

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.

Archbishop Langevin's health is slowly improving. There is talk of the erection of a new \$50,000 opera house at Brantford by a syndicate.

The Dominion Bank statement for October shows a remarkable jump in the circulation of the banks.

Mr. Wm. Miller, a Napanee hunter, was lost in the woods near Plevna for four days without food.

The C. P. R. has reduced passenger rates one cent a mile on a number of its western branch lines.

A construction engine and seven cars on the Crow's Nest Pass went down with the bridge over Old Man River. Brakeman Hillier was drowned.

The Canadian Pacific railway is now arranging a series of special excursions to the Klondyke for the coming spring.

It is estimated that the amount of wheat delivered by western farmers since September 1 to date is 17,000,000 bushels.

The grading on the Crow's Nest Railway is at present finished to Crow's Nest Lake, a distance of 72 miles from MacLeod.

Thomas Davidson, messenger in the Bank d'Hochelega at Winnipeg, committed suicide by shooting in the rooms over the bank.

Ottawa wants to be the metropolitan Anglican See of Canada, instead of Prince Rupert's Land, which at present holds the honour.

Mr. George Goodwin, of Ottawa, the chief financial backer of the roller boat, says the machine will not be given another trial this year.

Twenty thousand dollars in gold arrived at the Customs Department in Ottawa on Monday as duties collected on miners' outfits at the port of Lake Tagish.

A party of four Englishmen, under the command of Captain E. H. Bernard, of the Indian Staff Corps, a nephew of the Baroness Macdonald, left Montreal, on Thursday night for the Klondyke.

The Department of the Interior has received a report from Major Walsh, dated at Skaguay. He states that he has got all his supplies over the pass and is now on the way to Selkirk.

Mr. W. A. Grenier, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for libelling Mr. Tarte, Minister of Public Works, was released on Thursday afternoon, having served one month of his sentence.

The arrangements for the extension of the Intercolonial railway into Montreal over the lines of the Drummond County road are now completed, and the service is expected to commence the first of December.

The Montreal Harbor Commissioners have finally accepted the plan of harbor improvements proposed by the Department of Public Works. The Government will do the work, which will cost \$3,000,000.

The Chateau de Ramezay, Montreal, has obtained a valuable addition to its collection in a portrait of Gen. Wolfe, by G. Constable Aston, the only painting extant that was executed during the general's lifetime.

John Hough, 84 years of age, an inmate of the House of Providence, Dundas, wandered from the institution on Monday afternoon and his body has been found in two feet of water in the rear of Wardlaw's Woolen Mills.

Major-General Gascoigne, on Thursday held an investigation in Montreal into the dispute existing in the commissioned ranks of the Royal Scots of Canada. The Commander-in-Chief censured Lt.-Col. Strathairn, A.D.C., and Major Ibbotson, and said if the bickering did not cease he would dismiss both officers and disband the corps.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. Gladstone is reported to be growing very feeble.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have begun their Saturday to Monday parties at Sandringham.

About three hundred firms which were burned out by the London fire are seeking for new offices.

It is reported that Most Rev. Frederic Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, is about to resign on account of advancing years.

Mr. Fielding, the Canadian Minister of Finance, who is at present in London, reiterates that Canada strongly desires friendly relations with the United States.

The temperature which was high last week in the United Kingdom, suddenly dropped on Sunday, and snow has fallen in Scotland and the north of England.

Six hundred reindeer are to be collected from the United States Government herds in Alaska, to take part in the expedition to be sent to the eight whalers ice-bound in the Arctic.

The Lord Mayor of London has declined the gift of some paintings from an Englishman and an American, to form a nucleus of an art gallery, on the ground that many of the pictures are spurious.

It is pointed out that the men in the American engineering yards work ten hours a day, and it would be impossible for Great Britain to maintain a profitable competition if the English engineers work only eight hours a day.

