

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Hamilton's debt is \$3,100,000. The miners at the Springhill, N. S., colliery are on strike. Winnipeg will lay ten miles of new macadam pavements this year. Ottawa's population is now 51,540, and its assessed valuation \$21,947,635. Hon J. Israel Tarte, who has taken ill in Ottawa, is confined to his bed at Montreal. A company of New York capitalists has been formed to work an oil territory at Bothwell. Mr. Adam Beck of London has sold his famous horse Longshot to the Duke of Marlborough. Four men were badly injured by a dynamite explosion near Saw Bill Lake. They were thawing a can of it before a fire. Mrs. Philip Bender, one of the oldest residents on the Canadian frontier, died at Niagara Falls, N. Y., on Thursday, aged ninety-two. The contract for printing the Dominion notes, postage stamps, and postal cards has been awarded to the American Bank Note Company of New York. The body of Mr. Robert Johnson of Port Dalhousie was found in the Welland Canal, into which he is supposed to have fallen on Monday night. Mr. Edward Hanlan has challenged Mr. Gaudaur for the world's championship, conditional on the race being rowed in Toronto bay, three or five miles, for one thousand dollars, on May 8th. The Dominion Government has been advised by the Indian superintendent in British Columbia that the report from the Pacific coast about the trouble among the Indians regarding potlaching was exaggerated. Mr. J. H. Macoun, of the Geological Department, has left for England to join Prof. Darcy Thompson and assist in preparing a report to the Imperial Government on the result of their observations of seal life in the Pribyloff Islands last summer. A new schedule of wages and duties for the men on the eastern division of the C.P.R. was arranged between Mr. Spencer, Superintendent of the division, and a number of representatives of the men hailing from points between Fort William and Quebec. The resignation of Mr. John Sinclair as Governor-General's secretary has been accepted, and Mr. Sinclair has been appointed, without pay, acting secretary for his Excellency. This is on account of Mr. Sinclair's contesting a Scotch constituency for the Imperial Parliament. Mr. W. L. Scott, Master in Chancery at Ottawa, had to decide a knotty question as to whether Mr. Peter McRae or his wife died first in a drowning accident. As the husband was found with the body of his little boy clasped in his arms, the Master decided that he must have died first, because his efforts would be hampered by the boy. GREAT BRITAIN. Lord Mountstephen has given £400 to the Indian famine relief fund. The great channel tunnel scheme to connect Dover and Calais has been abandoned. The Queen continues in fine health and is busy over the programme for the diamond jubilee. It is stated on authority that Mr. William Waldorf Astor has not become a British subject. A Chancery suit which was started in 1720 is still in progress. The amount involved is nine million pounds. Not a Canadian has yet subscribed to the Mansion House Fund in London for the Indian famine sufferers. The Prince and Princess of Wales subscribed £250 to the Mansion House Fund for the Indian famine sufferers. Lord Rosemead (Sir Hercules Robinson) is very ill and has asked to be relieved from the Governorship of the Cape. Mr. Richard Holmes, the librarian of Windsor castle, is preparing the material for the authoritative "Personal Life of Queen Victoria." Five Drawing-rooms will be held during the jubilee season, two by the Queen and three in which the Princess of Wales will act for Her Majesty. Lord Rosebery is again suffering from insomnia, and will not be present in the House of Lords during the opening weeks of the session. Two more cases of cholera have developed on board the quarantine transport Nubia, which arrived at Plymouth from India on Saturday. Mr. Geo. A. Kirkpatrick, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, who underwent an operation in London on Wednesday, is slowly gaining strength. London papers of all shades of politics are said to approve of the signing of the arbitration treaty between Great Britain and the United States. The British Government is taking active steps to fit out an expedition to avenge the Benin massacre. It is probable that the Kingdom of Benin will be annexed. Hon. Edward Blake has been chosen by the Irish members to move the amendment to the address in reply to the Queen's speech in the Imperial Parliament. Lord Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, states that the famine, including loss of revenue, will cost the Indian treasury between four and six million pounds. It is remarked in London that Canada has now a chance of showing that her Imperial sympathies are more than the expression of words, by subscribing towards the Indian relief fund, on which no Canadian name has so far appeared. UNITED STATES. Mr. Cornelius N. Bliss, of New York, has positively declined the portfolio of the Navy Department. United States Secretary Olney has re-

