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Durham.
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It is well wooded; 1
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ILLIAM FEE,
Varney P. O.

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 meeting of Parliament will not take place until March 25.

The Western Fair Board of London report a most prosperous year.

Driver Hooper of "A" Battery, Kingston, has fallen heir to \$50,000.

Manitoba College students have contributed \$92.05 to the India relief fund.

Mr. T. Burton of the Matthews House, Stratford, had \$350 stolen from his cash register.

The London City Council voted the sum of \$500 to the relief of the India famine sufferers.

The Kingston Elevator Company, with a capital of \$150,000, has been formed at Kingston.

The Bell Telephone Company is asking the Government for permission to increase their rates.

Four hundred Welsh families from Buenos Ayres are expected to settle in Manitoba in the spring.

A disease has broken out amongst the sheep of Louth Township that baffles the veterinary surgeons.

Coal has been discovered on the shores of the Petewawa, on the Upper Ottawa, and it is said to be in paying quantities.

Mr. Joseph Bourque of Hull, has received the contract for the new temporary roof on the burned Parliament block.

An illicit still was seized on Wm. McIlroy's farm in Collingwood Township. McIlroy was fined \$100 and costs for the offence.

A small army of men are employed by the Public Works Department in Ottawa clearing away the debris of the recent fire.

A report is current in London that the military authorities at Ottawa have decided to disband the Seventh Battalion.

The Manitoba Dairy Association report that \$127,261 worth of butter and \$62,000 worth of cheese were exported last year.

Mr. Walter Vaughan of the law department of the Canadian Pacific Railway has been appointed Bursar of McGill University.

The Government has decided to abolish the office of Deputy Commissioner of Patents, made vacant by the death of Richard Pope.

The Caledonian Society of Ottawa proposes to organize a company of militias, which it hopes in time will be recognized by the militia authorities.

Michael Brennan, the life prisoner from Barrie at the Kingston penitentiary, has been taken from the hospital and placed at hard labor.

So many robberies have taken place in Montreal lately that a special guard has been placed on the banks and brokers' offices by the police.

Steps are being taken in Montreal to prepare a testimonial to be offered to Mrs. James A. Sadler, the well-known Irish authoress, at an early date.

A deputation from the Ottawa City Council visited Montreal and inspected their fire appliances. It is probable that Ottawa will get a water-tower.

It is rumored at Winnipeg that the Dominion Government will hand over to the Manitoba Government all the remaining Crown lands in the Province.

Special precautions are being taken on the Pacific Coast by the quarantine authorities to prevent the entrance of any of the deadly pestilences now raging in the Orient.

Manager Thompson of the Ogilvie Mining Company announces at Winnipeg that all their elevators will be closed owing to uncertainty regarding the tariff changes.

The shareholders of the Bank of Nova Scotia have authorized the directors to increase the capital of the bank from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 whenever they deem it expedient.

Commutation of the death sentence passed on Sullivan, of Moncton, N. B., for the murder of Mrs. Dutcher, has been asked, and a petition with 2,000 signatures forwarded to Ottawa.

Captain H. L. Covetter, of Savanne, Ont., died on Thursday. He was formerly commander of the steamer Chicora when she was running the blockade to Charleston during the American war.

The Hammond murder trial at Bracebridge came to a conclusion on Friday night at eleven o'clock, when the jury announced, after being out for five hours, that they could not agree on a verdict. They were discharged.

Acting on the advice of his physicians, Dr. Borden, Minister of Militia, will go south for two or three weeks to give himself time to recover from the chinking-up he got in the recent railway accident.

Veterinary Surgeon Morgan has discovered the disease known as the "sheep scab" in two flocks of sheep, one at Barrisfield, the other at Batterssea. The Department of Agriculture has been notified.

An agitation is on foot in Montreal to provide better facilities for crossing the St. Lawrence, either by building a new bridge or by improving the present Victoria bridge. Government aid is wanted for either project.

The fruit growers of Ontario are threatened with a new pest, a small insect called the San Jose Scale or Bark Louse. This insect has lately spread throughout the nurseries and orchards of Ohio and New York, doing great damage.

Sir William Van Horne, president, and Mr. Shaughnessy, vice-president, of the Canadian Pacific railway, waited on the Minister of Railways on Saturday and opposed the application which the Victoria, Vancouver, and Eastern railway is making to the Government for assistance to build its lines from the coast into the mining regions of East Kootenay.

