

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.

A third case of leprosy is reported to exist in Manitoba. Manitoba's India famine fund amounts to \$17,000.

A discovery of hard coal is reported on the shore of Lake Winnipeg. Brantford is to have a free postal delivery at the close of the year.

A police census of the population of Toronto will be taken on Sunday, April 11. Mr. Speaker Edgar and ex-Speaker White have been made Privy Counsellors.

Safe-crackers stole over \$240 from the T. E. Walker Company's safe at Hamilton. The London Street Railway Company propose extending their Springbank line towards Byron.

The departmental stores of Montreal are being prosecuted for selling drugs without a license. The Hamilton Radial Railway Company will extend its beach line to the easterly limits of Burlington.

Lord and Lady Aberdeen have accepted an invitation to attend the convocation of Queen's University. A coroner's jury at Hamilton decided that Charles Curran came to his death by his foot being caught in a frog not properly packed.

Mr. Hugh A. Allan in an interview at Montreal said his company was still in the field to tender for the fast Atlantic steamship service. Arsene Turbide, the only survivor of a party of three lost from the Bird Rocks, N.S., while seal hunting recently, died on Monday night.

News has been received that the Dominion line has decided to build a new steamer, which will be the largest that ever sailed into the port of Montreal. It is stated that the Furnace Line, now running between Manchester and Boston, will establish a route during the coming season between Montreal and Liverpool.

On Monday night Clarence Martin, aged 21, employed on the farm of Mr. William Freeman, Binbrook, Ont., committed suicide by hanging himself in the barn. A young Montreal girl named Greta Taylor, tried to commit suicide by swallowing Paris green on account of disappointment in love. She will probably die.

Dr. Bourinot, of Ottawa, has been appointed honorary fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute, "in recognition of his usefulness as a writer on Canadian and colonial subjects." The Thorold Council has petitioned the Government to protect the wood pulp manufacturers by an export duty on the wood and taking the duty off their machinery.

It has been decided that the military jubilee of the Queen's diamond jubilee in Montreal shall take the form of a church parade on June 20th and a grand review on June 22. Dr. Smith, of the Tracadie, N. B., lazararetto has been instructed to proceed to Winnipeg to investigate two alleged cases of leprosy among Icelandic immigrants there.

Philippe Lecours was found guilty of the manslaughter at Father Point, the vicar being his brother, whom he stabbed with a pocket-knife. The sentence was six years in penitentiary. R. Beaubien, a stonecutter, of Ottawa, has taken an action for three thousand dollars against the Rockland branch of the Stonecutters' Union for alleged illegal suspension two years ago.

Sir Donald Smith proposes that Montreal should celebrate the diamond jubilee by erecting an establishment for the training of nurses. Mayor Wilson Smith favors the building of a viceregal residence. Everything points to the early opening of navigation through the great lakes and the St. Lawrence system. It is expected that vessels will be passing through from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario by the middle of April.

Andrew McNeillidge, a married man, 50 years of age, attempted suicide on Thursday at his residence, 31 Marlborough avenue, Toronto, by locking himself in a room and turning on the gas. He was discovered in time to save his life. Dr. Bourinot, honorary secretary of the Royal Society of Canada, has received a letter from the Mayor of Bristol, Eng., stating that two members of the City Council will be present at the Cabot celebration in Halifax, N. S., next June.

A carefully prepared scheme for the incorporation of the Drummond County railway in the Intercolonial system is being given the attention of the Dominion Government. It is proposed to complete the necessary link to bring the Intercolonial trains into Montreal over the Grand Trunk tracks. General Manager Hays, in behalf of the Grand Trunk Railway, has lodged a petition at Ottawa for permission to capitalize the revenue overdraft and to increase the borrowing powers of the company by an issue of a further sum of 4 per cent. consolidated debenture stock, the interest on which shall not exceed £50,000 yearly.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Salisbury, who has been suffering from influenza for the past few days, has almost entirely recovered. Mr. Gladstone, who is sojourning in the south of France, has just recovered from a mild attack of influenza. April 16th (Good Friday), April 17th, 19th and 20th, will be observed as holidays in the Liverpool Cotton Exchange. It is rumored that Mr. Chamberlain has written a sharp letter to President Kruger, rebuking him for violating the London convention. Sir William Harcourt's attack of influenza will prevent his participating in the forthcoming debate on the For-

