

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.

Dr. Lynch of Lindsay is dead. A home for the aged poor is being agitated at Guelph.

The Hamilton Police Athletic Association has decided to disband.

The Hudson Bay Company contribute \$1,000 to the India famine fund.

The Springhill colliery is again in operation, the men having all returned to work.

A number of men employed on the sewerage works at Loudon struck for better pay.

Nova Scotia's revenue for the year is estimated at \$859,099, and the expenditure \$855,000.

Mr. W. C. Wilson, grocer, of Woodstock, committed suicide by taking a dose of prussic acid.

Miss Alice Kay, employed at the Gibson House, Belleville, committed suicide by taking Paris green.

Mr. W. J. Gage and others asked Premier Greenway to establish a home for consumptives in Manitoba.

George Irvine, Q. C., judge of the Admiralty Court and President of the Union Club of Quebec, is dead.

Winnipeg's India famine fund now totals \$8,932.96, of which \$443.21 was received from the Manitoba school children.

Mr. R. M. Chester, a Winnipeg seed merchant, has been missing since Wednesday last. He formerly lived in Toronto.

Michael Delaney, the Grand Trunk sectionman who was struck by a train near Dundas last Monday morning, died at Hamilton.

The Guelph firebugs were sentenced by Judge Chadwick, Busby getting six years and Quinn eight years in the Kingston Penitentiary.

Stella Cushing, the young girl bitten by a Newfoundland dog in London South recently, is recovering at the Pasteur Institute, New York.

The congregation of the Norwich Avenue Methodist Church, Woodstock, have decided to erect an addition to their church, at a cost of \$2,000.

The Victoria Hockey Club of Winnipeg will erect a beautiful monument over the grave of their late comrade, Fred Higginbotham, at Bowmanville.

The inquest on the body of the newly-born babe murdered at Dunnville three weeks ago has been adjourned to enable the police to pursue their enquiries.

Some Montreal Liberals are arranging to present Mr. Laurier, previous to his departure for England, with a life size portrait of himself, costing one thousand dollars.

A Ridgeway young man named Patrick Mannix was shot through the shoulder by Joseph Hall, who runs a billiard parlor in the town. The wound is a very serious one.

The coroner's jury which enquired into the death of James Ery, who murdered Mr. Shaw at Ravensworth, has returned a verdict to the effect that the murderer committed suicide.

Mr. Thomas King, a pensioner, of Kingston, has been notified that by the death of a rich relative he and his sisters have been bequeathed £10,000 and an estate in Ireland.

The 5th Royal Scots of Montreal has been invited by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston to visit that city this summer, and an attempt will be made to complete arrangements.

The Protestant School Commissioners of Montreal have entered an action against Mr. Brenner for having sent his children to a Public School while there were cases of measles in the family.

At a meeting of the Toronto Humane Society Thursday, a form of petition was approved of to be presented to the Dominion Government in favor of enacting legislation against the docking of horses.

Hon. Sidney Fisher, addressed a meeting of the Dominion Alliance in Montreal, warning them that the coming plebiscite would be a fight to the death with the liquor traffic in Canada.

The coroner's jury at Port Arthur found that Dabin and Corrier, the two men found dead in the smouldering ruins of their farm buildings, were murdered, and that the buildings were set on fire.

Mr. Lawrence E. Vogler, an old and respected resident and for many years reeve of the township of Zone, Ont., was drowned on Friday by falling through an airhole whilst crossing the River Thames.

Mr. Sidney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, delivered an address the other night to the Epworth League Convention in Montreal, in which he referred to the coming plebiscite, and hoped it would be a success. He urged temperance people to take practical steps to that end.

In the Court of Appeals at Montreal on Wednesday judgment was given in a case in which the rights of trade unions were involved. A stonecutter sued the union for \$2,500 damages which he alleged he had suffered through the strike of his fellow-workers at the order of the union. The Appeal Court reversed the Court of Reference judgment, which had decided against the union. The judgment stated that the men in striking had obeyed the rules of the union, which were recognized by law.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The British steamer State of Georgia has been posted at Lloyds in London as missing.