The Queen, who is in excellent health, has invited a succession of "Dine and Sleep" parties to Windsor. The storekeepers of London are up in

arms over the visit of the Prince of Wales, their best customer, to a large departmental store, where he made many purchases.

The law ordering the muzzling of dogs, passed by the English Government is likely to cost the Conservative party many votes in the next election. So grave is the issue considered that Mr. Long, the Minister of Agriculture, has been defending his course by elaborate statistics.

UNITED STATES.

It has been determined in New York to appeal to the public at large for subscriptions to a memorial for Henry George.

The first shipment of five hundred carloads of potatoes, in bond, from Canada to Cuba, passed through Saratoga, N. Y., on Tuesday.

The first Scientist church in Chicago and the largest in the world of that denomination, was opened on Sunday. It has a seating capacity of two thousand.

European diplomats are asking what the United States, whose interests in the East are advancing, will say of Germany's recent seizure of a Chinese harbour.

President Fetterolf, of Girard College, Philadelphia, has issued an edict against football, and henceforth the students of that institution must keep off the grid-iron.

It is stated that the reason Mr. Sovereign resigned from the office of Grand Master Workman of the Knights of Labour was that he might have free hands to run for President of the United States at the close of Mr. McKinley's term.

The Knights of Labour, at their assembly in Louisville, Ky., have passed a strong resolution condemning the proposed Anglo-American arbitration treaty, simply because England is a gold-coin country, and a majority of the Knights of Labour are silver men.

Fred. R. Ketcham, of Chicago, was given a judgment of \$21,666 in his suit there against the North-western Railroad for \$25,000 damages. He was blacklisted while a conductor for that road.

Dr. Nansen, who lectured in Milwaukee, Wis., on Thursday night, denied that any arrangements were being made for another voyage to the North Pole. In fact, he was not at all certain that he would try again.

It is said that President McKinley has prepared an Anglo-American arbitration treaty, which, while not going as far as he would wish, goes as far as he thinks the Senate will stand.

"Satin's Invisible World Displayed, or Despairing Democracy," is the sensational title of a sensational book, dealing with the Greater New York, which Mr. Stead, the editor of the Review of Reviews, will give to the public next month.

According to reports from New York, the general trade conditions show no marked variation. In some lines there is a moderate improvement in demand, as cooler weather in some directions has helped retail trade to a noticeable extent. Better prices have prevailed in wheat, oats, corn, hides and leather, syrup, turpentine, etc.

The consumption of iron and steel is increasing so rapidly that an advance in prices is probable. Railway earnings for the third quarter of the year lead us to anticipate fairly satisfactory net returns, and the reports of a large proportion of the railway companies in the United States point to a more satisfactory general result.

The commercial failures in the United States for the week just ended amount to two hundred and thirty-five, as compared with three hundred and eight in the corresponding week a year ago.

GENERAL.

Heavy rains have caused floods in the south of France.

Elaborate preparations are being made for Dr. Nansen's next expedition in quest of the North Pole.

Under pressure from Russia, Turkey has abandoned her idea of increasing her armament.

It is announced from St. Petersburg that the Czarina may present an heir to her husband before long.

A branch of the Royal Mint is to be established in Perth, Western Australia, for the coinage of native gold.

A bill has been introduced into the New Zealand Parliament for reciprocal trade relations with Great Britain.

The rebellion in northern China is spreading, and fears are expressed that the insurgents will advance on Tien Tsin.

Dr. Thomas W. Evans, the famous American dentist, who aided the flight of ex-Empress Eugenie, in 1870, died in Paris on Sunday. He was seventy-five years of age.

The leak of French military secrets has not been stopped by the deportation of Captain Dreyfus, and suspicion points at Comte Esterhazy, who has demanded an investigation.

Serious tension exists between Japan and Russia, owing to the latter's efforts to control the Korean Customs, and some of the Japanese Ministers go to the extent of advising war.

A Havana special says that nearly seventy-five per cent. of the four hundred thousand women, children, and non-combatants, affected by Gen. Weyler's starvation policy are dead.

