

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 Ontario Legislature will meet on Wednesday, February 10.

Mr. Thos. Roch was killed by being struck by a tree in the woods near Tyndall, Man.

The resignations of the entire staff of the Ottawa Protestant hospital have been accepted.

Another consignment of Lee-Enfield rifles numbering 2,000 arrived at Kingston.

It is reported that there is a great deal of smuggling at present on the Canadian Pacific coast.

Five more pitch gas buoys will be placed on the shoals in the St. Lawrence River next season.

Owing to the lack of snow lumber operations in the Gatineau district have been temporarily suspended.

The failures in the city of Montreal during the past year were far in excess of those of the two previous years.

The Dominion Parliament will not meet until March, and the tariff proposals will not be brought down until April.

The Rev. George Clouthier, chaplain of the Stony Mountain penitentiary, has been dismissed by the Minister of Justice.

The will of the late James Hamilton, of London, Ont., filed for probate at that place, disposes of an estate of \$31,150.

Ratepayers of the township of Ancaster have voted a bonus of \$5,000 to the Hamilton, Chedoke & Ancaster Electric Railway.

An official announcement is made that the Government intends at the coming session to ask Parliament to repeal the Franchise Act.

A man named Apollidore St. Pierre of Papineauville, Que., committed suicide at Rat Portage on account of misfortunes in his love affairs.

Mr. Borden is at present engaged upon a scheme to commute the two years' salary allowance to retiring militia officers into a pension for life.

It is stated that the Franchise of the Niagara Falls Power Company for the building of the Canadian power tunnel has been extended for four years.

The engagement of Miss Ella Walker, granddaughter of Hiram Walker, the millionaire distiller of Walkerville, Ontario, to Count Manford von Matuschka, of Schloss, Bechau, has been announced.

The Montreal street railway management have adopted a new style of cash box for their conductors, furnished with a new contrivance known as an improved receiver, which the moment the coin strikes the aperture seizes it in a tight grip, preventing its removal.

Mr. William Whyte, superintendent of the Western Division of the Canadian Pacific railway, states that of the total amount of ninety million bushels of wheat in the West at the opening of the season, he estimates that from two million and a half to three million bushels are in the hands of the farmers west of Winnipeg.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Lord Mayor of London has started a fund for the relief of the famine sufferers in India.

Andrew Percy Bennett has been appointed British consul at New York. It is expected that the new Canadian building at Bislely will be ready for the team next season.

The appointment of Carlos Villanueva, consul-general for Venezuela in London has been approved of by the Queen.

Americans in London have subscribed for a loving cup as a present to Mr. Bayard, the American Ambassador at London.

The Right Hon. and Most Rev. Frederick Temple, D. D., was on Friday enthroned in Canterbury cathedral with much ecclesiastical ceremony.

It is reported from London that the commissioners have signed a report recommending the speedy construction of the Pacific cable.

Lord Dufferin has accepted the presidency of a movement started at Bristol to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Newfoundland by Cabot.

Lady Selina Scott, who pleaded guilty on Thursday to the criminal libel of Earl Russell, was on Friday sentenced to eight months' imprisonment without hard labor.

While hunting with the Meynell hounds on Tuesday, Mr. Chaplin, formerly president of the British Board of Trade, was thrown from his horse and seriously injured.

Sir Donald Smith, the Canadian High Commissioner, has established new agencies in Ireland and Wales to make better known to emigrants the resources of Canada.

The British Board of Trade returns show that the total imports for 1896 have increased \$25,117,677 over 1895, and the exports have increased \$14,633,193 over the previous year.

The Pall Mall Gazette, referring to the report that Mr. Laurier had declined the honor of knighthood, says that his answer left the matter so that he could accept at a future date.

Mrs. Gladstone unveiled the memorial window to the Armenian martyrs in Hawarden Church. Before the ceremony of unveiling the window Mr. Gladstone delivered a speech to an Armenian deputation.

