

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 curfew by-law will be enforced in Hamilton.

The strike at the Springhill, N. S., mines has been settled.

The Eastern portion of Lake Erie is reported to be frozen over.

Mr. John McKergow was elected President of the Montreal Board of Trade.

A Chatham syndicate is reported to have struck a rich flow of oil at Bothwell.

The Hochelaga Bank will increase its capital stock from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000.

Hon. J. I. Tarte has completed arrangements for the survey of Fraser River.

The Montreal Patrie says it is rumored that there will soon be a Papal ablegate in Canada.

It is considered probable in Montreal that there will be an early dissolution of the Quebec Legislature.

Immigrants who arrived and settled in Canada last year numbered 25,478, against 25,571 in 1895.

The steamer State of Georgia, 34 days out from Dantzic for Halifax, has been given up for lost.

William Tisdale, who lived fourteen miles north of Pilot Mound, Man., was frozen to death last week.

The amount of money at present deposited in the Dominion Post-Office and Savings Banks is \$57,875,775.

The Ottawa Electric Street Railway Company last year carried more than one million and a half passengers.

At a meeting of the Manitoba Cabinet on Thursday it was definitely decided to call the House together on the 18th of February.

Mr. H. Beaupre, ex-Mayor of Montreal, and proprietor of La Patrie, is slowly recovering, and is now quite out of danger.

Lord Aberdeen has presented ex-Mayor Borthwick, of Ottawa, with a silver inkstand, as a souvenir of his term of office.

A new morning paper is shortly to appear in Montreal. It will be a four-page, one-cent daily, and will be known as the Morning Despatch.

Evangelist H. Clarence Ramsey, of Toronto, has left for China, where he is to engage in missionary work for many years.

The Donaldson line steamship Warwick, which ran on the Yellow Muir ledge, Nova Scotia, two weeks ago, has disappeared from sight.

The Ottawa branch of the Canadian Federation of Labour has declared for an Alien Labour law, and reciprocity in labour with the United States.

Bricklayers on the sewer works in London are on strike because Foreman Smith refused to pay a fine of \$25 imposed by the Toronto union.

The fourteen-year-old son of Mr. Henry Tripp, of Ridgeway, Ont., was drowned in the lake of Windmill Point last Wednesday while sleighing on the ice.

Mr. James Mussels, a G.T.R. yardman at Niagara Falls, was caught between the draw-bars of two cars while coupling, and instantly killed.

The profits on the silver and copper coinage accruing to the Dominion Government during the past year amounted to seventy-six thousand dollars.

Premier Laurier has declined an invitation to speak at the Washington birthday celebration in Chicago on Feb. 22, owing to pressure of business.

The directors of the Central Canada Fair, Ottawa, intend enlarging the fair grounds and reconstructing the main building during the coming summer.

A shortage of about \$20,000 has been discovered in the funds of Brant County and Township, of which the Treasurer was the late Mr. W. S. Campbell.

Hon. Sidney Fisher announces that he has completed arrangements with shipping companies at Montreal for cold storage for agricultural and dairy products.

Capt. Collier of the London Salvation Army, in speaking of "Worldly Amusements," condemned skating, but admitted he had never been in a skating rink in his life.

A convict named Horrigan plunged a fork into the arm of a convict named McDonald in Kingston Penitentiary on Wednesday. Horrigan was sent to the prison of isolation.

Premier Laurier has replied to the British Consul-General at Brazil, guaranteeing the expenses of returning eleven more Canadian families, comprising forty persons from Brazil.

Capt. McNeill, of the Donaldson SS. Amarynthia has been condemned to pay to the wife of Dr. De Cow \$700 for the contents of a trunk stolen from his vessel in July, 1895.

According to official returns the production of pig iron in Canada more than doubled during the last fiscal year, 84,407 tons having been produced, as against 31,641 in the previous year.

London is supplying food and clothing to a band of 30 gypsies, men, women and children, who are encamped outside the city, and who are unable to leave their horses having strayed or been stolen.