It is estimated that about one thousand eight hundred persons were rendered homeless by the rising of the waters of the Neva, the flooding of the canals, the suburban islands and the outlying portions of the City of St. Petersburg.

The black soldiers of the first battalion, West India regiment, at Kingston, Jamaica, began a lively riot, but Major Buck, who was called to the scene, bravely confronted the men, reduced the majority to order and used them to overpower the rest.

It is rumored that negotiations are

on foot between Austria, France, and Germany, in regard to the opportuneness of convening an international conference to secure a general agreement for the diminution or abolition of the sugar bounties.

AUTOMATIC TRAIN CHECKER.

Test of a Novel Invention by a Belgian to Prevent Railroad Accidents.

A novel automatic train checker, invented by a Belgian has just undergone a successful test in France.

"Some little time ago," says a correspondent, "the French State Railway gave a public trial of a new invention designed to effect automatically the stoppage of trains with a view to preventing collisions, grade crossing accidents, etc. The experiments took place under the direction of the inventor at Beaulieu le Centray, before many railway engineers and a numerous gathering of scientists. Those present were convinced that the apparatus fully satisfied all claimed for it.

"The point chosen for the official experiments offer the greatest possible danger and difficulties. It was on the single track line between Chartres and Orleans at the point of divergence of the branch running to Anneau and immediately over a grade crossing.

"There at a distance of 250 yards from the station, the mechanism was placed in position. The invention consists of an immense hook, or catch, made of heat iron, to which while rigid a certain elasticity is given. It is fastened to the rails and regulated by a wire and lever from the station. When lying flat trains pass it readily but when raised it catches a lever hanging from the passing locomotive. The latter lever then automatically causes an air valve on the engine to act in action. During the trial the train came to a standstill before reaching the station.

"Careful calculation has been made that the hook or catch on the roadbed should have at the same time sufficient suppleness to insure its action.

"Another ingenious arrangement connects the grade crossing gate with the apparatus in such a manner that the former cannot be opened without the latter being in position, so that an approaching train must necessarily stop before reaching the crossing thus avoiding all risk of injuring persons passing at the time. Further appliances are said to render the invention equally useful in the prevention of collisions."

TWO LITTLE STORIES.

One About Tolstoi and a Policeman and One About a Queen and a Peasant.

Count Leo Tolstoi believes in preaching the gospel of brotherly love wherever he is and to all who will hear. About three months ago he was in Moscow. He saw a policeman lay rough hands on a drunken laborer, jerk him about by the collar, and start to drag him to the station. He was horrified by the policeman's violent treatment of the case, and remonstrated;

"My friend," he objected, as he placed himself in front of the policeman, "have you read the Gospels?"

The policeman looked over the odd figure before him, and evidently was inspired with some respect by the Count's long white beard. He answered only half gruffly;

"No, I haven't."

"Well, if you had known more about them you would not treat that poor man so." The policeman scratched his head, looked pityingly on the philosopher and then came back at him.

"Sir, have you read the police regulations for the city of Moscow?"

"I have not, my friend," replied Tolstoi.

"Well, if you had you wouldn't interfere with me when I am trying to obey them." That ended Tolstoi's effort to evangelize the police of Moscow.

Tolstoi had been obliged by the infirmities of his eighty years to give up much of his literary work. Twice in the last year he has had light strokes of apoplexy. He still rides his bicycle, however, and is accompanied on most of his wheeling trips by one of his daughters. He has been highly pleased recently by the work of a young man named Conissi, who is translating "Anna Karenina" and "The Kreutzer Sonata" into Japanese. Conissi is a student at the Kieff Theological School, though a born Japanese.

A story that has no connection with the above beyond its origin in Europe is told of the Italian Queen's August visit in the Gressoney Valley, Maryherita received from a peasant girl, to whom she took a fancy, a pair of lace mitts. When she received the mitts in Rome last month, she sent back to the girl two kid gloves, one filled with money and the other with sweets. In a note she told the girl to write which one of the gloves pleased her the more. The girl wrote this answer:

"My Dear Queen: Your presents have caused me many tears. My father took the little with the money in it and my little brother stole all the sweets."

