

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.

Another case of smallpox has developed at Montreal.

Hamilton City Council has decided to abolish statute labor tax.

Toronto had 61 deaths, 55 births and 19 marriages during January.

There is talk of a Templar building, to cost \$50,000, being erected in Hamilton.

The Montreal Herald office has been damaged to the extent of \$10,000 by fire.

Mr. Mulock has given notice in the House of the bill to abolish the superannuation system.

The value of exports from Manitoba during January exceeded five and a half million dollars.

Chief Twiss of Dundas has been appointed High Constable of Wentworth County.

Customs collections at Brantford for January show an increase of \$5,256 over January 1897.

A pulp mill is to be erected at St. Joseph d'Alma near Quebec, by a company with a million dollars capital.

The financial statement of Nova Scotia shows the year's expenditure as \$853,698, and a deficit of \$21,458.

The C. P. R. contemplates making many improvements on the western section of the system during the present year.

The Citizens' Light & Power Company's premises at Cote St. Paul, Montreal have been destroyed by fire. The loss is \$100,000.

Lieut.-Col. W. E. Hodgins, of the Governor-General's Foot Guards, has been appointed A. D. C. to the Governor-General.

The Canadian Pacific Railway announce that their direct cable connection between Halifax and Jamaica is now open for business.

Sir Adolphe and Lady Chapeau have taken up their residence in Montreal, and his Honor announces his intention of resuming his practice of law.

Dr. Roche, M. P. for Marquette, is lying seriously ill in the Winnipeg Hospital, and will not be able to attend to his parliamentary duties for some time.

The duty collected at the Ottawa customs house for January last, was \$34,914, compared with \$26,303 for the same month last year, an increase of \$8,691.

Miss Cole of Hamilton, about 67 years of age, on Tuesday was found dead in a miserable house in which she lived alone on Jackson street, her body being frozen stiff.

F. W. Boehlofsky, of Vancouver, has secured \$2,000 damages from the British Columbia Electric Company for the loss of his right arm, as the result of a tramway accident.

The annual report of the Department of Marine just issued show the expenditure for the fiscal year to be \$792,970, about \$39,700 less than the Parliamentary vote.

Graham Waddell, a farmer of Newmarket, Ont., is in the General Hospital, Toronto, suffering from what is known as an X-rays burn in the abdomen, which refuses to heal.

Pressure is being brought to bear upon the Government to place an export duty on nickel ores. The matter will be left until Parliament has been heard from on the subject.

The customs returns for Hamilton for January, 1898, show duties collected amounting to \$44,753.82, as compared with \$43,042.68 for January, 1897, an increase of \$1,711.14.

The Customs Department has received \$47,000 from the collector at Dawson City, making \$85,000 in duties received from the Yukon since the opening of navigation last year.

It is reported at Lethbridge that the Alberta Railway & Coal Company have sold to McKenzie and Mann for the Stickeen-Teslin road steel rails for 80 miles of the roadbed, and also four locomotives.

Henceforth the recording of water rights under the irrigation act will be administered by the Northwest Territories Department of Public Works at Regina, instead of as heretofore in Calgary and Ottawa.

Mr. Charles M. Hays, General Manager of the G.T.R., denies the report that the Grand Trunk is interesting itself in Premier Greenway's scheme for building a line from Winnipeg to Lake Superior.

An outbreak of black diphtheria is reported at one of the camps on the Crow's Nest Pass Railroad. Two young men from Nova Scotia were left to die in a box car without medical attendance or comfort.

The Vancouver Board of Trade has established an agency in Seattle, Wash., to afford information of Vancouver's advantages over the United States cities in supplying outfits for the Klondike.

The Supreme Court of British Columbia has quashed the conviction of a coal mine owner for employing Chinese in the mines, on the ground that, while the Act prohibited the employment of Chinese, it did not provide any penalty for its infraction.

Mr. Charles Stiff, formerly Superintendent of the Great Western Railway, will probably succeed Mr. C. R. Smith as Secretary of the Hamilton Board of Trade. Mr. Smith's resignation has been accepted, as he is going to San Francisco.

A report comes from Salt Lake City of trouble in the Yukon between the

Canadian police, and the American relief expedition, and it is said the mounted police at Lethbridge have received orders to hold themselves in readiness to start for the scene at a moment's notice.

