paper came into quick requisition. My list ran rapidly up to 53, while I almost pitied the good woman opposite, who chewed the end of her pencil and upbraided her memory, as she was compelled to stop at a beggarly three. This test, I admit, although I did not to her, is hardly conclusive, but just look at the authentic statistics upon this point.

The Westminster Review is authority in the statement that in England, to 586,644 widowers there are 1,410,684 widows, an excess of 821,040. The Universal Review gives for every 100 widowers 194 widows. In some cases the growth of these companionless women is even greater matter for surprise. For instance, the census for England and Wales for 1881 gives 52,091 widows at the age of 24! These strange proportions seem largely due to the fact that men marry later in life than formerly, while the marriageable age of women remains unchanged.

Men often urge as one argument for not insuring their lives the "even chance" that they will outlive their wives. The above shows this chance to be so uneven as to be scarce worth considering. But if the probabilities were heavily the other way, the existence of children would in most cases over-balance it. Think this over and be honest. Look at this subject squarely. Your wife will not urge you to insure—probably she will half-disapprove it—but if you really love her, your duty compels you to put every possible shield betwixt her and want.

Not one man in five hundred is so situated as to be justified in carrying no life insurance, provided he is insurable. Not one in five hundred, dying uninsured, can honestly say to his wife: "I have done my best for your future welfare."

I know this all sounds trite, but remember—subjects grow trite because of their importance.—Fidelity Journal.

## DANGER OF DELAY.

Young man, said the old gentleman, my daughter is too young to marry. A girl of her age cannot be sure of her own mind in a matter of such importance.

I fully realize that, replied the young man, who had just secured the fair one's consent. That's why I don't want to wait.

## EASY!

She, blushing: Am I the first girl you ever kissed, John?

He: Well, no, darling; but you are the last.

She: Am I really? Oh, John, it makes me so happy to think that.

## On the Farm.

### THE FARM LIBRARY.

We had occasion a few times to touch upon this topic. It is indeed an important one, and should be given more systematic attention than it usually receives. The farmer to-day must read and think along the lines of his own business. If he does not do so he cannot expect to make a success of his undertaking, nor to successfully compete in supplying the great markets of the world with food products. While the business man or professional man gives special attention to his library, and has it stored not only with books pertaining to his own calling, but with many of the leading authors' works, it is only too true that the great majority of our farm homes are very lacking both in books pertaining to the work of the farm and in those relating to current and general literature. No citizen of the Dominion has more time for reading and recreation of this kind of a winter's evening than the farmer, and he is certainly standing in his own light by not providing himself with the material for such indulgence.

A timely and valuable bulletin on this subject has recently been issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The bulletin was written by Prof. J. B. Reynolds, of the Ontario Agricultural College, and contains some valuable matter on farm reading, from which we take the following:

"Since this is addressed principally to farmers, the books to be recommended all treat of agricultural topics. General science and literature are not mentioned, not because the farmer may not be interested in these as well, but because these subjects are beyond the scope of the present bulletin.

"The farmer need not be, should not be, merely 'The man with the hoe.' He may think, and be a better farmer for so doing. He may observe, and commit fewer blunders for so doing. He may theorize, and help himself and others by his speculations. He may read, and if he reads wisely, his thinking and observing and consequently his farming will be improved. In fact the advantage in the wise use of books on Agriculture, as well as on other topics, consists not only in the information obtained; thinking and observing are also excited, and hence a good book introduces into farm life one great essential to making it interesting, the healthful employment of the mind as well as the body.

"Under proper surroundings farm work may have an immense advantage over the majority of occupations in town or city. And that advantage is the intellectual interest that may attach itself to the most trivial as well as the most important farm operation. The preparing of the land for seed, the sowing of the seed, the checking and killing of weeds and insects, the rotation of crops, the feeding and breeding of all kinds of stock—all of these involve labor and care, it is true, but they involve also principles and laws of nature most absorbing in interest, an interest that will make the labor a delight and will extend over into hours of leisure.

"The farmer, man or boy, whose interest in the meaning of farm operations has been aroused, and who has one or two good books on agriculture at hand, will never be at a loss how to spend his leisure hours. And just here let me remove a misconception that generally prevails regarding the proper use of such books. It will probably be understood that these books are to be purchased, one or two at a time, read through more or less attentively and with more or less labor, the matter of them digested as well as may be, and then the books set aside, to be of no further use to the one who has read them. The wise man does not use his books so. He may never touch a certain book until some question, suggested by the work of the farm, demands solution. He appeals to his own experience, perhaps to his neighbor's; and finally to the collected experience of a large number of thinking, observing men. This last he should find in his library, for a book on agriculture, to be of much use to the practical farmer, must be adapted for reference and consultation, and become finally a familiar friend and adviser."—Farming.

