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.

There were 1,595 arrests in Hamilton last year, against 1,821 in 1896.

Winnipeg's new directory gives the city a population of 45,000, an increase of 5,000 in the year.

The Wentworth County Council has 30 applicants for the position of County Clerk.

London now embraces 4,478 acres, according to City Clerk Kingston's new hand-book of civic statistics.

Returns of the Dominion land sales for the year 1897 shows the sales to have been $104,700. In 1896 they were $71,796.

It is announced that the Grand Trunk Railway will shortly establish agencies at Winnipeg and other Manitoba points.

The Minister of Justice has fixed the trial of Mrs. Sternaman for the May Assizes, which will be held by Judge Robertson.

It is reported at Winnipeg that a committee of the Commons will be appointed to enquire into the elevator system throughout the Dominion.

The G. T. R. authorities deny the report that the railway will shortly take over the cartage business from the Shedden and Hendrie companies.

The steamer Commonwealth, abandoned off the coast near Victoria, B. C. has been picked up by the coaster Willapa. The prize is worth $400,000.

Since the death of County Clerk Counsell at Hamilton no one knows the combination of the safe in his office, and all attempts to open it have failed.

Ninety applications have been made to the Department of the Interior for dredging locations on the Yukon, Stewart, and other rivers in the Yukon district.

The Welland Aqueduct Power Company has been organized, with a capital stock of $24,000, to supply electricity for light, heat and power, and water-power for manufacturers.

The Government will place over 90,000,000 whitefish in Lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, and St. Clair next summer. The eggs are now being hatched in the Sandwich hatchery.

The C. P. R. has just issued a map of its roads and connections, showing routes to the Yukon gold fields, Alaska, Klondike and the northwestern mining territories of Canada.

Mr. T. White, C. E., of St. Thomas, has left for the Yukon to commence his duties as chief engineer of construction of the new railway. Mr. J. H. Kennedy, C. E., and Mr. E. E. Weldon accompany him.

W. F. McCreary, immigration Commissioner, who has been at Regina, states that the records show that in 1897 about 10,000 immigrants came into Manitoba and the Territories over the C.P.R. main line.

Application will be made to Parliament for an act to incorporate a company to construct a railway by steam or electricity or other motive power between London and a point in or near Grand Bend on Lake Huron.

The St. Jean Baptiste Church on Rachel street, Montreal was destroyed by fire, on Saturday, and the presbytery adjoining was also badly damaged. The loss will be $175,000 or $200,000.

Mr. John Bell, chief counsel for the Grand Trunk, gives notice that an application will be made to Parliament this session, for an act to incorporate the Windsor & Detroit Union Bridge Company for the purpose of constructing a bridge over the Detroit River.

The Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, has been giving consideration to the question of improvements in the cold storage arrangements for next season, and will, it is predicted, give a weekly service to both Liverpool and Glasgow such as we now have to Bristol. The accommodation in many of the boats will also be improved.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The new battleship Implacable is to cost over £1,060,000.

The engineers in Great Britain have voted in favor of accepting the employers' terms.

General Sir Daniel Lysons, Constable of the Tower of London, since 1890, is dead.

Mr. Gladstone is suffering severely with neuralgia, and spent Sunday in bed.

London police have stopped the form of street advertising by girls carrying placards.

Gen. Sir Fred Middleton, who commanded the forces of Canada during the last Northwest rebellion, is dead.

Mr. John Laird, the shipbuilder of Birkenhead, is dead. He built the Alabama, the famous southern blockade runner.

Mr. Herbert Spencer is in exceedingly feeble health, from an affection of the heart, and has removed from London to Brighton permanently.

The action of Richard Croker's brother, manager of the Cork and South Coast railway, in arbitrarily dismissing a signal-man, has provoked a strike which threatens to spread throughout all Irish railways.

Jabez Spencer Balfour, now serving 14 years for fraud in connection with Liberator Group, was examined in the London Bankruptcy Court on Thursday. The convict was in ill-health. He said he had left the country in 1892 owing to the advice of those who ought [illegible] better.

UNITED STATES.

There is no change in the New England cotton mills strike.

