

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.

The New Brunswick Legislature is in session.

The Hamilton Horticultural Society has been incorporated.

Considerable improvements are to be effected at the Royal Military College.

The Manitoba Legislature will meet on March 10. The session will probably be short.

Mr. G. M. Rose, the well-known Toronto publisher, died Thursday, aged 69 years.

It is reported that the G.T.R. will build a mammoth hotel at Quebec.

Mr. R. K. Hope has received his commission as Registrar of Wentworth County.

Imports from Canada during January increased \$147,582, compared with January, 1897.

The life insurance companies doing business in Montreal are accepting risks on Klondikers.

An electric railway between Ottawa and Metcalfe is proposed. The distance is 20 miles.

Hamilton temperance people are petitioning the City Council to reduce the number of liquor licenses.

The C. P. R. Telegraph Company will string a large copper wire between Montreal and Vancouver.

The Toronto City Council has appointed Mr. Chas. H. Rust as City Engineer in succession to Mr. E. H. Keating.

The fancy and staple dry goods firm of Boisseau Freres, Montreal, has suspended payment. The liabilities are \$110,000.

American secret service detectives are still at Montreal, hunting for counterfeiters, with the aid of the local force.

News has come to Edmonton that Inspector Moody's police party crossed the Peace River Pass of the Rockies on December 22.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee of Montreal proposes to start a huge civic lottery for the purpose of paying the city's debt.

Reports received at Victoria from Dawson state that five men have been frozen to death near Skaguay, and three near Dyea.

There is a probability of the Montreal Park and Island Railway being consolidated with the Montreal Street Railway Company.

A syndicate is being formed in Quebec to purchase Lord Mount-Stephen's property opposite the Governor's gardens, to build a large block there.

Lieut. March, who had the base of his skull fractured by falling from his sleigh while tandem driving at Kingston, died from his injuries.

By the treaty with Abyssinia Great Britain secures another open door and the most-favored-nation treatment in respect to imports and local taxation.

The Montreal Cotton Company intends to extend its plant by the erection of a spinning mill for the manufacture of goods which are now imported.

Evangelist Moody, who is addressing large meetings in Montreal has received a letter enclosing \$395 from a man who had defrauded the Customs of that amount.

Hon. C. H. Mackintosh will leave shortly for England, and during his absence will arrange for the development of properties purchased by the British American Corporation.

The Lang Tanning Company will shortly begin the erection of a tannery in Berlin, which will be the largest in Canada. Three hundred hands will be employed.

A well-made one-dollar American certificate was discovered in Montreal. There is reason to believe that a clever gang of counterfeiters is working in the district.

Mr. H. J. Beemer has asked the Hull City Council for a bonus of \$70,000 for the interprovincial bridge and the Toronto Rubber Co. asks \$40,000 as a bonus for establishing its rubber factory in Hull.

Japan is going to invade the Klondike. It is stated that an army of 5,000 able-bodied laborers is being got together for the gold fields and in a month it will make a descent on Dawson City.

The prizes should be something pertaining to the rose. Numerous articles can be thought of, such as rose bowls, rose candlesticks, rose sachets, bottles of rose perfume, bonbonnières with candied rose leaves, etc. Upon each table place four full-grown La France or Mermet roses, with long stems and green leaves, as well as a dainty dish filled with pink and white bonbons. Each player also has a tally card of pink paper and a pink pencil attached for keeping the score.

The ices served are pink and white, and the supper table should be gracefully draped with pink ribbons, with rose petals strewn about on the cover. In fact, roses in profusion should be everywhere, and the lights should be softly shaded in pink.

This can be made a very pretty form of amusement, and one's own ingenuity could suggest many more features to make it a great success. It would be an added attraction if the hostess were dressed in a rose pink gown.

City Clerk Henderson, of Ottawa, has received a cheque for \$5,000 from the Provincial Treasurer of Ontario, for the Casselman fire relief fund. The Ontario Government also sent a cheque for \$5,000 last autumn.