The request of the Bell Telephone Company for permission to increase their rates in the leading cities of the Dominion will shortly come up for a decision by the Government. Ald. Sheppard of Toronto was in Ottawa asking for a postponement of the question in the interests of the public.

Another fire insurance company has been formed to have its head office in Toronto. The company will be known as the Equity Fire Insurance Company. It has an authorized capital of \$1,000,000, subscribed capital of \$300,000, and paid-up capital so far of \$30,000.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Grass is being cut in the parks of London.

There is said to be an epidemic of threats to kill actors in London.

The London Morning Post approves the suggestion that Canada should organize a naval militia.

The late Charles P. Villiers' seat for Wolverhampton has been captured by the Conservatives, Dr. Gibbons being elected there by 111 majority.

The War Office has requested the resignation of Albert Frederick Calvert, charged with purchasing the colonely of a Middlesex volunteer regiment for \$8,000.

The death of Lord Clonmell was caused by his dropping a little hot sealing wax on his hand, whereupon blood poisoning rapidly developed. He only succeeded to the title in 1896.

A man known as Wilfred Kinny, belonging to the 8th Hussars, was placed on trial on Saturday at Caher, Ireland, charged with murdering a comrade named Albert Goodwin. The defendant, according to the testimony, is really named Warburton, is a native of Nova Scotia, and was formerly in the United States army.

In the course of his tour of the United States and Canada, Prince Albert Leopold, the Belgian heir presumptive, will pay a visit to President McKinley, it is asserted in connection with the affairs of the Congo Free State. The visit will be of an official character.

The Duke and Duchess of Fife, a fortnight ago, agreed to open the new Hackney Town hall, and the vestry, by a large majority, voted to expend £200 to entertain them; but the minority in the vestry protested against the expenditure, and an angry discussion followed. The local newspaper cuttings on the subject were sent to the Duke and Duchess of Fife, who then declined to open the Town hall.

UNITED STATES.

The price of coal has advanced 10 cents per ton in New York.

H. C. Frick, of Pittsburg, Pa., has purchased at Paris, Pascal Dagnan-Bouveret's masterpiece, "Blessing the Bread."

The new United States postage stamps are out. The one-cent are green and the five-cent dark blue. The new American post cards are a trifle smaller than the old ones.

Thos. L. Thompson, ex-United States Minister to Brazil, ex-Congressman and editor, committed suicide at Santa Rosa, Cal., on Tuesday, by cutting his throat. Despondency is supposed to have been the cause.

The young white girl recently discovered among a band of Indians near Pierre, South Dakota, has been identified by Mrs. Turton of Cannington Manor, Moose Mountain, as her long-lost daughter.

The Highland Park hotel, at Aiken, S. C., was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning. The loss is \$140,000, with \$98,000 insurance. One hundred and sixty-eight guests were sleeping in the hotel, but they had no trouble in getting away with their baggage.

The trial of Sheriff Martin and his 82 deputies began in the Luzerne County Court, at Wilkesbarre, Pa., on Tuesday. They are charged with shooting and killing 22 striking miners, and wounding over 50 more at Lattimer in September last.

A. E. Standen, of Chicago, travelling salesman, is about to start a campaign of advertising religion. He is of the opinion that if dead walls, etc., can be used to advantage in the sale of liquor, tobacco, etc., they can be put to the same use in the sale of the Bible.

GENERAL.

Latest reports say that 20 persons were killed and 50 injured as a result of the recent earthquake at Balikeer, Asia Minor.

The Salvation Army has proposed to the Government of New South Wales to establish a farm as a reformatory for boys and girls.

A Government inspector who paid a visit to a diamond mine near Praetoria saw diamonds unearthed of formation similar to the Kimberley diamonds.

It is reported at Berlin that a conspiracy has been unearthed at Teheran, Persia, to murder the Shah and to install a younger brother at the palace.

The export and import trade of New South Wales for the past year showed an increase of £1,070,000. The exports of gold showed an increase of £907,145.

It is reported at Constantinople that Emperor William of Germany has notified the Sultan that he maintains his opposition to Prince George for the Governorship of Crete, and would, if necessary, recall the German warship Oldenburg from Crete.

A man named Luis Coro Lazo, who recently returned to Cuba from the African prisons, exploded a bomb at the private residence of the Conservative ex-Mayor of Havana, Senor Miquel Diaz. A number of doors were broken, and a large hole made in the house. The Diaz family and those inhabiting neighbouring houses were panic-stricken. Lazo was captured while attempting to escape.