Bud Rogan, of Gallatin, Tenn., is a negro giant eight feet six inches in height, and weighing 300 pounds. His feet are seventeen and one-half inches in length, and his mouth is so large that he can close it over a small-sized desert plate.

GHOST OF CURRAGHMORE.

WEARS A BLACK RIBBON TIED ROUND THE LEFT WRIST.

Strange Story of the Haunted Ancestral Seat of the Beresford Family - The Ghost Is in the Form of a Lady.

The marriage of young Lord Waterford to the daughter of the Marquis of Lansdowne calls attention to the fact that a ghost is supposed to haunt Curraghmore, the ancestral seat of the Beresford family, of which Lord Waterford is now the head. The ghost is in the form of a lady dressed in the garb of the beginning of the last century, with fair hair and with a broad black ribbon tied around the wrist of her left arm.

She is supposed to be the wife of Sir Tristram Beresford and the ancestress of the present Marquis of Waterford. It seems that as a child she was brought up with Lord Tyrone in the doctrines of Deism. When they reached the years of discretion they became filled with doubts and fears as to the value of their religious opinions, and made a solemn promise to one another that whoever of the two died first should, if permitted by the Almighty, appear to the survivor for the purpose of declaring which form of creed was most acceptable to the Creator.

THE BLACK RIBBON.

Fifteen years later, Lady Beresford, who had married Sir Tristram, came down one morning for breakfast looking very much agitated, and with a black ribbon tied around her wrist.

Her husband asked her if she had hurt her arm, whereupon she earnestly entreated him not to enquire as to the cause of her wearing the ribbon, saying, "You will never see me again without it." She then eagerly and anxiously asked whether any letters had arrived, and on being questioned by her husband remarked that she expected to hear of Lord Tyrone's death which she declared had taken place on the previous Tuesday. Her husband laughed at her, but half an hour later a letter was brought in stating that Lord Tyrone had died on Tuesday morning at Dublin. To the astonishment of Sir Tristram, Lady Beresford, instead of manifesting grief, showed feelings of relief and exclaimed, "I can now give you a most satisfactory piece of intelligence; I am going to become a mother. It will be a boy and an heir to your estates." A son was born more than half a year afterwards, who in course of time, inherited the property.

REVEALING THE REASON.

Not until her deathbed, fully 40 years afterwards, did Lady Beresford reveal the reason of her wearing the ribbon. She told her son and Archbishop King of Dublin, who was her intimate friend, of the engagement which she contracted with Lord Tyrone when a young girl, and declared that during the night which preceded the arrival of the letter notifying her of the Earl's death, he had appeared to her sitting by the side of her bed.

On her screaming with fright he exclaimed, "Have you then forgotten our promise to each other? I died on Tuesday morning at 4 o'clock. I have been permitted thus to appear to assure you that the revealed religion is the true and only one by which we can be saved. I am also suffered to inform you that you will seven months hence become a mother of a son, who will marry my heiress, and that you will die in your 68th year."

THE SHRUNKEN SINEWS.

Lady Beresford continued: "I begged him for some convincing sign or proof so that when the morning came I might be able to know that his appearance had been real and not merely the phantom of my imagination. He thereupon laid his hand, which was as cold as marble, on my wrist, and where the fingers touched it the sinews shrunk up and the nerves withered."

"Now," said he, "let no mortal eye while you live ever see that wrist." After Lady Beresford's death, which occurred as had been predicted in her 68th year, her two children and the Archbishop untied the black ribbon and found the wrist exactly as she had described it, with every sinew shrunk. She lies buried in the Cathedral of St. Patrick, in Dublin, and periodically makes her appearance whenever any family event is about to take place which touches a birth or a death or a marriage in the Beresford family.

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