A despatch from Quebec says that it is rumored that a cable has just been received there that the Messrs. Petersen have succeeded in their negotiations, assuring the success of the fast Atlantic steamships.

The Customs Department has decided to send two officers to Skaguay and Dyea to furnish information to Canadians going through to the Yukon by that route, and to assist in the carrying of goods.

The Dominion financial statement for the month of January shows the total revenue for the month as \$3,512,000, an increase over the same month last year of half a million dollars, while the expenditure for the month has decreased by a quarter of a million.

UNITED STATES.

Eighteen dead bodies and 38 missing is now the record of the Pittsburg fire. The population of Greater New York is 3,438,899, according to an official estimate.

During the last fiscal year the United States exported domestic merchandise to the value of over \$1,032,000,000.

Katie Gassett, who was arrested in Toronto, charged with stealing a silk dress, etc., has been convicted at Rochester, N.Y., and sent to a reformatory.

The Luetgert jury at Chicago has brought in a verdict of guilty fixing the penalty at life imprisonment.

The Spanish Minister at Washington is likely to be recalled for having in a letter savagely attacked President McKinley.

Edward Hodgman, the absconding treasurer of the Chicago Building Trades Council, has been arrested in a remote part of the North-West and will be taken back to Chicago.

A court at Topeka, Kas., has decided that a bicycle was exempt from execution under a judgment, being a "tool" essential to a man's profession or occupation.

The New York Municipal Council and Board of Aldermen have passed a resolution condemning the expenditure of \$9,000,000 on State canals, and calling for an investigation.

The Treasury Department at Washington have given a ruling on the importation of furs as wearing apparel. Hereafter muffs, boas, etc., will be dutiable when out of season.

Edward Bellamy, author of "Looking Backward," and Eugene V. Debs, late head of the American Railway Union, and leader of the Social Democracy, have united to launch a new political party.

A boat containing five men went over the falls at Oregon City, Ore., on Thursday, George Freeman, sr., his sons George and James, and L. J. Shannon, were drowned. Harry Freeman held to the boat and reached shore.

Four thousand overhead wires in Chicago belonging to the telegraph, telephone and other companies in the down-town districts will be cut down by the city unless steps be taken to place them underground before Mar. 1.

Mrs. William W. Place, wife of an insurance adjuster at New York, is charged there with the murder of her mother-in-law. The father-in-law may die from the injuries she caused to him. Her subsequent attempt to commit suicide failed.

GENERAL.

Excellent rains in Northern and Central India have ensured successful spring crops.

British troops have occupied Beregoun and Bashere, in the Borgu country of West Africa.

The result of the Transvaal elections was the return of President Kruger by a big majority.

A telegram from San Jose, Guatemala, announces the assassination of President Barrios.

The Spanish Government has decided to send the Spanish cruiser Almirante Oquendo to Havana and thence to New York.

Despatches received from Manila, capital of the Philippine Islands, announce that 200 buildings, some of them of importance, have been destroyed by fire.

A ROSE WHIST PARTY.

Any novel idea which will help to solve that difficult question of how to entertain a number of guests is always a welcome suggestion, and one very pretty form of entertainment is a rose whist party.

To begin with the invitations are sent out on pale pink paper, and announce that rose whist is to be the order of the evening. The game played is that familiar one of progressive whist, with the exception that each player keeps account for herself of all the red cards which are taken, and nothing else is counted. When the time is up the fortunate player who holds the most red cards takes the first prize, while the one who has the least gets the "booby."

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SYMPATHY.

Applicant for Advice (to Magistrate)—My wife won't obey me, Your Worship. What am I to do?

Magistrate (wearily)—I'm sure I can't advise you, because you and your wife are both mad.

PRACTICAL FARMING.

WAYS OF MILKING.

At a recent meeting of the British Dairy Association, Mr. Primrose McConnell had the following to say about the two ways of milking—stripping and squeezing: In the stripping method the fingers and thumb are forcibly drawn down the teat and the milk squirted out; but the operator resembles a man at the pump from the way in which his arms, elbows and shoulders are moving, and he sometimes gives one the idea that he is drawing the milk down from the very horns of the cow.