At the annual convention of the Grand Council, A.O.U.W., great changes were effected in the constitution of the order, namely, the separation of the Grand Council of Canada from the Su-

preme Council in the United States, the removal of the headquarters from St. Thomas to Toronto, and the adoption of a graded rate of assessment.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Great Britain has agreed to the ratification of the Paris convention of 1885. Mr. S. F. Glass' pottery at Pottersburg, East London, was destroyed by fire.

The feeling in London is veering to the side of Col. Rhodes, whose examination will last another four or five sittings.

At a dinner at Oxford on Saturday night Mr. John Morley, M.P., said that Crete must be liberated, for once and for all, from Turkish control.

Mr. John Burns created a scene in the British House of Commons by attacking Mr. W. W. Astor for his opposition to the new County Council bill. The proposal to erect the hall was defeated.

In reply to a question from Lord Salisbury relative to the strength of the various fleets in the Mediterranean, Mr. Goschen, First Lord of the Admiralty, replied that Great Britain could whip the lot, which figures abundantly in prove.

The magnificent Hertford art collection, left by Sir Richard Wallace, the celebrated English philanthropist, to his widow, has now been bequeathed to the nation by her. It is one of the finest private galleries in the world, and is valued at £3,500,000.

In the British House of Commons on Thursday Mr. Joseph Chamberlain announced that the Transvaal had presented their bill for indemnity as a result of the Jameson raid. They ask for £1,677,938 3s. 8d., one million being for "moral and intellectual damage."

The Marquis of Salisbury's refusal to follow the suggestion of the Emperor of Germany and blockade the Piræus is warmly praised in England, and his suggestion to the powers that Crete be granted autonomy similar to that of the Island of Samoa is well received, as affording a solution of the problem which Greece can accept without a too great sacrifice of national pride.

UNITED STATES.

The great machine bolt trust is reported at Cleveland to have collapsed.

The Merchants' National Bank of Jacksonville, Fla., has closed its doors. Galveston, Texas, street railway is "tied up" by a strike of the employes.

Over 250 Greeks at San Francisco are ready to leave for Crete when called upon.

Increased activity is reported from manufacturing centres in Eastern Connecticut.

Chief Operator Williams, of the Western Union Telegraph Company, is dead at Pittsburg.

The Great Northern Railway is again blockaded on account of snow and storms in the Cascades.

The Standard Oil Company will, it is said, hereafter pay dividends of 5 per cent. quarterly.

The lower branch of the Nevada Legislature has voted down the Woman Suffrage amendment.

Four officials of De Kalb county, Indiana, have been found to be \$50,000 short in their accounts.

At San Quentin, Cal., on Wednesday, Chun Sing, a Chinaman, was hanged for a triple murder committed in September, 1895.

A cable from Havana states that Dr. Richard Ruiz, a naturalized American citizen, was found dead in his cell on Wednesday afternoon.

A bill to permit the construction of a bridge over the St. Lawrence opposite Cornwall was introduced in the United States Senate.

Opposite the Leland Hotel, Chicago, Elwood Leidy, of Philadelphia was held up by three men at eight o'clock the other night and robbed of \$165 and a gold watch.

Helen Weisenborn is suing the L.O.F. at Cleveland for \$1,000 on a policy on the life of her husband who, she says is still living.

The West End Street Railway Company of Boston is advertising in Canadian newspapers for men virtually defying the United States contract labour law.

H. J. Mayham, the New York broker who chartered a special train from Chicago to Denver, in order to reach the bedside of his dying son, failed by four hours. The distance 1,026 miles was made in 18 hours and 52 minutes, the fastest time on record for long distance.

According to the commercial reports from New York there is no actual change in the present condition of business throughout the United States. Among other things unseasonable weather has to a considerable extent militated against trade, and in some directions labour disputes have augmented the depression. On the other hand there is an increase in the iron and steel trades, a better inquiry for wool and cotton goods and boots and shoes, which encourage a hopeful view of the outlook. The mills are reported as having filled present demands, and wool, while more active, has not advanced in price. Prices are stated to be a little better in New York, St. Louis, and Chicago, but no advance has occurred in other directions. Still the general trend of trade is for improvement, however slight. Mercantile collections are reported as slow, and requests for "extensions" are common.

GENERAL.

It is reported that Bolivia will declare war upon Peru.

Dr. Steinitz, the famous chess player, is dead, at Moscow.