buked Ambassador Bayard for making political speeches in England. The Hon. Joel E. Headley, the well-known historian, died at his residence in Newburg, N. Y., on Saturday. Receipts of grain at Buffalo from Fort William during the navigation season of 1896 aggregated 2,829,500 bushels. The Pittsburg Despatch says that the Cuban policy of the McKinley Administration will differ very little from that pursued by President Cleveland. Ernest L. Chase, son of Dr. Chase, of Ann Arbor, Mich., has been sentenced at Detroit to life imprisonment for cruelty to his wife, whom he has disfigured for life. Mrs. E. W. Wilson, a wealthy old lady, has been abducted from Chicago. Relatives think she is in the safe keeping of a child, now married, which she adopted thirty years ago. Frank Dougherty, a striking miner, was shot and instantly killed by Policeman Guyton for resisting arrest at Leadville, Col., on Monday. Dougherty had first fired at the policeman. Maggie Messure, a Canadian, aged 27, was arrested in Buffalo on Tuesday for shoplifting. A wagon load of silks and gloves was found in the home where she was employed as a servant. Prof. Henry W. Elliott has advised the United States Senate that from an economic and humane point of view it would be far better for the United States to kill all the remaining seals outright than to permit the slaughter to continue under the present regulations. The United States Deep Waterways Commission has submitted its report to Secretary Olney. The report is an unqualified endorsement of the ship canal project between the United States and Canada, and embraces a recommendation for two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for preliminary surveys. According to the returns from the commercial agencies of Messrs. Dun and Bradstreet there are no new nor special features to trade in the United States. Business is quiet and prices continue low, but the feeling among business men is generally a feeling of confidence, and the more steady tone and healthy tendency is considered more satisfactory because it is slow. Stocks in some lines are too large, especially in textile fabrics, and lower prices for these goods are probable. There have been some large purchases of leather and of wool; the week there has been little variation in wheat. Mercantile collections are reported as usually poor. In some directions an increased demand for dry goods, hardware and groceries is said to exist. But practically the business situation is unchanged. GENERAL. The Czarina is reported to be seriously ill. Mr. Willis, United States Minister to Honolulu, is dead. The proposed naval yard extension at Hong Kong will cost \$1,250,000. The Dowager Empress Asahio, mother of Emperor Mutsuhito, of Japan, is dead. Emperor William is still very active in forwarding his scheme for the reorganization of the artillery. Sir John B. Thurston, Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, is dangerously ill, and his recovery is doubtful. The Maharajah of Durbhanga has remitted eight lakhs of rupees of his revenue, and will expend a similar amount in the famine relief work. A Liberty League has been formed in New Zealand to check faddists. Total prohibitionists were the first to experience the power of the league. Famine and plague are stalking hand in hand through India, and it is almost impossible to give any idea of the fearful distress that prevails. The Young Turk agitation is spreading in the Balkan provinces, and placards have been issued calling upon true Muslims to kill the mad dog of a Sultan. The Turkish Reform League has issued a circular from Brussels, declaring that another massacre is in contemplation, and calling upon the powers to dethrone the Sultan. The Hamburg-American Liner Fuerst Bismarck, which ran aground in the Elbe on January 6, is still aground, all efforts to float her having thus far proved futile. Paris papers state that the Admiralty Council is in favor of using squadrons in time of war, and has rejected Admiral Aube's proposal for a fleet of fast cruisers with a view to privateering. The Princess Chimay, who eloped with a Hungarian musician, has been engaged to appear in tableaux vivants at the Berlin Winter Gardens, after her divorce from her husband, at a salary of seven hundred and fifty dollars a night. CHANGE OF HEART. Sweet Girl—I hope, you will call again Mr. Coolhead. Mr. Coolhead (new admirer)—Thank you, I should be delighted to call very soon again, if I were sure of finding you at home. Oh, I'm nearly always at home; but—let me see—it won't do for you to call Tuesday evening, for that is the night of the Home Mission meeting; and Wednesday night the Emperor's Daughters meet; and Thursday the Blue Ribbons have a most important session; and Friday is the monthly meeting of the Dorcas Club; and Saturday the Browning Club—really, I hardly know what day to set: but— Um—do you expect to belong to those societies always? Oh, yes, indeed; I'm a life member of them all. Er—I should like to call again soon, but this is our busy season, and I shall be confined very closely to the office for several months. Good-evening. OVERWORKED. Bigsby sold his wheel. Why? Has it up? No; but his wife kept him doing so many errands that he never got time to ride. DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE. What fine teeth you have, Grumpy. Are they your own? You can bet they are, I hold the dentist's receipt in full. LEMONS USED AS SOAP. Lemons are used as soap in many countries where they grow. When the men and women of the West Indies want to wash their hands they squeeze the juice of a lemon over them briskly in water until they are clean.

THE PLAGUE AT BOMBAY

BUSINESS AT A STANDSTILL IN THE DESERTED CITY.

Native Doctors Desert Their Post—The Cemeteries Overflowing—Difficulty in Burying the Dead.