Lieut.-Governor Kirkpatrick has almost entirely recovered. He will spend a few weeks in Brighton before returning to Canada.

The first Drawing-room of the season was held on Wednesday in Buckingham Palace. The Queen left before the general presentations, which were taken by the Princess of Wales, in behalf of her Majesty.

Mr. Chamberlain stated in the House of Commons that it was not intended to hold any Imperial conference during the visit of the colonial Premiers to London, but the Government would discuss any matters of common interest which the visitors might bring up.

During a debate in the House of Commons on Wednesday on the bombardment of the insurgents in the Island of Crete, Mr. Labouchere referred to the Sultan of Turkey as "that miserable cur, that foul blot on civilization," for which he was called to order by the Speaker, and apologized.

Lord Salisbury made a statement of the British policy in regard to Crete, the principal feature of which is the establishment of administrative autonomy in the island, which will still remain a portion of the Turkish empire; but both Greece and Turkey must absolutely withdraw their forces.

At the enquiry of the Parliamentary Committee into the Jameson raid on Friday Col. Rhodes gave evidence showing that President Kruger favoured Germany against Great Britain. He absolutely acquitted Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Secretary of State for the Colonies, of all knowledge of the revolutionary movement.

In the House of Lords on Thursday the Marquis of Salisbury announced that a telegram had been sent on Wednesday to the British Ambassadors to the courts of the great powers, informing them of the British Government's policy on the situation in Crete. They propose to establish an administrative autonomy in Crete, which, however, is to remain a portion of the Turkish Empire.

UNITED STATES.

Archbishop Grace is dead at St. Paul Minn., aged 82.

Excessive rain has caused destructive floods in West Virginia.

The Ohio river is still rising. Railroads and towns are partly submerged.

There is serious trouble between the Indians in Arizona and the Government.

The Drummond line has started its steamers between Detroit and Cleveland.

Four persons were murdered and afterwards cremated by a mob near Sistersville, W. Va.

A sheriff's jury at White Plains, N. Y., has decided that George W. Palmer, who murdered his mother, brother and sister, is insane.

The American Senate passed the bill authorizing the construction of a bridge across the St. Lawrence River from Hogansburg to Cornwall.

At Yerrington, 50 miles from Carson a Piute Indian was killed by a white man, and an Indian uprising is threatened in consequence.

Over 400 freight handlers of the Flint and Pere Marquette Railroad are on strike at Ludington, Mich., because their wages have been cut.

While ice-boating near Sackett's Harbor Edward Frazier and Arthur Algate sailed out so far that they lost their way. When discovered Frazier was dead from exposure.

Commercial returns from the agencies of Messrs. Dunn and Bradstreet at New York report but little appreciable change in business conditions throughout the United States; and until after the President-elect is installed nothing of consequence in the shape of improvement is looked for. The bursting of the steel and iron combine appears to have been attended with satisfactory results so far, as business in various branches of the iron industry has assumed unexpectedly large proportions, and in consequence many thousands of persons are again at work. Several cotton and woollen mills are also reported to have just started work again, and prospects in many directions are improving.

GENERAL.

Lima, Peru, is threatened with an epidemic of yellow fever.

While out riding Lord Brassey, Governor of Victoria, was thrown from his horse and severely injured.

It is reported that over 25,000 Moslems have been killed and 25 of their villages pillaged and burned during the recent troubles in Crete.

Russia, through the Russian Minister at Athens, has called upon Greece to withdraw all of her troops and her fleet from Crete within three days.

Cholera has broken out among the people employed on the relief works of the native State of Rewah, India. In two days 160 deaths have been recorded.

The Governor's palace, with all the archives, at Canea, Island of Crete, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday. It is supposed to have been caused by incendiaries.

Leaflets have been distributed in the Mosques at Constantinople calling upon the faithful to exterminate the infidels, and much agitation and excitement is caused by the reports received there from Crete.