In response to a letter signed by more than eighty noblemen and gentlemen eminent in literature, science, and art, Mr. Herbert Spencer has consented that a fund shall be opened to paint his portrait for the nation.

The Westminster Gazette on Wednesday gave prominence to a rumour that the Queen has decided to commemorate the fact that she has enjoyed the longest reign in English history by abdicating in favor of the Prince of Wales.

Sir Charles Tupper and the Colonial Agents of Victoria and Tasmania were

given a complimentary dinner in London on Wednesday night. Sir Charles made a speech, pledging the loyalty of Canada to the British Empire, which was received with great applause.

UNITED STATES.

Storms continue to impede railway traffic in Missouri.

Jacob Witham, aged 87, and Mrs. Rivers, aged 97, were married at Deerfield, N. H., on Tuesday.

A despatch from Fargo, N. D., says two children of John Pettit, of Hunter, were frozen to death in Sunday's storm.

Lawrence Wilson, one of the eight boys bitten by a mad dog December 1st in Baltimore, died at that place yesterday.

The Wyoming state general hospital at Rock Springs, Wyo., burned to the ground on Wednesday. One woman died from fright.

Commander and Mrs. Booth-Tucker have been invited to Washington by Mrs. Cleveland to explain the methods of work of the Salvation Army.

It is reported in Washington that Mr. John Hay, of that city, will be appointed successor to Mr. Bayard as ambassador to England.

Blasting powder was used to kill rats in the house of Alex. Dolwick, at Millersville, Ohio, on Tuesday. Five of the family were burned, one fatally.

South Benton, Ark., hasn't a sound building now as the result of Saturday's cyclone. Many families are homeless, and a number of deaths are reported.

During the year ending September over 190,000,000 fry were hatched and distributed by the fish hatcheries of the United States. The cost was less than 20 cents per 100.

Five true bills have been returned at Washington against Francis J. Kiekhofer, late distributing officer of the Em- State Department, on charges of embezzling international indemnity funds. His total shortage is about \$127,000.

Richard D. Cornelius, one of the oldest and best known bank cashiers of Baltimore, committed suicide. His body was found in the duck pond in Druid Hill Park a few hours after a shortage of \$60,000 had been discovered in his accounts at the National Farmers' and Planters' Bank.

At Bay City, Mich., a mob of several hundred angry Poles attacked the parsonage of St. Stanislaus church, breaking every window and driving Father Bogaci and his body-guard into the basement. A number of shots were fired and two or three men badly wounded.

Our telegraphed summaries from the commercial agencies in New York are, as might have been expected, more retrospective than anticipatory, saying little about the present, and less of the probable future of trade. Business everywhere is dull, and it is as yet too early in the year for any practical development. The bank failures in the West have been serious, but the effect has so far been discounted that no further serious interference with trade is likely to occur. The trade situation is quiet, though in some directions more seasonable weather has stimulated a demand for reasonable goods.

GENERAL.

The Pope has recovered from his indisposition.

Emperor William has designed the tower for the German Protestant church at Jerusalem.

Owing to the exodus on account of the plague, the population of Bombay has been reduced one-half.

The Petite Republique, of Paris, says that the Government has no faith in the duration of European peace.

A special from Oaxaca, Mexico, says a severe earthquake is reported from the southern part of the state.

A severe earthquake of Panama, on Sunday. Some property was destroyed.

Dr. Manser, senior physician of the principal hospital of Bombay, died of the plague which is raging in that city.

The report that the Japanese are assisting the rebels in the Philippine Islands is officially denied in Madrid.

The Boers have completed a bill of indemnity against the British Government amounting to £2,000,000 for the Jameson raid.

The Paris edition of the New York Herald states that it can guarantee the accuracy of the news which it presents that Antonio Maceo is still alive.

The Warsaw doctors have decided that the Countess Helen, whose body was disinterred through a dread that she was merely in a state of catalepsy, is really dead.

A public meeting has been called, under the presidency of the Viceroy, the Earl of Elgin, to consider private measures to relieve the famine sufferers in India.