James Mackie, station agent at the G. T. R. junction, near Kingston, and for 30 years connected with that railway, and Robert Thompson, of the freight department at Kingston, have been dismissed.

Pilotage commissioners at Halifax, St. John, Sydney, Victoria and other ports have been asked to refund to the Government fees appropriated by them during 1896 which were not allowed under the statutes.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The battleship Monarch was placed in commission at Chatham on Tuesday. She will go to South Africa.

The body of Isaac Pitman, the inventor of the Pitman system of shorthand,

who died last week, was cremated at Woking on Thursday.

It is understood that the Prince of Wales will attend one of the series of farewell banquets that Ambassador Hayward will give to his friends at the Embassy.

Lieut.-Governor Kirkpatrick, who recently underwent an operation in a London private hospital, continues to make favourable progress towards recovery.

The British and Foreign Arbitration Association has cabled to Washington a petition to the United States Senate in favor of the ratification of the Anglo-American arbitration treaty.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, in the House of Commons on Wednesday, said that he was not in a position to state what progress had been made towards an improved Canadian mail service, explaining that the Dominion Government is still considering the question.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. Gladstone has gone to Cannes.

The National Bank at Potsdam, N. Y., has closed its doors.

Gilbert Rud, aged 25, was frozen to death at Spring Valley, Minn.

A father, mother and three children were frozen to death near Little Rock, Ark., yesterday.

The heavy ice in the Ohio River has caused a total suspension of navigation.

Buffalo is suffering from a water famine, caused by the intake being choked with slush ice.

The lumbermen of Tonawanda, N. Y., are a unit in demanding a protective policy on Canadian lumber entering the United States.

Capt. John Campbell, of the barque British-America, was frozen to death two miles out of Mobile, Alabama, on Tuesday night.

A fire in Philadelphia destroyed a million dollars' worth of property. Mr. John Wanamaker's store was one of the buildings damaged.

According to statistics prepared in Albany, N.Y., the average of wages paid in New York State to workmen is \$436 a year, compared with \$551 in Ontario.

The betrothal is announced in London of Miss Alice Harper, daughter of the late Henry Harper of Philadelphia, to Captain Phillips, of London, formerly of the 13th Hussars.

Secretary Adam, of the British Legation at Brussels, has been appointed to succeed Viscount Gough, secretary of the British Embassy at Washington, recently appointed secretary of the Embassy at Berlin.

The new timber dry dock and the largest in the Brooklyn, N.Y., navy yard, is reported to be two feet shorter and four inches shallower than the specifications called for. It has already cost the Government \$538,679.

It is semi-officially stated that negotiations for a treaty of general arbitration between France and the United States were commenced about a year ago, but were only resumed when it was announced that the Anglo-American treaty had been definitely concluded.

The condition of business in the United States, according to the commercial reports of Messrs. Bradstreet and Dun, of New York, show little or no actual change. There are trade fluctuations here and there, and a tone of fair confidence in the future appears to exist among commercial men. As a rule trade is dull and prices continue low; the month is called a disappointing one, for the simple reason that expectations as to the amount of trade likely to be done at the beginning of the year run too high. Some woolen mills have stopped during the week, but a larger number have started, and more still are preparing to start at once. While there is no actual improvement in trade, the conditions are such as to inspire justifiable confidence.

GENERAL.

The reported illness of the Czar is again denied.

Dr. Zedekauer, the Czar's private physician, is dead.

Bombay has had 9,855 deaths since the plague broke out.

Senor Canovas del Castillo, the Spanish Premier, is slightly indisposed.

Italy has ordered six battalions of troops to be put in readiness to start for Massowah.

The Chilean Government is being defrauded annually of more than \$10,000,000 through smuggling.

It is announced that two million people are now employed upon the relief works in the famine districts of India.

The officials of the Japanese Legation in St. Petersburg confirm the report that the plague has broken out in the Island of Formosa.