AGRICULTURAL

PRUNING OF FRUIT TREES.

Whoever attempts to prune a fruit tree of any sort before cutting off any limb, branch, twig or fruit-spur, should be able to assign a scientific reason for pruning off one or more of such portions of the tree-tops, writes S. E. Todd. If a pruner is not able to give a scientific reason for cutting back or removing any part of the top, he will be quite as likely to damage a tree as to improve the growth or the fruit productiveness of any tree.

When I was a small boy my father sent an illiterate wood-chopper to prune his apple trees, using no tools but a wood-chopper's ax. The man was an expert with a woodman's ax. He knew how to chop down trees, how to trim off the branches, and how to pile up the brush and the wood; but he had not the slightest conception of the scientific knowledge essential to enable a pruner to prune a tree so as to improve its lateral or its upward growth, or its fruit-productiveness. Consequently he went to work in the orchard as he would when clearing ground of a forest. Such pruning! Such reckless cutting and slashing and such damaging vandalism was really provoking and heart-sickening!

The trees were large and in full bearing; very few of them needed any more pruning than cutting off, here and there, a small branch. But that pruner chopped off with his keen-edged ax many large and leading limbs from every tree. Many of the limbs were fourteen to eighteen feet long, and six to eight inches in diameter, at the butt end where they were severed from the parent stocks. Then the branches that were allowed to remain were all trimmed neatly and clean of every twig, leaf-spur and fruit-spur, leaving nothing but a large bush at the end of a long limb. I well remember how long, and destitute of branches and twigs, most of the limbs were. In many instances more of the top was slashed away than remained. Huge and gaping wounds on every tree, which were never covered with wax of any sort, were exceedingly damaging to those trees. From the time of that reckless pruning, the rapid decay of the most fruitful trees commenced. Every season the yield of fruit continued to diminish. Many of the trees, I well remember, continued to decay, at the heart, until there was nothing left except an old, half-decayed tree, standing on two prongs, like an old decayed tooth.

Now, let us contemplate a better and more philosophical mode of pruning. Here is a point of immense importance, which only a few persons understand. Every fruit tree (if it is a generous producer of fruit) will send out fruit-spurs, on the sides of all the limbs and small branches, covering the sides and upper surface with fruit-spurs and leaf-spurs from the body of the tree to the extremity of the branches. These should never be removed; yet many owners of orchards, with saw or hatchet clip off every fruit-spur from the main part of the large limbs and small branches, leaving only a denuded branch.

Fruit-spurs are small shoots only one or two inches long. These should not be cut off, nor jammed off by one's feet when he is plucking the fruit. Fruit-spurs produce fruit-buds in one season for the crop of fruit the following season. Leaf-buds may appear one year and the following season they will produce fruit-buds, and the succeeding season the fruit-buds will yield fruit. Dame Nature is a scientific philosopher. She would cover all the large branches with leaf-buds or fruit-buds and leaves, for the purpose of protecting the bare branches from the scalding heat of the summer's sunshine. That is one point of transcendent importance to be remembered by every one who owns a fruit tree of any sort. Still another consideration should be well remembered. When the fruit-spurs of any tree are replete with fruit, the crop will not be half so liable to be shaken off by furious winds as is the case when the fruit grows at the extremity of long and swaying limbs. Most cherry trees will produce fruit-buds in abundance on every limb, and branch if they are not cut off, or jammed off by the reckless feet of people who pluck the fruit. Thoughtless pickers will often claw off a large cluster of cherries and take also the fruit-buds, thus destroying the crop of fruit for the next season.

Such pruning of fruit trees is always very damaging to the fruit productiveness and to the growth of any fruit tree. We have only one large cherry tree, the limbs and branches of which are well covered with fruit-spurs. No one is allowed to climb into that tree-top to pluck cherries until he or she is made to understand that the fruit-spurs must not be clawed off with the fruit. The branches of our apple and pear trees are well covered with fruit-spurs; and the spurs always yield a generous amount of fruit. It is a wrong practice to prune away all the small branches, twigs, fruit-buds and leaf-buds from the interior of a tree-top, making it like the interior of a tent. The old stereotyped rule is to cut away the interior of a tree-top so as to let in the sunshine and air. There is no sound reasoning in such direction for pruning trees. The foliage at the extremities of the branches will exclude all direct sunshine. Fresh air and wind will sweep through a tree-top, even when the top is so dense

that a person cannot climb, around among the branches. Fruit trees require but little pruning. Many need none at all. The fruit-buds should not be removed at all.