San Francisco grain operators say there will be good prices for wheat this year.

A terrific thunderstorm at St. Louis, Mo., on Tuesday killed a man, woman, and a boy.

A shipload of cattle arrived at New York on Monday from Texas—the first by the water route.

It is reported that Italy has presented to the United States a proposal for a treaty of commerce.

It is reported in New York that the New York Central and the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railways will unite.

Eugene E. Burt was reprieved while on his way to the scaffold at Dallas, Texas, on Saturday. He murdered his wife and three children, but they say he is insane.

It is reported at Bay City, Mich., that the United Alkali Company, of Liverpool, Eng., will erect at Bay City a million-dollar plant for the manufacture of alkalies.

Two tow boats foundered off New York in a heavy gale. Crew of one were rescued, but of the other nothing has been heard, and it is feared she has gone down with her crew of seven.

A well authenticated report has reached Seattle that the steamer Corona, which left there January 25 with passengers for Dyea and Skagway, Alaska, has been sunk. All her passengers and crew were saved.

A workman was employed on the fifth floor of a new building in New York on Thursday, when he fell down the elevator shaft. He carried the scaffold on the fourth floor with him, and two other men also fell to the ground. All will likely die.

While agents and lawyers were searching the world over for Edward Oheinstich, one of the heirs to the millions of Budapest's greatest banker, the object of their quest occupied a maniac's cell at the county asylum, Chicago. His death is recorded, with a pauper's number opposite it, on the books of the asylum.

GENERAL.

Prince Bismarck's condition is not serious according to his physician.

The censorship at Havana over foreign newspapers has been abolished.

Spain will ask the next Parliament to vote $40,000,000 for strengthening the navy.

It is said that Italy will have to import 40,000,000 bushels of wheat before next harvest.

British troops have occupied Okute, in Borgu territory. The possession of Borgu is disputed between France and Great Britain.

The statements regarding Germany's intention to open the port of Kia Chou to the commerce of the world are practically correct.

It is understood at Madrid that Gen. Weyler will be sentenced to two months' imprisonment and then pardoned.

Russia will make experiments to find means of communication between her north coast and Siberia by crossing the Arctic sea.

An Italian warship is about to sail for Hayti to enforce Italy's demands for the treatment to which Italians in Hayti have been subjected.

General Sir Herbert Kitchener has telegraphed the officers at Cairo that it is needless that they should ascend the Nile, as the dervishes are quiet.

An ice blockade has again closed the harbour at St. John's, Nfl'd. Absolutely the worst Arctic floes in years are reported from the northern coast.

Political leaders at Madrid have pessimistic views of the Cuban war, and declare that the insurgents have means.

The French Amabssador to Germany, Marquis de Noailles, is to receive the Grand Cross of the Order of the Red Eagle from the Emperor.

It is reported from Rome that out of 490 applications for the annulment of marriage during the past year, the Congregation of Cardinals granted but six.

Herr Trojan, editor of the Kladderadatsch, of Berlin, has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment in a fortress for lese majeste, in cartooning Emperor William.

It is reported in London that Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria, will shortly announce the betrothal of the Archduchess Elizabeth to the King of Spain.

The appeal of Capt. Boitcheff formerly aide-de-camp to Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, from the sentence of death for the murder of his mistress, and the appeal of his accomplice, Novelitch, have been refused.

Russia is about to present a note to Turkey demanding payment for the whole balance of the indemnity of the Russo-Turkish war, amounting to £28,000,000, with a view of making the Sultan more docile in the settlement of the Cretan question.

The Berliner Tageblatt says it learns that Russia and England have arrived at an agreement, whereby England has consented to drop her demand for the opening of Talien Wan as a free port, and Russia waives further opposition to British control of the Chinese Sea customs.

While Lord Brassey, Governor of Victoria, was attempting to board his yacht in Melbourne harbor from a launch a wave carried the gangway away with Lord Brassey and the boatswain on it. They narrowly escaped being crushed between the yacht and launch.

The capture of the steamer Baluchistan, loaded with arms and munitions of war in the Gulf of Oman by a British gunboat is thought to throw a good deal of light on the mysterious manner in which the Afridis were supplied with arms during the Indian frontier outbreak. It is assumed the seized cargo was intended for the use of the insurgents of Baluchistan.