It is stated that 326,000 inhabitants have left Bombay on account of the plague.

Severe fighting is reported to have taken place between the Spanish troops and the insurgents of the Philippine Islands.

It has been found that German pork, duly inspected by a Government official, and stamped as free from disease, is infected.

Herr Wagner, a Berlin editor, has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment for having published the statement that the Foreign Office inspired a paragraph to the effect that the Czar was dissuaded from visiting Prince Bismarck by advice from the highest Government authorities.

SEWING GIRLS OF PARIS

HOW THE POOR SEAMSTRESSES OF THE GAY CITY LIVE.

The Hard Struggles for Existence—The Wages They Receive, and What it Costs Them to Live—Some Sad Instances of the Life They Are Forced to Lead.

There are 65,000 sewing girls in Paris. Of these 5,000 receive a living wage. Of the remaining 60,000 a large number live with parents or friends, whose combined efforts prolong an honest existence that is never far removed from starvation. As many more, "after suffering all that can be suffered in this world," give up the unequal contest and by slow stages enter that female throng which patrols every Paris street by night, not as maidens and not as wives. A few find their way into the Seine.

The work of these sewing girls is almost entirely taken up by those who deal in ladies' costumes—in dressmaking and linen wear, in embroidery, millinery, artificial flowers, and feathers. The work lasts eight months at most. When the pleasant days of summer come and the rich go off to mountain or seashore, the mountain girls, too, are at leisure. Only they must live until the autumn and winter fashions are in demand on what they have saved from their scanty wages. It is for them "the dead season" while others are enjoying life; and they are 20 years old.

Suppose, which is rarely the case, that the young girl earns 4 francs, or 80 cents, a day while work is on. Counting out the Sundays and legal holidays, she has a little less than \$20 a month. Of this she must pay at least \$2 for her room—very small, up under the roof, and without fire. She must make \$2 more do for her washing and the absolutely necessary repairs of her toilet. Then she may succeed in cutting down her total expenses of food and drink to 40 cents a day or \$12 for the month. She will thus be able to lay aside \$4 a month during the eight months while work holds on, against the dead season. This supposes that she buys nothing new for her own dress, although even the costumes of sewing girls wear out sooner or later. And she must deprive herself of every amusement that costs the least sum of money—of books and excursions, of music and the theatre—the whole year round. It is hard, in Paris, at 20 years of age.

At best, then, these sewing girls reach the dead season with \$32 saved up to meet it. As it lasts four months and their necessary expenses go on at the rate of \$16 a month, they have a very pretty problem in economy before them. If, as happens to many, they have been earning only seventy cents a day, or, as with beginners, only sixty, the readjustment of their mode of living presents yet nicer difficulties. There are various ways of solving them.

In a big shop near the luxurious Opera, toward the end of the dead season, when tourists start up trade by having their dressmaking done in Paris before sailing homeward, a young girl asked for work.

"We have none at present," was the answer. She turned in silence to go away, when she staggered and would have fallen. She was made to sit down, and the kindly forewoman questioned her closely.

"I am very hungry," she said at last; and then, now that the bounds were broken, she added, blushing: "Oh, madame, it is so long since I have been able to change my linen!"

It is well to know the details of this economy in food which has to be practised by so many young girls that never know what it is to eat according to their hunger. Their first step is naturally to try to get credit from the creamery and bakery. This does not last long, and it only adds painfully to the next year's burden. The logging anything on trust, house never give anything on trust. When the credit has run out, retrenchments have to be made, not in the superfluities, but in the necessities of life. So far the "little breakfast"—the warm mouthful taken in the morning to stay the stomach till the noonday lunch—has counted for about three cents in the day's expenses. Of this, two cents are spent for a bowl of hot milk or of milk and coffee, according to taste, with one cent for a roll or piece of bread.

It is hard for a young stomach to remain empty until noon, but harder things are to come. This is when the noonday meal itself has to be cut down. The glass of cheap wine and the little cup of black coffee, without which even the French poor scarcely think they can eat, go first. If things come to the worst, meat also has to be dispensed with. Then the meal will consist of two cents' worth of bread and a few more cents for hot potatoes or beans—starchy food that is filling and deceives the hunger. And at the very worst, the two cents' worth of bread have to do alone, eaten while walking about that the misery may not be betrayed. Sometimes, for here superlatives are wanting, starvation only marking the limit, the noonday meal is simply replaced by sitting in a public square for half an hour, or, when the weather is bad, in a church.