eign Office estimates, when the Oretan matter is likely to be discussed. The London Times, referring to the gift of the original log of the Mayflower to the United States, says it is no light thing to part with a document of national interest. Mr. Gladstone, notwithstanding his great age, has joined the ranks of the wheelmen. He has written to a friend in London, saying that he has fairly mastered the machine. It is reported in London court circles that the Queen on her return from the South of France, will pay a visit to Mr. William Waldorf Astor, at Cliveden in recognition of his munificence. It is learned that the British Government propose to deal with the question of contagious disease among the British troops in India, by placing the inspection of women in the hands of women doctors. The announcement that the United States tariff, will not be retroactive has resulted in an inevitable rush of exports to America from England, and for the moment every industry is pushing this work. While the British steamer Templemore was being towed by the Ulstermore the hawser parted. The flying wire swept the Templemore's deck, killing Capt. Swainson, and a seaman, and breaking the legs of four other men. UNITED STATES. The whipping post has been revived in Missouri after four years of disuse. United States Ambassador Hay will leave New York for London April 14. There is at present before the New York Senate a bill to prevent dishonest and misleading advertising of goods. Sylvester Scovel, the newspaper correspondent who was imprisoned for 31 days in Cuba, has returned to New York. Eight Chinamen were captured on Wednesday in Malone, N. Y., charged with illegally crossing the line. They were remanded for a week. Nothing is known of the fate of the 109,000 poor people in the flooded lowlands of the White, Arkansas and Black Rivers in Arkansas. Josephine De Rosay's suit against J. F. O'Brien at Boston for \$100,000 for breach of promise of marriage, was on Tuesday settled out of court for \$20,000. The steamer Creole reported at New York that she had picked up a boat containing dead bodies, believed to be victims of the St. Nazaire steamship disaster. The Colorado State Senate has passed the bill providing for the abolition of capital punishment. The measure now awaits the Governor's signature to become law. It is the intention of President McKinley not to recognize Cuba. The policy of his Administration will be to let the Spaniards and the insurgents fight it out between them. The United States Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of the United States v. the Buffalo Natural Gas and Fuel Company decided that natural gas is a crude mineral, and exempt from duty. Mr. Howe, of New York, has introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives providing that the United States constitution be so amended that Congress shall have exclusive power to regulate marriage and divorce. The Supreme Court of the United States declares that railway traffic associations are a peril to commerce and a violation of the anti-trust law. Railroad men everywhere are startled by its force, and an entire change in the methods of distributing freight traffic may be caused by it. The Joint Traffic Association will fight for its life. Commercial summaries by Messrs. Dun and Bradstreet, telegraphed from New York, are, on the whole, of a reassuring description. Considering the antagonistic conditions existing both in the United States and in Europe, the volume of business is fair. The political situation in Europe has of course been an important factor for depression, while in the States, the legal decision against railway combinations, several serious floods, and the destruction of the iron ore trust, have of course retarded the growth of the more thoughtful farmers who had been observing closely the growth of the thistle. The theoretical farmers had insisted that the case. They observed that land covered with the foreign growth one year was in many cases perfectly free from the thistle the following season. Many leading agriculturists of the state finally agreed that the plant was not nearly as dangerous as at first supposed, and so menaced as at first supposed, and that it did not retain its hold upon land for more than one season, and after that never returned to the same territory. In fact, they compared it somewhat to smallpox in its action on the human system. The fertile soil which had attracted the thistle seemed to have no affinity with it after a short contact, and farms were none the worse for the plant's presence other than the annoyance of the first year. Many begun to act along this line. Soon it was quite apparent that this was the case. Then it was shortly discovered that the law regulating its extermination. Two not only costly but quite useless. Two years ago the sentiment against the continuance of the law on the statutes of Nebraska was quite pronounced, but did not crystallize into anything definite until this session of the Legislature, when the farming element was so much in the majority that the Russian thistle law was wiped off the books about the first thing. The national Agricultural Department has not yet agreed to accept a fact what the farmers of the prairie states have already demonstrated to be true. On the contrary, the authorities at Washington think that special conditions in the soil of some sections may contribute to retard the growth of the thistle, but with this exception they are still of the old opinion. In the meantime Nebraska farmers have gone a step further and found a very good use for the weed that was to devastate their farms. In fact they have made BOTH FOOD AND FUEL of the dread thistle. The thistles are gathered in great bunches when young and tender, chopped up and fed to the cattle. Hogs particularly find the juicy substance quite palatable, and it is said to produce fat similar to corn. In other sections where wood is scarce and coal worth \$15 a ton the dried thistles in great bunches are secured for fuel. They are baled like hay, compressed, and not only used in residences but in many cases have been used in great quantities by furnaces in mills. The pressed thistles retain the heat a long time, and though frail in the single growth make a fierce flame when heavily bunched. The thistle grows on the surface of a very small stem, but branches out into bunches as large as a bushel basket. When dried these frail stems are easily broken by the wind, and the big ball-like head bounces around over the

THE RUSSIAN THISTLE.

FARMERS HAVE FOUND THAT THE PEST WILL DESTROY ITSELF.