Every tree that needs pruning should be pruned when the superfluous branches are small. When the branches are allowed to grow ad libitum or at random until they are as large as a man's arm, it will be very damaging to the tree to cut off such large branches. If we examine any fruit trees and some ornamental trees we can see at the point of articulation or junction of the limbs with the main stem a sort of crease or seam or cicatrice extending around the base of each branch. That natural seam indicates the better place for severing the limb from the main stem. If a branch is sawed off at that seam, the wound will always heal much sooner than if the kerf or cut was made on either side of it. I have directed the attention of many intelligent men to this important point; but not one of them had ever observed that seam. Wherever I go about the country or city or village, I see many fruit trees and ornamental trees ruined by ignorant pruners, who saw off large branches several inches from the main stem; whereas, they should be severed at the seam indicated in the growth of the bark.

My own practice has always been to keep a small kettle of grafting wax on hand; by melting a pound of rosin with a pound of tallow, which is applied warm to the wounds, with a small paint brush. If this proportion of rosin and tallow should be too brittle, add a small quantity of linseed oil. Should the wax be too soft, add more rosin.

CARE OF CIRCULAR WOOD SAWS.

Farmers who employ circular saws for cutting wood for fuel and other purposes may be interested in the views of a saw manufacturer regarding their use and care. There are five points of special importance for the user to observe:

1. Keep the saw perfectly round. This is attained by jointing off points of teeth before the saw is filed. It is conveniently done by holding a short round iron bar at back of saw squarely across teeth and touch points of teeth as lightly as possible while the saw revolves, so that each tooth just strikes the bar when held firmly in one position. Repeat this process with every third or fourth filing.

2. Saws must run true. This requires that the arbor and mandrel collars are true. If they are so and the saw winds in and out of line, when turned round by hand while on the arbor, from a gauge held on one side below base of teeth; then the saw is sprung out of the true. Should the same run true when turned by hand but wobble when running at full speed, it has been run not by being pinched in sawing. In either of these cases the saw should be sent to a saw factory to be repaired.

3. Keep all the teeth the same size and shape. Retain the original shape of the teeth by proper care in filing. Take a diagram of shape of teeth when the saw is new for guidance as the saw wears down. Keep the teeth all spaced alike.

4. Give each tooth exactly the same amount of set. By using a gauge and setting each tooth accurately to it no difficulty need be had in setting the teeth.

5. Sharpen the teeth properly. This operation depends upon the use of the properly shaped files and the skill of the filer. Twelve-inch mill saw files and nine-inch round smooth files, in careful hands, will keep the bottom of each tooth round and the points sharp. Give the teeth only a slight bevel on front and top. File half the teeth from each side of the saw. Never run a saw after it becomes dull; keep it sharp by frequent filings. Attention to these matters will keep the saw in its best condition until worn out.

POULTRY NOTES.

Overfeeding will spoil any flock. Do not use fat, clumsy males in breeding.

In breeding fowls, select for frame and bone substance.

If you are breeding fancy fowls buy a standard of excellence.

One secret of breeds for profit is the feed and care given them.

In nearly all cases hens learn to eat eggs from having them broken in the nest.

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THE FIRST TIME.

Jenkin's mother-in-law was buried one day last week. Jenkin was visibly affected as he followed the hearse. "Bear up, sir," said the undertaker. "Don't cry."

"I can't help it," sighed poor Jenkin. "Poor woman! Do you know this is the very first time we have been out together without quarrelling?"

GIFTS TO THE POPE.

Pope Leo received gifts valued at \$1,200,000 on the occasion of his sixtieth anniversary of his ordination as a priest. Among the cash gifts was a check for \$40,000 from the Duke of Norfolk, \$20,000 in gold from the Queen Regent of Spain, \$12,500 from Kaiser Wilhelm, \$40,000 from the Austrian Bishop and \$40,000 from the Hungarian prince.

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DR. A. L. BROWN, Licentiate of the Physicians, Edinburgh and Residence, Hall, Holstein.

DEN

DR. T. G. H. Office—First of Pharmacy, Residence—First Post Office, Durham. Will be at Priceville, first month.

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