ABOUT TREASURE LAND.

INFORMATION IN THE BRITISH COLUMBIA YEAR BOOK.

Some Accounts of a Vast Unexplored Region -- Seventy Thousand Square Miles Larger Than Great Britain — Cost of Mining Gold.

The "Year Book of British Columbia for 1897," contains valuable and reliable information regarding the Canadian Yukon. The manual is really a digest of all official reports, and of all facts, collected personally by trustworthy travellers regarding the whole fascinating region of which Klondike is at present the centre of attraction.

The vastness of the gold-bearing area staggers imagination. "The Yukon district comprises an area approximately one hundred and ninety-nine thousand square miles, within Canadian territory, over one hundred and fifty thousand square miles of which is included in the watershed of the Yukon river, or almost equal to that of France and greater than that of the United Kingdom by over seventy thousand square miles." The gold-field lies in the same mineral belt as California, and is a continuation of Cariboo and Cassiar, famous for their gold diggings many years ago. In an area that is from five hundred and fifty to six hundred miles long, and from ten to a hundred and fifty miles wide, embracing about one hundred thousand square miles, rich gold prospects have actually been found.

When it is considered that Klondike is the only part of this territory which has been exploited, one is prepared to expect that the Yukon will prove the largest and

RICHEST GOLD FIELD

ever known.

During 1897 some three million five hundred thousand dollars was taken from the creeks near Dawson City. "Every dollar in gold lifted by the ordinary process of mining costs a dollar to produce it. This will be found particularly true of the wealth of the Yukon. Of the ten thousand people who started this year, five hundred dollars each by way of expenditure would be a moderate estimate indeed. That represents in itself five million dollars, as against three million five hundred thousand dollars mined, and in reality ten million dollars would be nearer the total of the expenditure in reaching the Yukon alone. Again, if we accept the estimate that at least a hundred thousand persons will start for the mines in 1898, at an average of five hundred dollars, the amount expended will be fifty million dollars for one year." While the expenditure for one year reaches a total of fifty million dollars, the gold that will be taken out of the creeks of Klondike during the next ten years is estimated at sixty-five or seventy-five million dollars. "The individual finds and clean-ups range from five thousand dollars to one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Pans of gold have averaged all the way from $1.50 to five hundred dollars. In the rich diggings, however, $10 and $12 a pan was a fair average.

"From the evidence of Mr. Ogilvie, Dr. Dawson, and many others more or less competent to form an opinion, it is undoubted that the whole Yukon territory is rich in precious minerals, and that it will take many years before development has reached its height."

A description of several of the two hundred and seventy-eight claims along Bonanza and El Dorado Creeks is given, in which it is stated that one hundred of those on Bonanza will yield thirty million dollars; that claim No. 30 will yield one million dollars by itself, and ten other claims will yield not less than a hundred thousand dollars each. Needless to say, all the ground within miles of Dawson City has already been staked off.

A TREMENDOUS RUSH

to the Yukon in the spring is anticipated. Last autumn it was estimated in the cities on the Pacific coast that from fifty thousand to one hundred thousand people would pass through these ports for the Yukon within a year. From the increased number of inquiries, it is now thought that the stampede northward will exceed all estimates. Anywhere between one hundred thousand and half a million persons in all quarters of the globe, have set their minds on reaching Klondike in the spring. It is alike a commentary on the rage for wealth and the tremendous energy and directness afforded by modern agencies for the concentration of effort on a given point. Nothing in history quite equals the enterprise thus displayed.

How a country like the Yukon can support and successfully accommodate the thousands of people who are about to rush in, is a question which cannot easily be determined; but a note of warning is necessary as to the capabilities of a country wholly undeveloped to maintain for any length of time from one hundred thousand to two hundred thousand persons, whose livelihood must depend on mining, and, in the absence of success in that, on the resources which they carry with them. "The Year Book" describes the severe climate of the whole region, sets forth the terrible hardships of prospecting a country where the bed-rock is under a crust of moss and frozen sand, tells what mining under these forbidding conditions entails for the workers, of whom nine out of ten need not expect success, and gives some idea of the risk to health and life from cheerless, comfortless existence in a mining "shack."