### FARMHOUSE HEATING.

We blame no one, where fuel is cheap, for keeping an open fire in the family sitting room "just for company's sake," says the "Practical Farmer." But as a method of heating an entire house, the open fire is wholly impracticable.

By using stoves, some of the good points of the open fire are retained, while in the simple capacity of heat radiators they are vastly superior. One of the larger sizes of the best heating stoves now on the market, costing from \$15 to \$25, if centrally located, will heat two ordinary-sized rooms quite easily in the severest weather and that, too, with a very reasonable consumption of fuel, at most but little more than one-half what would be burnt in two open fires. These stoves, built for either coal or wood, will hold fire and retain heat for a long time if the dampers are properly adjusted and will keep the

house at a pretty even temperature for several hours without attention. If one having stoves on the first floor wishes to heat rooms upstairs for sleeping and does not care to adopt any of the more elaborate methods, he will find it quite satisfactory to place registers, such as are used with hot air-furnaces, just over his stoves. Or if a large stove can be placed near to or in a hall on the first floor opening into rooms on the second floor, which it is desired to heat, no further apparatus is needed. The heated air will rise of its own accord and keep one or two rooms reasonably comfortable, the temperature that can be maintained depending, of course, upon the size of the rooms, their exposure, and the size of the stove used. If it is desired to heat an upstairs room by passing a pipe through it from a stove in a room below, the heating capacity of the pipe will be greatly increased by using a radiator. It will make use of, practically, all of the heat that is available. Either of the plans mentioned above, however, is preferable.

A system of hot water or steam pipes or a combination of both for a large house is probably the most satisfactory. Its cost, however, is almost prohibitive so far as the ordinary farmer is concerned.

The hot-air furnace is the most practical method of heating the average farm home. If one is building a new house the first cost will not be more than an outfit of open fire-places or stoves and the service rendered will be much more satisfactory. If it is a case of placing a furnace in an old house the advisability of such a course may be open to question, and yet I believe there are thousands of farm homes in which a hot-air furnace would be a source of economy and comfort.

### BADEN-POWELL HATES COAT-SLEEVES.

When the gallant Colonel-Baden-Powell was interviewed by the present writer on his return from the last native war in South Africa, he suddenly stretched out his arms and declared:—

"The one thing that always strikes me most powerfully when I return from the wilderness and from the free-and-easy life of the campaigner is the positive torture I suffer from once again having to wear coat-sleeves, and I have heard this same thing remarked upon by dozens of soldiers, travellers, and explorers, from Mr. Cecil Rhodes downwards.

"In South Africa and other hot climates, you see, officers and men alike go for months together without coats—except such as are loosely thrown over them at nights—and with their rough shirt-sleeves rolled up over their sunburnt arms; and I never knew a man yet to whom a coat was not for weeks weighty and intolerable when it had to be resumed, this particularly applying to the sleeves.

"Though I have been back from the Cape for nearly six weeks, my coat-sleeves seem to harass me so as almost to completely fetter the movements of my arms; and it is, in fact, that on one occasion Dr. Jameson was so uncomfortable from the same cause that, in one of the most fashionable clubs in London, he asked those sitting with him that he might be excused for throwing off his coat for a few moments and rolling his shirt-sleeves up. I have written all my books while coatless and with my shirt-sleeves rolled up. Each time I return to ordinary life coat-sleeves are a renewed torture."

### A CHAMBERLAIN STORY.

Many good stories with reference to the present Colonial Secretary's favorite flower have been told. Here is one. Some visitors had passed through Mr. Chamberlain's orchid-houses at Highbury one morning, when a very valuable plant was discovered broken. Mr. Chamberlain, it is said, almost lost his temper, and declared that sightseers should no longer be welcomed. Then he interrogated the gardener in charge of the houses.

The man appeared confused, but protested that he did not do the damage.

"I was very sorry when I saw it done, sir."

"You saw it done? Then, of course, the visitors did it?"

"No, sir, the visitors didn't either," said the man.

"Speak out, man!" cried Mr. Chamberlain, "I am resolved to discover the culprit."

Then the gardener spoke: "You did it yourself, please, sir, for I saw you. You were walking up an' down an' rehearsing something. I heard Lord Salisbury's name, sir, an' Mr. Gladstone's, an' then you struck out with your right arm sudden-like, and down went the orchid."