In the evening, when something must be eaten, the bread is eked out with cheap sausages ready food, or chowder. A potato stew, into which a bit of meat is thrown to give it a taste.

In this way some of these young girls manage to reduce their expenses for food to 10 cents a day. When hunger gnaws too sharply they can stay the whole day in bed. It is the dangerous time for their youth and inexperience, with the glad summer all around them. They are never so open to the delusions of kind smiles and words of sympathy.

"The weaker ones among us," says one who has had experience, "listen to the demon and fall. I think you cannot be ignorant of this. For us, who are the little tools of the great workshops of Paris, these are secrets." The strong hold their souls in patience. A young girl was in the habit of taking her evening meal in a boarding house and her luncheon at the shop where she worked. As the dead season advanced the shop reduced the girls to half work and suppressed the luncheon. She made no change, and it was only after two weeks that her falling strength made it impossible for her to conceal that she was eating but once a day. In another shop the girls were accustomed to bring their luncheon with them. One came every day, like the rest, with her little basket. After awhile it was noticed that the basket never had anything in it. Is it a wonder that consumption finds its richest harvest among these girls, who should be as flowers only opening to the joys of life?

Of course, the quick feminine wit finds ways and means out of this slow agony which men would scarcely dream of, just as the woman's endurance holds out longer. Two or three friends will do their cooking together, for this food in common costs less and goes further. Then the big shops pay more attention to their good workers than they once did, and manage to keep many on at half work. Or the employers and forewomen give out their own and their families' clothes to be made at this time; and they allow the poor girls to fill in the workshops the poor little orders they may have got for themselves. Aunts and cousins and friends can pay something for the making of their common gowns, and very little helps. This is even given as the reason why all the women of Paris dress in the fashion. The cheap gowns of the telephone girls are made by the same hands as those of the rich lady who descends from her carriage. Of late years, also, the multiplication of ready-made clothing shops of all kinds increases the chance of earning a pittance in the dead season.

So far it is religious charity that does the most to lighten the burden of these brave young women who wish to remain honest in a city where pleasure and wealth seem to follow the vicious. But the problem is difficult. The fine lady who for a brief half hour comes in contact with a "try-on" or a "skirt maker" can hardly be expected to do anything. The employer of labor will continue to pay for work as little as he can. The Comte d'Haussonville of the Academy has set himself to find some remedy, and thinks he has found at least an alleviation of the evil. Time, perhaps, will tell.

HEATED SHOES.

An effective means of warming the feet has been patented in Germany. The inventor calls it "heatable shoes." Within the heel of the shoe, which is hollowed out, there is a receptacle for a glowing substance, similar to that used in the Japanese hand-warmers. Between the soles, imbedded in asbestos covers, is a rubber bag, which is filled with water. The water is heated, and, as it circulates while the wearer of the shoe is walking, it keeps the surface of the foot warm. A small safety valve is provided so that the bag cannot burst. The warmth given by this sole never rises above 70 degrees Fahrenheit, and will last about eight hours. The sole is slightly thicker than that of a wet weather boot.

DISCRIMINATING AGREEMENT.

George describes the girl he is engaged to as a "perfect vision." Yes. And his sister says she is a sight.

Cash System

Adopted by

N. G. & J. McKechnie.

We beg to inform our customers and the public generally that we have adopted the Cash System, which means Cash or its Equivalent, and that our motto will be "Large Sales and Small Profits."

We take this opportunity of thanking our customers for past patronage, and we are convinced that the new system will merit a continuance of the same.

N. G. & J. McKECHNIE

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Each week an epitome of the world's news, articles on the household and farm, an serials by the most popular authors.

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PYNY-PECTORAL

The Quick Cure for COUGHS, COLDS, CROUP, BRONCHITIS, HOARSENESS, etc.

Mrs. JOSEPH NORWICK, of 63 Sorauen Ave., Toronto, writes: "Pyny-Pectoral has never failed to cure my children of croup after a few doses. It saved my child of a long-standing cough after several other remedies had failed. It has also proved an excellent cough cure for my family. I prefer it to any other medicine for coughs, croup or hoarseness."

H. O. BARBOUR, of Little Rocher, N.B., writes: "As a cure for coughs Pyny-Pectoral is the best selling medicine I have; my customers will have no other."

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