It is denied at Madrid that negotiations are pending for a new commercial treaty between Spain and the United States.

The Grand Duchess Xenia, sister of the Czar, and wife of the Grand Duke Alexander Michaelovitch, has given birth to a son.

Advices from Havana says that the conflict between the sugar planters and Weyler continues with more bitterness than ever.

The proposed visit of the Czar and Czarina to Rome and London at the end of April has been cancelled, owing to the health of their Majesties.

The betrothal is announced of the Hereditary Prince of Saxe-Coburg, the eldest son of the Duke of Edinburgh, to Princess Feodora of Saxe-Meiningen.

A Madrid report says that General Azarraga, Minister of War, is to be appointed Governor-General of Cuba, and that Gen. Weyler is to be retained as commander-in-chief.

A battle is reported to have taken place on Tuesday between Brazilian troops and religious fanatics in the State of Bahia, Brazil. The loss on both sides was 250 killed.

Lieut. von Bruzwitz, the German officer who some time ago ran a laboring man through the back with a sword for knocking against his chair in a cafe, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

Advices from Agordat say that the dervishes, who were believed to be advancing on that place, have abandoned their fortified camp at Amideb and are retreating in the direction of Aimoasa, pursued by the friendly natives.

EUROPE FEARS PLAGUE

NINE SUDDEN DEATHS GREATLY ALARM MARSEILLES.

Sanitary Officers Very Active—Doctors Call the Disease "Infectious Pneumonia," But the Public is Not Convinced—France Adopts Drastic Measures.

The greatest alarm prevails at Marseilles on account of nine sudden deaths in one street.

A report was circulated ten days ago that a case of bubonic plague had been discovered. This was promptly denied by the health officials, but the precautions taken to guard against the plague were redoubled, especially in the vicinity of the old and new forts, where sailors congregate from all parts of the world.

The health officers declare that the nine deaths announced to-day were from "infectious pneumonia," but the public is far from being satisfied with the explanation.

Despatches from Paris show that the Government is alive to the danger. Decrees have been issued forbidding pilgrims from leaving Algeria, Tunis and Senegambia this year for Mecca, and merchandise from India must be imported through five designated ports, of which Marseilles is one. At these ports of entry Indian merchandise will only be allowed to be landed after having been thoroughly fumigated and otherwise disinfected.

Quantities of anti-plague serum are being sent to Marseilles and to other French ports, and all ships from the East will be carefully examined and quarantined if necessary.

ENGLAND FEELS SAFE.

Englishmen think the chance of the plague getting a foothold in Great Britain is remote, owing to the excellent sanitary conditions. But on the Continent the alarm has increased and the continental press demands the most rigorous inspection of everything imported from India.

Some excitement was caused in Paris last week by the stopping of a small steamboat bound from London to Paris at Bougival, a village on the Seine, about four miles north of Versailles. A rumor spread that the steamer was infected with the plague. It leaked out that she had on board carpets and bedding from India, but it developed later that they had been stored in London for six months, so the authorities allowed her to proceed to Paris.

Along the unsanitary ports of the Mediterranean grave fear is expressed that the plague will be introduced on steamers from India. The French Minister for the Interior, M. Barthou, has ordered large quantities of anti-plague serum prepared and sent to the French ports.

At a meeting of the Council of Public Assistance in Paris a note of alarm was struck in a remark that infected Indian carpets may have been brought into the French capital already.

Dr. Brouardet moreover asserts that the danger of the plague reaching Europe is imminent, that preventive means in France only exist in

RUDIMENTARY FORM

that France could do nothing to prevent the entrance of the plague and could do little to combat it.

These remarks have created a deep impression, and at the Cabinet council held at the Elysee Palace, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Hanotaux, and the Minister for the Interior communicated to their colleagues and to the President the sanitary measures adopted by the Government.

These include forbidding pilgrims from leaving Tunis, Algeria and Senegambia for Mecca this year, and President Faure has signed a decree imposing severe penalties upon the importation of merchandise from the infected ports of India through other ports than Marseilles, Pauillac, St. Nazaire, Havre, Dunkirk and Algiers.