The teats, to stand this sort of work continually, would require to be made of India rubber, and not living tissue, and there is no wonder that where there is a scratch or a chaf, or any slight soreness on them, it is torn open every time of milking, and the animal goes down in yield, and has to have the hind legs strapped together to prevent kicking.

The squeezing method, or "nievling" as it is called in Scotland, is infinitely superior. In it the operator grasps the teat and squeezes it only, without any pulling—the arms and elbows never moving. There is no jerking and no cessation of the sound, for the stream is started from the one teat before it is stopped to take a new hold at the other.

The principal superiority of this method lies in the fact that it deals gently with the teat, so that where there is a tendency to soreness the sores are not continually being reopened, and thus the animal stands more quietly during the operation. Sores heal up more quickly, new ones are not formed, and, consequently, the animal will be a better milker.

I have seen a cow stand quite quietly to a "nievling" milker, when she would get wild with one employing the stripping method.

I may now take up shortly the general treatment of the cow in connection with the operation of milking. The two main points to be attended to are gentleness and quickness; indeed, of the two, quickness is the chief, for a quick milker can seldom be a bad one.

Where milking is done by piece work, and the tough cows are eliminated, it is customary for one person to do ten in an hour; a little longer time being required when all come together in full yield in the beginning of summer. Where it is not done by piece-work, and the cows are of all sorts, it may take half an hour longer; but the more quickly it is done, the more will the milk-yielding power of the animals be stimulated, if the milk is frothed in the pail, it may be taken for granted that the speed is all right; but, if it is not frothed, then the milker is doing an injury to the cows, and, if kept to the one lot, he would put them prematurely dry.

But the quality of the milk, as well as the quantity, is influenced by the milking of the cows and the manner thereof. Dr. Babcock found, in some experiments he tried regarding this matter, that slow milking had a very decided effect in reducing the butter fat in the milk, there being an average decline of over 11 per cent in his trials as a result of slow milking, while there was also a decided diminution in the quantity; though a prolonged trial with cows naturally going dry, the differences tended to disappear. The total result over a season, however, is beneficial to the milk yield in the case of quick milking, not to speak of the saving of time.

HOW TO HAVE PLENTY OF FRUIT.

There is hardly one farmer in fifty that has a full supply of fruit for his family during the year, including small fruits, and yet there can scarcely be any excuse except negligence in providing them. Perhaps there is not one in ten, that has a full succession of apples, peaches, pears, plums, grapes, etc. There are generally some farmers who feel satisfied in saying that they can buy small fruits and vegetables cheaper than they can afford to raise them; but the poor wife knows about how much is bought, the amount depending too often upon her own scant supply of pocket money. Now, does any of this strike you? If it does, this winter is a good time to plan and arrange to have such things. Go to work in earnest, make out a bill of what you need, set out a few strawberries, currants, gooseberries, blackberries, raspberries, grapes, rhubarb, etc., this coming spring.

Have you a few worthless trees, such as apple pear, peach, etc., or trees whose fruit is not satisfactory or not prolific enough? You can change them by grafting or budding; you can make a worthless tree become one of profit and delight. Grafting is usually considered the better way, as we gain time. Suppose you wish to introduce new kinds of apples on trees already in bearing. Produce your scions, of desired variety, the latter part of winter, while the buds are yet dormant, and stow them away in moist earth in a cool cellar; there to remain until ready for use. When spring comes, the air warms up and the buds on the trees begin to swell, then you may proceed to graft. The limb to be grafted should be cut off smoothly, a slit made through the centre with a sharp knife and the wedged shape scion inserted. There is not much to do with the scion,