Law Placing a Bounty on Its Destruction Repealed—A Scare Which Experience Shows to Have Been Unwarranted.

Ten years ago the Russian thistle made its appearance in the West. The weed gradually spread in Nebraska until its wonderful vitality threatened apparently the life of more useful plants. There was much discussion of the new plant at the time, and the matter was finally referred to the agricultural authorities, and after much careful research the plant was declared to be the Russian thistle, a weed so deadly in its effects that it would soon exterminate all other forms of vegetation if not retarded in its growth. Its fertility was said to be something most extraordinary. Instances were cited where whole acres had been grown over in a single season, and the growth thus established had grown in strength annually. The farmers' institutes were at once called on to discuss some measures of relief, and after several years a law was passed in Nebraska that was expected to stop the ravages of the weed. The measure was for the special protection of the farmers. It provided that all Russian thistle on public highways should be immediately destroyed, and that all such weeds on private property must be exterminated within a certain time, or it would have to be done by the overseers of the adjacent roads and charged as taxes to the land. Each county set apart funds for the purpose of promoting the work, and thousands of dollars were spent in this direction. The tough thistle did not seem to respond very readily to the artificial methods adopted for its extermination, and apparently thrived as before. The professional farmers, however, declared that the only salvation of the prairie states, where the thistle seemed most to flourish, was constant and unremitting toil in this direction. They contributed lengthy articles showing just how many years would be required for the Russian thistle to exterminate all other forms of vegetable life in Nebraska if not retarded in its course. This alarmed the farmers greatly, and the adjacent states passed similar laws for the destruction of the imported scourge. Some farms were almost COMPLETELY COVERED with this peculiar growth, and the owners were almost distracted. In some cases adjacent farmers undertook to build solid board fences between their farms and those stretches of territory thus afflicted. But this did little good, as the thistle seemed to be blown first in one direction, and then in another, leaving its blighting touch upon everything in some whole neighborhoods. For a year or two it was the principal theme of discussion at the farmers' institutes of the state. But after much toil and treasure being consumed fighting the alleged pest, some of the farming communities began to experience a change of heart. Gradually it dawned on some of the more thoughtful farmers who had been observing closely the growth of the thistle that the plant was not so dangerous as the theoretical farmers had insisted was the case. 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prairie, blown hither and thither with the slightest breeze. When an obstacle is thrown in their path they soon pile up on the prairie to a great height. When not compressed they burn like chaff, and in some sections hundreds of families rely upon this form of fuel to carry them through the dreary winter.

IN A FIERY FURNACE.

Two Brothers Now Battling for Life—Burned in a Vat Explosion—How the Calamity Occurred.

A despatch from Toronto, says:—George and Percy Holden, brothers, who resided at 218 Brock avenue, are lying in the emergency ward of the General Hospital. Although suffering from terrible injuries, they still have a slight chance to win in their fight for life. Both young men were employed at the Gutta Percha Rubber Works, West Lodge avenue, Parkdale. About 10 o'clock on Friday morning they were superintending a large vat in which varnish is prepared. They found it necessary to open the door of the furnace underneath the vat. The moment they did so, a violent explosion took place. The contents of the vat were scattered over the room, the two men coming in for their share. The varnish caught fire and in an instant the room was a blazing furnace, and the men in the midst of it. George was the first to recover from the shock, and calling to his brother to follow him he made a wild dash for the open air his clothes on fire, and threw himself into a pool of water in the yard. When taken out nearly all his clothes were burned. The brother, who was on the other side of the room, could not reach the door, so made his exit through a window. He also ran to the pond and tumbled in breaking the ice as he fell. He suffered worse than his brother. Both men are fearfully burned. Their backs and faces suffered the most. It is not thought that they inhaled the flames. Drs. Lynd and Harris were quickly summoned. They did everything possible to alleviate the agony of the injured men until they were removed to the hospital in the ambulance. Fortunately the room in which the explosion took place was a separate building. The fire department soon extinguished the flames. The loss is about \$500, covered by insurance.

KILLED HIM WITH A SHOVEL.

Farmer Convey Could Not Stand Teasing, and Took the Life of George Frost, His Turnout.

A despatch from Paris, Ont., says:—A terrible tragedy was enacted about five miles west of here on Friday afternoon, when a farmer named Convey, an old man about 65 years of age, young man in his employ. It appears Frost was tormenting the old man, who was down in the cellar shoveling turnips by throwing chaff down on him and Convey, who is of a very passionate temper, struck him with the shovel, killing him instantly. Frost is an Englishman, about 26 years, and is said to have no relatives in this country. Convey admitted the crime and was placed under arrest.

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Its Local News is Complete and market reports accurate.

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N., G. & J. McKechnie.

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N., G., & J. McKECHNIE