The Italian Sanitary Council has considered the situation and it is understood that it advises against a general quarantine, as being commercially ruinous and inefficacious.

In Germany the plague is viewed through Anglophobe glasses. Great Britain is attacked for allowing herself to be lulled into a feeling of false security by the Indian authorities and the Bombay press, which is charged with trying to conceal the danger.

A NEW BULLET.

The British War Department Have Adopted a Terrible Missile of War.

The British War Department was much disturbed to find that the stopping powers of the bullet of their service rifle, the Lee-Metford, is so feeble that in the Chitral campaign the soldiers lost confidence in their weapons. The bullet had great penetrative power, but a great many of the tribesmen hit by it advanced as though untouched, and it comparatively seldom caused instant death. One tribesman, who had been hit by six bullets was treated in hospital, and made a quick recovery. Steps were soon taken by the War Department to devise a more destructive missile, and experiments have been made with a bullet having a metal-covered point made thin, with a lead core slightly exposed. While the flight of the bullet through the air is not interfered with, as it strikes an object it spreads out, and has almost the terrific power of laceration of the explosive bullet. A French officer has endeavored to make a compromise between these two forms of projectiles by inventing a bullet having the maximum power of disabling, and the minimum power of killing. It is made of paper, with a thin shell of aluminum. It has the same precision as the ordinary bullet, but produces a perfectly smooth wound. The Austrian War Office is now making trials of the invention.

HOBOKEN'S FATAL FIRES

SEVEN PERSONS BURNED TO DEATH ON SATURDAY NIGHT.

Mrs. Schroeder and Five Children Perish in One—An Eight-Year-Old Girl in the One.

A despatch from Hoboken, N.J., says—This city was visited by two disastrous fires between 11.30 Saturday night and 3 o'clock Sunday morning. Seven persons were burned to death and 30 families were made homeless. The Saturday night fire started in the three-storey frame building at 410 Newark street. Here six persons lost their lives. They were Mrs. Nellie Schroeder, 40 years old, and her five children, Henry, aged eleven; Maggie, seven; Kate, nine; John, three years, and Willie, three months old. The father of the family, Charles Schroeder, was in a nearby saloon playing cards while his wife and children were dying. The second fire started at 3 o'clock this morning in a five-storey, double-deck tenement at 157 Fourteenth street. In this fire three tenements, Nos. 155, 157 and 159, were entirely wrecked and No. 153 was damaged badly. One child was burned to death on the fourth floor of No. 157. She was Mabel Mangles, eight years old. The fire at 410 Newark street on started in a defective flue in Schaeffer's wheelwright shop on the ground floor of a three-storey frame building. Schaeffer occupied the second floor as living apartments. The front rooms on the third floor were occupied by Chas. Schroeder and his family, while James Blanchfield and family occupied the rooms in the rear. The Blanchfield family discovered the fire and barely made their escape by way of the roofs of the adjacent buildings. It was impossible to discover the fate of the Schroeder family until the fire had subsided, when the bodies of the mother and children were found.

HONESTY WITH MONEY.

It has often been noted that women are more honorable in money matters than men, and that it is far less rare to have a small loan paid back by a woman than by a man. This fact, again, appears to us, to be fully explained by the trustee theory of woman's attitude toward money. Women are not honest in other things than men, but the notion of money being a trust overrides and dominates other considerations. The man who borrows is very apt to forget all about the matter. The woman who borrows feels that a double trust runs with the money, and she cannot rest till she has repaid it. No doubt there are here also many exceptions, because there are many bad women, but at least it is safe to say that women are far less careless about money matters than men, and therefore less likely to commit the small acts of pecuniary dishonestness which come from negligence. Take it as a whole, women are more careful about money matters than men, and attach more importance to money. Hence it happens that they never make great fortunes, seldom go bankrupt, and generally are rather more scrupulous than men in small pecuniary transactions.

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