as two second buds. The scion need not be as large as the stock—seldom so large; but the bark on one side should be even. Often when the scion is inserted the spring of the stock is sufficient to hold it in place; but to make sure of it you had better tie with a string. The parts in contact should be waxed over, to exclude air and moisture. A good grafting wax is made as follows: Take six pounds of resin, two pounds of beeswax and one pound of tallow; melt together and apply warm with a brush. Budding is done in the following manner: Procure some good buds of variety wanted, from strong, well-ripened shoots of this season's growth. With a sharp knife make a T shape cut in a strong young shoot of this year's growth; commence at the upper of cut and gently force the bud into place. See that all fits snugly, then tie with a narrow strip of cloth or string to hold parts firmly and to exclude air—when the young bud starts to grow, which is usually from four to six weeks, the bandage should be removed, as it will not rot away as in root grafting. The time to bud will depend somewhat on the season and the kind of trees budded, but the season is usually from July to September. The most of your success will depend on the sap, which should be flowing freely enough, in the latter part of summer, to allow of lifting the bark without injuring the wood.

ELEPHANT CATCHING.

An Incident in the Life of Ali Mahomed, Who Was an Expert at the Business.

The life of a professional elephant tracker and tamer calls for no little exercise of skill, patience and courage. At least, so one may judge from the story told by Mr. F. Fitzroy Dixon in Travel, of how Ali Mahomed, who was the king of elephant catchers in Ceylon, accomplished the feat of securing a young elephant. It was before the existence of the present laws which protect game.

The tamer had discovered a herd of elephants, and had crept up near enough to make choice of an animal that suited him. Then he returned to make ready his enterprise.

His outfit consisted of nothing more than four ropes made of twisted deer hide, strong and elastic enough to stand a great strain. With two of those coiled over his arm, and his son Hassan following with the others, Ali carefully approached the herd.

As soon as he came in sight of the elephants he motioned to his son to stop, while he himself, with infinite care, crept up to within twenty feet of the animal he intended to capture.

Every movement was now one of danger. Neither by scent nor sound must the elephant be alarmed, or the delicate task of the catcher would never be accomplished. To tie a wide-awake elephant to a tree by its hind legs seems on the face of it an impossible feat, but it was just this that Ali was bent on accomplishing.

His first step was to fasten one of the ropes—each of which had been prepared with a running noose—to a stout tree. His next was to creep inch by inch over the space that intervened between him and the elephant, which he was approaching from behind.

At last he lay at full length, almost touching the elephant, the two nooses lying open, one behind each pillar-like leg. Giving a final glance to make sure that the rope he had fastened was clear, he took the noose and pushed it forward till it touched the foot.

His object was to get it on the leg, but before this could be done the elephant must be induced to raise his foot. For this emergency Ali was prepared. With a long thorn he gently pricked the other leg, just as a fly might sting it.

Slowly the foot he was endeavoring to secure rose, and rubbed the spot he had pricked. As it left the ground the noose was slipped open beneath it, so as to encircle the foot when it came down. The foot descended, and after a moment's pause the noose was raised with a steady hand and tightly drawn.

No sooner did the elephant feel the touch of the rope than he attempted to push it down to the ground with the other foot. The action allowed Ali to slip the second noose in place. Both legs were now secured, and Ali gently drew each noose up.

The elephant at once moved forward, but before he could feel the check of the tree to which he was tied. All glided away, and took a turn about another tree with the second rope. He was not a moment too soon, for, suspecting danger, the elephant made a rush forward, only to have his hind legs pulled from under him, and be thrown to the ground when he reached the end of his tether.

His scream of rage set all the herd in motion, and Ali had a dangerous time of it during the next few minutes. He came off with nothing worse than a broken arm, however, and when the herd was tired of raging and gone away, he descended from his place of refuge in a tree, and with the aid of his son succeeded in getting the two other ropes about the front legs of the now exhausted captive.

The elephant was now held by four ropes pulling in different directions, and was quite powerless. To tame him was only a work of time, and eventually he was led off by the aid of a trained elephant.

A PRISON PHONOGRAPH.

In the yard of a Mexican prison the Governor has caused a phonograph to be placed, which repeats to the convicts the charges made against them in the voices of their victims.

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