The majority of people will, in all probability, strike directly for Klondike; but all the ground in the vicinity of Dawson City was staked out long ago. Unless in possession of capital to purchase prospects, the newcomer will find

NOTHING IN KLONDIKE.

Information may be gleaned from the different descriptions of various sections of the vast Yukon region, which will guide the "tenderfoot" and prospector to other districts more promising. The position of the great gold-bearing belt, stretching from California north to Yukon, must be understood. North of the international boundary in this belt is Kootenay; north of Kootenay and above the Canadian Pacific Railway are Cariboo and Omineca and Cassiar, the first and last named famous fifty years ago for the wealth of their placer gold beds. North beyond these is an utterly unexplored region; north of this, the Yukon, which may be described as practically unexplored, with the exception of Klondike. Now, it is a remarkable fact, and worth pondering that the headquarters of those streams and rivers tributary to the Yukon, which are known to be rich in gold, lie in this unknown, unexplored, and unnamed region. Equally significant is the fact that the waters flowing through Cassiar, Omineca, and Cariboo, all rich in placer gold, take their rise mainly in the same untrodden district. Whatever the geological theories regarding refractory and quartz gold, there is only one explanation of placer gold, and it is rather the working hypothesis of practical men than the theory of scientists, namely, that the gold found in the beds of creeks has been carried down from its main source by these waters. Actual facts support this supposition in the case of the territory south and east of Klondike. Last August the writer saw a solid and beautiful gold nugget, worth more than three hundred dollars, which had been found on the southern outskirts of the region.

Since 1887 it has been commonly known among sailors along the North Pacific coast that Chinamen were washing gold far up in the northern interior. Ragged and toil-worn Orientals have come to the coast trading-posts during the last ten years, with bags and small sacks of

THE PRECIOUS METAL.

As Chinamen have been washing gold at various streams in British Columbia for years earning from twenty dollars a day to a few cents a week, where white men would not consider reward worth the labor, these mysterious fellows from the interior, attracted little attention, but now their visits to the trading posts are recalled and deemed significant of undiscovered wealth. "If a man," says the "Year Book," "examines the map, he will see that there is an enormous stretch of country bounded by the Yukon on the west, the main range of the Rockies on the east, and the Liard on the south, over which the white man's foot has never trodden, and yet it is the birthplace of large streams that give every promise of wealth. The Pelly, the Ross, the McMillan, and the Stewart, entering the Yukon from the east, all have their sources in this district. South of the unknown divide, the Francis, Hyland, Black, and Beaver rivers drain large areas toward the Liard. All these streams have been proved to bear gold at their mouths, but the exploration of their upper waters has always proved a task beyond the power of the poor prospector. South of the Liard again, lies another little-known area, embracing the Omineca and Peace River districts, stretching away to the scene of the old Cariboo excitement of 1862. All this country lies in the mineral belt extending northward from California, and has proved wherever examined to be rich in precious metals. The statement has been made that the mineral belt grows richer the farther it extends towards the north, but there is no foundation for any such prophecy. Let us be content to suppose that it is only as rich as California, Nevada, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, and the Kootenay, of British Columbia." This is given on the authority of Warburton Pike, the explorer of the Barren Lands.

HIS PROMISE.

And you will never think of letting me build the kitchen fire? she said, as she shook the rice out of her parasol.

No, he answered, earnestly; I never will. If it becomes necessary we'll move the stove out in the dining-room.

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MINOR USES OF ELECTRICITY.

In the realm of hygiene, electricity has been applied to curing deafness by producing vibrations of any desired rate of frequency, which are found, it is claimed, to be efficacious in improving the hearing power of the partially deaf. In line with this is the substitution of an electric light bath for a sun bath, and the production of ozone for irradiation by means of the high potential discharge. For the insect-collector the incandescent lamp is suggested as a bait or attraction for nocturnal lepidoptera and other insects. It is proposed to surround the lamps with a globe coated with a sticky composition. The light attracts them, and once they touch the globe, they are secured.