The Colonial-Secretary smiled, and sightseers were not forbidden the orchid-houses.

### CLEVER CHAP!

Boardman: "Don't you think Footlight is a clever actor?"

Hashley: "Clever? Well, I should say so! He hasn't paid his landlady any money for six weeks."

"Cash K." is the curious verbal disguise under which, for ten years past, some generous person, who uses an American paper as his agency, has given many thousands of dollars to worthy people and deserving objects. No one but the editor of the paper knows who the hidden philanthropist is.

More boy babies die under the age of six months in cities than girl babies.

### HOW SHE BECAME HAPPY.

Doctor Axel Munthe, in his little book called "Vagaries," says that he first realized the responsibilities of authorship through publishing an article on "Toys." One day, not long afterward, he received a visit from a fashionable young lady, who sat in the consulting-room with a huge parcel on her knees. She began telling him a story of woe, relating to her own life, which had been passed in luxury, and yet afforded her no satisfaction. In consequence of perennial boredom she broke down, and her parents ended by dragging her from one physician to another.

One prescribed Egypt, where the patient, with her father and mother, then spent a whole winter; another Cannes where they bought a villa; and a third, India and Japan, which they visited in their yacht.

"But," said she, "you are the only one who has done me any good. I have felt more happiness during this past week than for years. I owe it to you, and I have come to thank you for it."

She unfastened her parcel and produced from it one doll after another. There were twelve in all and you never saw such dolls. Some were dressed in well-fitting tailor-made jackets and skirts; some were evidently off for a yachting trip, in blue serge suits and sailor hats; some wore smart silk dresses, covered with lace and frills, and hats trimmed with huge ostrich feathers; and some looked as if they had only just returned from the queen's drawing-room.

"You see, doctor," said she with uncertain voice, "I never thought I could be of any service to anybody. I used to send money to charities, but all I did was to write out a check, and I cannot say that I ever felt the slightest satisfaction in doing it."

"The other day I happened to come across your article on 'Toys,' and since then I have been working from morning till evening to dress these dolls for the poor children you spoke about. I have done it all by myself, and I have felt so strangely happy the whole time!"

I looked at the sweet face smiling through its tears, and then at the long row of dolls who stared approvingly at me from among my medical paraphernalia on the writing-table. Then I asked her to send away her smart carriage waiting at the door; I put her and the dolls into a cab and told the man to drive to my poor little patients.

I introduced her to the suffering children, and she introduced the dolls. She blushed with delight at the children's pleasure and the mothers' "God bless you!" I could see by her shyness that it was the first time she had entered the homes of the poor.

Hardly a week passed, before she brought me another dozen dolls, and twelve more sick and destitute children, forgot all about their misery. She kept on bringing more and more, and there came a time when I had more dolls than patients. Indeed, in self-defence, I was at last obliged to send her to St. Moritz for a change of air.

### A WORD ABOUT WORDS.

Ah me! these terrible tongues of ours, Are we half aware of their mighty powers?

Do we ever trouble our heads at all Where the jest may strike or the hint may fall?

The latest chirp of that "little bird," The spicy story "you must have heard—"

We jerk them away in our gossip rush, And somebody's glass of course, goes smash.

What fumes have been blasted and broken,

What pestilent sinks been stirred, By a word in lightness spoken, By only an idle word.

A sneer, a shrug, a whisper low— They are poisoned shafts from an ambushed bow!

Shot by the coward, the fool, the knave,

They pierce the mail of the great and brave,

Vain is the buckler of wisdom and pride,

To turn the pitiless point aside; The lip may curl with careless smile, But the heart drips blood—drips bleed the while.

Ah me! what hearts have been broken,

What rivers of blood been stirred, By a word in malice spoken,

By only a bitter word!

A kindly word and a tender tone— To only God is their virtue known, They can turn a foe to a friend in-jest head,

They can turn a foe to a friend in-stead;

The heart close-barred with passion and pride,

Will fling at their knock its portals wide,

And the hate that blights and the scorn that sears,

Will melt in the fountain of childlike tears.

What ice-bound griefs have been broken,

What rivers of love been stirred, By a word in kindness spoken,

By only a gentle word!

### ON HIS TRACK.

Here is an extract from one of the latest novels:—

Gerald Harbison panted heavily. The close atmosphere of the little apartment constrained his splendid lungs. He went to the window, opened it and threw out his massive chest.

All of which would go to show that the landlady was hot on his track.