A despatch from Bombay says:—Every day the plague situation here becomes worse, and it is estimated that nearly half the population of the city have fled to escape death. The situation is greatly aggravated by the prevalence of the famine. Thousands of natives who leave the city have absolutely nothing on which to support themselves in the country, and thus fall victims to slow death from starvation. The streets and bazaars are virtually deserted, and many shops and offices are closed. One result of the plague has been a great diminution of all kinds of crime, except burglaries and petty thefts, and these in many instances are due to poverty-stricken wretches taking advantage of the fact that large quantities of property have been left without protection by refugees from the plague-infested city. So great has been the falling-off in criminal and other cases that the High Court of Justice does not now find business enough to occupy more than half its time, while the courts in which small causes are tried have abandoned their sittings altogether and the officials have taken a holiday. Eight thousand refugees are camping out at Andheri, where every condition is favorable to an outbreak of the cholera. There is a SCARCITY OF WATER in and about the town and the sanitary conditions are of the crudest character. The refugees however, are more afraid of the bubonic plague than of cholera, and they will undoubtedly remain where they are rather than to return to Bombay. The Government is doing everything possible to assist the people, but its efforts thus far have been productive of little real result in the direction of cleanliness. In Poonah and Bandra the plague is raging with great virulence. The efforts of physicians to stay the progress of the disease in the slightest degree have been fruitless, and the death rate is extremely high. Hundreds of persons attacked by the disease have died in two or three hours after suffering dreadful agony. The customs of the natives add to the hideousness of the plague. The Mohammedan cemeteries are overcrowded, and it is impossible to find men enough to dig graves. The sound of dirges is incessant in and around the places where the Hindoos burn their dead in accordance with their time-honored custom, and the funeral music has a most depressing influence on all who hear it, and that numbers of dead bodies of Parses, the religious sect who expose their dead bodies to be eaten by the vultures, are SLOWLY DECOMPOSING in the open air in the places in which they are left. They have not been eaten by the vultures, the birds having been overgorged by the great abundance of corpses furnished to them. Everywhere the greatest difficulty is found in obtaining men to carry the dead to the cemeteries, burning places and the donkhams or "towers of silence" of the Parses. Even relatives shun this last service to their dead, fearing that they will contract the disease by touching or approaching the corpses. In many cases bodies have been found abandoned in the streets, their bearers having been overcome by fear while taking them to their last resting place. Up to Thursday the number of cases of the plague is placed officially at 3,394 and the deaths at 2,356. The Eurasians, those of half-native and half-foreign parentage, and very few Europeans have contracted the disease. They apparently not tracted the disease. A feature being subject to its attack. A feature of the disease that was noted in Hong Kong and southern China while it was prevalent there is also noticed here. Swine, poultry and rodents appear to be very susceptible to the plague and great numbers of them have died.

INVITATION TO THEFT.

The loss of nearly \$2,000 in cash by Mrs. Belle Helmuth in Fifth avenue, New York recently caused many police detectives to make remarks about the carelessness of women and the ease with which they can be robbed in public places.

Talking about her loss, a detective said the other day that he had heard of several cases in which women had lost property of considerable value in their anxiety to save trifles. "Clever thieves understand and take advantage of that failing," he said. "Many women, not content with carelessly carrying their purses in their hands when they walk about in crowds in the shopping district, will lay their purses down on counters when they are examining goods in the stores.

"Thieves are on the lookout for such opportunities, and all they have to do in many cases is merely to edge up to a careless woman, crowd her a little, perhaps pick up her pocket-book, when she isn't looking and walk away with it. Sometimes it is necessary to divert her attention, and also the attention of the salesman at the counter. "Thieves often travel in pairs for that purpose, and the most common trick is to drop a handkerchief, usually a cheap one with no marks on it, near the woman's skirt.

"Excuse me, but you have dropped your handkerchief," one thief says politely, and the woman looks down, and perhaps stoops to pick it up. Then there is an examination and a denial of ownership, and the handkerchief is handed over to the real owner who may call for it later, and in the meantime, the woman's purse has been stowed away in the pocket of a confederate, who makes tracks out of the store. "My gracious!" the woman exclaims presently, "I wonder what I did with my purse!" and then there is another diversion. By that time both thieves are beyond pursuit. The police hear of many such cases, but there are many women who never make complaint to the police, and are even ashamed to tell their friends how easily they have been robbed.

"Many women are robbed although they think they are taking care to protect their purses and other valuables by carrying them in satchels when they are on shopping trips, and in most cases the women fail to take one small precaution which would baffle the ordinary thief. The trouble is that vanity of the women and the fault of the manufacturers of satchels combine to favor the thieves.

"Nearly every satchel carried by women has some ornamental device on one side, and always on the side where the clasp is. A woman carries the satchel so that the ornamental device can be seen and the clasp is exposed to the touch of every light-fingered thief who passes her. It is the easiest possible trick for a thief to open a satchel in the hands of its owner, when carried that way, and take out a purse or some jewelry. It is done in crowded places every day or two. "If a woman carries her satchel so that the clasp is next to her person, however, the satchel can not be opened without her knowledge. She may not gratify her vanity by exposing to view the ornamental side of her satchel, her property will be safe in the crowd while she hangs on to the satchel."

EARLY USE OF ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.

Artificial arms and legs were used in Egypt as early as 700 B. C. They were made by the priests, who were the physicians at those times.

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