It is stated that the uncle of the Princess Chimay has stopped all supplies of money until affairs are settled in regard to her elopement with the Hungarian gypsy.

Reports from Cuba attribute many murders to the Spaniards. Within a few miles of Havana the bodies of sixteen Cubans were found in one ravine.

Newfoundland Legislature opens February 11. A resolution will, it is said, be introduced by the Government favouring reciprocity with the United States.

It is reported at Constantinople that Bedros Effendi, the Armenian recently appointed sub-Kimakan of Tscharsan, was assassinated two days after his arrival there.

It is stated in Vienna that Austria-Hungary will have to follow France and Germany, and spend from eighty to one hundred million dollars for quick-firing guns for the artillery service.

There is much talk in Paris of the impossibility of the French dockyards executing quickly enough the new naval programme, and the question whether ironclads shall be purchased in England has excited a patriotic discussion.

WITHIN THE LAW.

Wild-eyed Man. I want a lot of poison right off.

Drug Clerk. It's against the law to sell poison to people who look as if they want to commit suicide; but I'll let you have a bottle of Dr. Black-Sequin's Elixir of Life. That seems to be pretty sure death.

NO MORE USE FOR HORSES

WHEN THE WONDERFUL NEW FIRE TRUCK COMES IN USE.

It is Run by a Compressed Air Motor, and Can be Easily Controlled in the Streets. The Machinery Very Simple and Manipulated by One Man on the Driver's seat.

The automatic fire truck has come, and soon every Fire Department of importance in the large cities will be in possession of one of the latest inventions. It will be in every way a more practical and efficient aid to fire fighters than its more picturesque predecessor, which depended upon well-trained horses for its motive power.

From an artistic or sensational point there will doubtless be many persons who will regret the passing of the fire horse. But the spirit of progress has no sympathy for the picturesque. This, as well as everything else, must give way before the march of improvement, and so the horse's occupation is gone.

Of course, the same clanging of bells will be heard; the same rush of the long red truck through the crowded thoroughfare will be seen, and the same helmeted and rubber-clad fire fighters recklessly riding to victory or death on the narrow footboard will characterize the usual conflagrations, but there WILL BE NO HORSES.

The one aim of the fire fighters is to get to the scene of action and get their life and property saving apparatus into position and ready for use in the quickest possible manner. The delay of a few minutes or even seconds in reaching a fire may mean life or death to those imprisoned in the upper stories of a burning building, and even with the utmost exertions of three powerful horses, nine times out of ten the heavy ladder truck, without which the work of fire fighting is severely handicapped, is the last to reach the scene, because it is so heavy and unwieldy that the lighter engines and hose carriages outstripped it in the race. All this will be changed by the new invention.

In appearance the automobile fire truck does not differ greatly from the hook and ladder truck of to-day. There is the same arrangement of ladders along the body of the truck, the same footboard for the crew, and the manipulation of the rear steering gear is the same. The radical difference is in the arrangement of the front wheels and the driver's seat.

THE MOTIVE POWER. Of this automobile truck is what is known as a compressed air gas engine of continuous running design. One of the principal advantages is that it is always ready for use. All that is necessary is for the motorman to take his seat and move the operating lever. The engine which furnishes the motive power, is placed just above the front axle, and directly beneath the driver's seat. A system of cog wheels and levers act directly between the engine and the front wheels. In fact, the entire machinery, which is very simple, and consists principally of cog wheels, is located directly in front of the engine, almost beneath the footboard of the apparatus.

Extending upward from the machinery through the footboard, and extending at a height a little above the driver's seat, are two levers which resemble those in common use on cable cars. One of these levers is used for the double purpose of steering the machine, and as a brake, while the other lever controls the speed of the engine. It can be reversed when necessary, and in addition can be used as a supplementary air brake.

The engine is so constructed that when the driver takes his seat and grasps the left hand lever, the whole apparatus is ready to start. By simply drawing the lever toward himself, the driver sets the truck in motion. The cogs on the lever, which work the wheels, fall into another set of cogs, which work directly from the engine, and the start is made.