In the French Chamber of Deputies on Wednesday M. Hanotaux Minister for Foreign Affairs, in replying to a criticism of the Government's Armenian policy, said that one of the powers had actually proposed forcing the passage of the Straits of the Dardanelles and seizing the Sultan in his palace, but Europe had not assented to this. England, he continued, then came back to France's proposal for a conference of the Ambassadors at Constantinople, with the view to reorganize and not destroy the Turkish Empire.

AGE OF THE PREMIERS.

Care and worry do not seem to shorten the lives of the British Premiers. Gladstone by completing his eighty-seventh year has broken the record which was held by Lord Sidmouth, who died past 86. Earl Russell died at the same age; the Duke of Wellington at 82, Lord Palmerston 77, Earl of 81, Earl of Beaconsfield 77, Earl of Aberdeen 76, Earl of Derby 80, Sir Robert Peel 62, Gladstone and Sir Robert are the only two Premiers who were not peers and did not accept a peerage from the Queen.

INCONVENIENT EARS.

How's your arm? asked Tommy of the young man who calls at the house.

It's all right. Why?

'Cause I heard neither tell sister that she peeked into the parlor the other night and saw your arm out of place.

BIKE ON A BATTLEFIELD

FORMIDABLE ADJUNCT TO AN ARMY IN CASE OF WAR.

Bayonets, Guns and Soldiers in the Saddle—More Powerful Than a Company of Cavalry—To Be Propelled by a Gasoline Motor at Lightning Speed.

A motor bicycle has just been invented by a French genius which promises to prove one of the most formidable adjuncts to an army in conflict which has been created for a number of years. Competent military authorities who have given the machine and the idea of the inventor careful consideration declare that a company of soldiers mounted on these cycles could inflict more damage upon the enemy, provided the conflicts did not occur in a mountainous country, than four companies of infantry equipped in the regulation fashion could accomplish.

So notable is the impression that the motor cycle has made in France that the French Minister of War, together with a military commission made up of the most thoroughly posted officers of the army of France, is seriously considering giving the new invention the sanction of the Government and equipping several companies of the army with the machine.

There have been many experiments with the bicycle in the armies of Europe, and the military authorities of no nation have taken more interest in the machine and its development than those of France.

Now, as to the motor cycle itself. It is in form and principle like unto

THE MOTOR CYCLE

with which we are all more or less familiar. There are, however, one or two important exceptions, the most notable of these, so far as the operation of the machine is concerned, being that the rider steers the cycle with his feet, the handle bar, or rather the substitute for it, being adapted to a totally different purpose. The motor, the impelling force of the cycle, is located just forward of the rear wheel, and is of sufficient size to insure a satisfactory rate of speed. The small tank which carries the fuel which supplies the motor contains an ample quantity to guarantee at least a day's journey without replenishing. The inventor claims that the machine will easily make, over a fairly rough country, from 12 to 15 miles an hour, and believes that with good roads, unimpeded, it would do even better than this.

Bayonets extend forward sufficiently to clear the machine entirely, and to be without an impediment to penetrate whatever the handle bars is a curved gun rest, which may be moved upward to suit the desire of the rider. Every rider is supposed to be armed with a repeating rifle, and it will be understood that from the fact that he can steer the machine with the feet he is left entirely free to use the weapon—as unnumbered as he would be if he were standing on the ground, like the ordinary infantryman of to-day.

A charge by a company mounted on these cycles would practically be one of those

MOST DREADED EVENTS in a battle, a bayonet conflict and a heavy fire from riflemen combined.

It has been a favorite argument of the opponents of the bicycle for army use that the machines could never be utilized except for purely transportation purposes, and that therefore they were of no value in a great measure an incubance to an army in the field. In time of battle, it was alleged, they were of no value whatever. The invention of this Frenchman seems to remove this objection entirely.

It might be said by quibblers that the new cycle is not up to date, because the motive power is gasoline rather than electricity. This is unfair, because electricity for such use—for bicycles or motor cycles—is only in the experimental stage. While it is true that there is sufficient power to be obtained by electricity to drive the motor cycle or any other machine, there confronts one the old problem of the storage battery. This latter has never proved successful for continued propulsion. The motor cycle for war must be run on a basis of absolute certainty. This is why M. Francois L'Heraux, the inventor, says gasoline was used by him.

The method of conveying an amount of gasoline sufficient to supply the various machines is as thoroughly modern as the machines themselves. It is a tank, very much like those with which we are all familiar, mounted upon a horseless wagon, which is also driven by a gasoline motor. It is the intention to recharge the motor cycles each day, as it has been estimated that the ordinary tank, which forms part of the machine, contains just about a sufficient amount of gasoline to supply the motor for one day's travel, the highest estimated rate of speed being the basis of calculation.

DANGER OF BURIAL ALIVE.

Your chance of being buried alive is anywhere from 2 to 20 in 1,000, according to statistics gathered in England, Wales, France and Germany. Col. E. P. Vollum and Mr. Tebb have written a book on the subject of premature burial, and they have followed up the book by declaring that they by no means exaggerated the case. That the percentage of these distressing disasters, as compared to the total annual interments, is small is obvious, but a small percentage on 550,000 annual burials in England and Wales, on 800,000 in France and over 1,000,000 in the United States will total a vast aggregate of unimaginable and needless suffering. It would have been impossible to include all the cases collected, says Mr. Tebb, in a volume of 400 pages. Dr. Franz Hartmann himself has collected 700 cases, including several in his own district, and Dr. Le Guern, whose work is entitled "Danger des Inhumations," has passed through several editions, has collected 2,313 cases.

UTILIZATION OF WAVE POWER

A Machine Built by a British Engineer to Get Work Out of the Sea.

B. Morley Fletcher, an associate member of the British Institute of Civil Engineers, has been engaged for some time in carrying on experiments in England looking to the utilization of the force developed by the rise and fall of the waves of the sea. Many attempts have been made to use this enormous power for mechanical purposes, and it has been estimated that a very small fraction of the energy developed in the sea by the winds would suffice for all human needs. Mr. Fletcher has succeeded in making an experimental machine which promises to be of real utility for many purposes.

The machine is simply a pump arranged in an ingenious manner, so that the waves shall work it up and down, and the force of the stream of water thus propelled may be used either directly for operating engines or be carried to reservoirs and used from these for producing energy.

Mr. Fletcher's machine, consists first, of a strong metal rod, the lower end of which is held stationary at a fixed distance from the bottom of the sea by means of chains and anchors. Near the upper end, and built so that it can slide on the rod, is a big, round, hollow float, shaped like a cheese box. Attached to the lower side of this float, one on either side of the central rod, are two long pumps whose pistons rods are made fast to a cross-piece on the central rod below. It is evident that if the central rod is held firmly, the rise and fall of the floating cylinder at the top will work the pumps. The difficulty to be overcome lies in the fact that the central rod would naturally rise and fall with the float.

To overcome this tendency Mr. Fletcher has carried the lower end of the central rod down into the sea below the zone of wave action, and there fastened a great flat disk to the rod. This disk offers so much resistance to movement that it holds the central rod practically still while the float rises and falls, and which was used at Dover, had a stroke of about four feet in diameter and a stroke of the pumps of four feet; and this, when in full action, developed 3.7 horse power.

A plant is now being built which is intended to develop 300 horse power when it is fully operated by the waves.

THE GREAT MOA.

New Zealand was once inhabited by a race of gigantic wingless birds, called the moa. Although now extinct, these birds are well known to men of science through their skeletons, thousands of which have been found. Unfortunately, in the great majority of cases, the skeletons are not complete, and in reconstructing them for exhibition in museums it is necessary to match together the bones of different individuals. Recently, however, the British Museum has obtained a complete skeleton of a moa nearly ten feet high. Not more than three or four similarly perfect skeletons of this monster of an age long past are known to be in existence.

MR. ASBURY PEPPERS.

While I hate to tackle such an easy one, said Asbury Peppers, coming in late to get a full attendance. I must remark that when Greece really heats up she will be apt to spread herself.

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