A MOST PECULIAR FEATURE. Is found in the fact that in order to stop the truck it is not necessary to stop the engine. A forward pressure on the left-hand lever throws the cogs out of place and a pull on the right-hand lever applies the air brakes. Should this not stop the progress of the truck in a sufficiently short time, the cogs can be thrown back into place and the engine reversed, and an entire set of other brakes be applied to the rear wheels of the truck.

The fender is automatic and adjustable, just clearing the street, and is designed so that any person unfortunate enough to be caught in it will escape at all events alive and with a reasonable certainty of little injury. The truck can be driven at a speed of 40 miles an hour, if necessary, and in order that it can travel at a high rate of speed over smooth and slippery pavements the tires of the wheels are roughened and provided (like a horse's hoof) with corks and short spikes. This improvement has been found to be most successful, especially in turning sharp curves.

Another great advantage of the new invention is found in the fact that the motive power being so completely under control it can be used immediately for elevating an extension ladder, which is of the greatest importance both in the fighting of fires and the saving of human life.

THE ATLANTIC'S DEPTH. The depth of the Atlantic between the Canary Islands and the West Indies is something awful. A pretty level bottom runs right away from the African Islands to the American ones, gradually deepening to nearly 19,000 feet. At this spot we might sink the highest point of the Alps and still have nearly half a mile of sea-water covering it.

THE MINES OF CANADA.

Some Interesting Notes on the Slovan Country.

Though winter checks the ardour of the prospector in the Slovan, B.C., silver camps, work on the claims which laid in their winter supply goes on briskly. The Wellington has shipped five carloads since snow fell. They have struck another 37 inch vein of galena and grey copper, giving 500 of silver per ton, as the average of several tests and they have had to put on more men. The White Water is shipping two carloads per week, and the ore is remarkably rich, at times yielding in considerable quantities \$1 per pound of silver and lead.

English capital is developing the Colorado, and the Sunset has got down to work for the winter. The output, in fact, from the Wellington and White Water camp, as a whole, creates a general activity. The Lone Star, though work only began late in the fall, has already run one tunnel 120 feet, 40 feet being through the ledge, and two others are being run at lower levels.

The Charleston also has four tunnels running up into big pay, it is said, and the owners of the Corinne or Cohan are pushing work, as the Lone Star adjoining is, and saying little. The latter, with four other claims, has been capitalized as the Hansard. It is reported that the Eldon has already withdrawn its stock from the market.

The Slovan Star has paid its fourth dividend since August, and in all \$300,000, or three-fifths of the capital, 250,000, of this has been paid this year.

The fraction between the Eldon and Paradise was sold for \$500 one day, its owner being in need of money, and the buyer resold the next day for \$2,000. This small claim is entirely undeveloped, but in a rich camp. The comparative ease with which mining is carried on in the Slovan silver district is shown by the work already done in the Charleston, the Corinne and the Lone Star. The former began in August last and the Corinne and Lone Star in November.

The influx of strangers on the lookout to buy claims only shows what the Slovan may expect in the spring.

GIBRALTAR.

The greatest fortress in the world is Gibraltar. The height of the rock is over 1,400 feet and this stupendous precipice is pierced by miles of galleries in the solid stone, portholes for cannons being placed at frequent intervals. The rock is perfectly impregnable to the shot of an enemy, and, by means of the great elevation, a plunging fire can be directed from an enormous height upon a hostile fleet. From the water batteries, to a distance two-thirds up the rock one tire after another of cannon is presented to the enemy. A garrison of from 5,000 to 10,000 troops is maintained, with provisions and ammunition for a six months' siege. In 1779 the celebrated siege by the Spaniards and French began and lasted three years. The fortress was successfully defended by 7,000 British, and attacked by an army of over 40,000 men, with 1,000 pieces of artillery, forty-seven sail of line, ten great floating batteries and great numbers of smaller boats. For months over 6,000 shells a day were thrown into the tower.

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