

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 Sorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

The Manitoba Legislature will meet March 10th.

Another smallpox case has developed in Montreal.

Counterfeit \$2 American bills are being circulated in Western Ontario.

The new elevator of the Montreal Transportation Company at Kingston, has been completed.

According to reports from Juneau, Alaska, the victims of the Yukon blizzards number 21.

Guelph has a new industry in the shape of a foundry that will manufacture coal and wood stoves.

There is a plan on foot in Ottawa to establish flour mills at the Chaudiere and along the line of the Parry Sound Railway.

The Experimental Farm authorities are sending out samples of new and improved grain seed for testing by farmers.

Julian Finn, a small boy, who was operated on at the Hamilton Hospital for peritonitis, died just after the operation.

Dr. Dawson, director of the Geological Survey, estimates the gold taken out of the Yukon last year at \$2,500,000.

The Messrs. Abbott of Montreal have withdrawn from the negotiations for the establishment of their industry at Kingston.

The mail steamer Joan, running from Vancouver to Nanaimo, has been chartered by Mr. Mann, the Stikone railway contractor.

A petition is being circulated for clemency for Nulty, the convicted murderer of his three sisters and brother, on the ground of insanity.

An Ottawa Klondike party now being organized is making application to Archbishop Langevin to be allowed to take two priests with them.

Wm. Baribald, of Lindsay, when sentenced to the Central Prison for one year for stealing some castings, asked that his sentence be changed to hanging.

The bill in connection with the proposed railway from Winnipeg to Lake Superior will be considered by the Manitoba Legislature early in the session.

Mr. T. H. Smallman and others of London are asking power at Ottawa to build a steam or electric railway from London to a point near Grand Bend on Lake Huron.

The story is revived that the C.P.R. will erect a million bushel elevator at St. John, N.B., for next season's trade, the one now used being entirely too small for the demand upon it.

A deputation of letter carriers from all the leading cities of the Dominion waited on the Postmaster-General and presented a petition for increased pay. Hon. Mr. Mulock promised compliance.

The chairman of the Board of Steamboat Inspectors goes to British Columbia to see that the law is strictly enforced with regard to the safety of vessels carrying passengers and freight to Alaska.

Mrs. Livingstone, formerly of the Dominion Lands Office at Winnipeg, has been appointed by the Department of the Interior to take charge of the immigration of a superior class of domestic servants from Britain to Manitoba and the Territories.

The directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company declared the usual half-yearly dividend of 2 per cent. on the preference stock and a dividend of 2 1/2 per cent. on the ordinary stock, making, with the dividend already paid, 4 per cent. for the past year.

The Baptists of Toronto will have the honor of sending the first Baptist missionary, if not the first regular missionary, into the heart of Bolivia. Rev. A. B. Reekie, a young man, who has just finished his course at McMaster University, will leave on the 25th inst., for the city of Oruro, Bolivia. He will travel by way of New York and the Panama Isthmus, and down the coast. The journey will consume a month.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The British Government has invited tenders for four first-class armored cruisers of 21,000 horse-power.

Lord William Nevill was sentenced to five years imprisonment at London for fraud. He admitted his guilt.

The result of the election in Edgbaston division of Birmingham, for a member of Parliament to succeed Mr. George Dixon, is that Mr. F. W. Lowe, Conservative, has been returned without opposition.

Hon. A. F. Balfour stated in the House of Commons on Monday that the Government would be very glad to see an international agreement regarding currency, but he had nothing to add to the information already in the possession of the House.

All the properties and scenery of half a dozen plays belonging to Sir Henry Irving have been destroyed by a fire in the archway under the London, Chatham & Dover Railroad, near the Ludgate Hill station, which was used as a storehouse for the scenery of the Lyceum Theatre.

The London Daily Chronicle publishes a rumor that Baron Cromer, Minister plenipotentiary in the diplomatic service and British Agent and Consul-General in Egypt since 1883, will become Imperial Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs after the capture of Khartoum by the Anglo-Egyptian expedition.

UNITED STATES.

Dr. Robert A. Wheaton, a noted American surgeon, is dead at St. Paul, Minn.

August Ringling, father of the Ringling brothers, of circus fame, is dead at Baraboo, Wis.

American labour leaders will make a demand about May 15th for an eight-hour work day.

For the first time this winter the ice in Lake Michigan is giving the across the lake boats considerable trouble.

Mrs. Jennie Horton committed suicide at Middleton, N.Y., because, about a fortnight ago, she accidentally smothered her baby.

The secret service has discovered a new counterfeit \$10 National Bank note. It is on the Hibernia National Bank of New Orleans, series 1882.

Forty thousand Cubans have gone from their native country during the past few years to take up the tobacco business in Florida.

Frederick Pedlar, driver of a post-office mail wagon at Buffalo, has been discharged being an alien. He had sworn fealty to the United States though a Canadian, and a resident of the United States for five months. He may now be tried for perjury.

William Riley Foster, Jr., who disappeared from New York in 1888, and took with him it is alleged \$193,000 of the gratuity fund of the Produce Exchange, and who, after years of search by detectives all over the world, was arrested in Paris on October 24 last, has been brought back to New York.

GENERAL.

France has \$800,000,000 of gold in circulation.

Reinforcements have been brought in to strengthen the garrison of Paris.

Mme. Florence Morgan, the superintendent of the plague hospital at Bombay, has died of bubonic plague.

The Congress of Nicaragua has authorized President Zelaya to collect 500,000 pesos by forced loan.

The Oceanic S. S. Company's steamer Monaco sailed from Sydney, N. S. W., for San Francisco, carrying \$30,000 in sovereigns.

There is some talk of the betrothal of Queen Wilhelmina to Prince Louis Napoleon, new colonel of the Czarina's Lancers in the Russian army.

The Emperor of China has issued a special edict instructing the Government of Kiang-Su to accord Prince Henry of Prussia "in every respect a worthy reception."

M. Papinaud, editor of La Libre Parole, of Paris, has challenged M. Jaures, the Socialist leader, to a duel, owing to a quarrel that has grown out of the Zola trial.

Reports from Odessa say that a recent secret police enquiry has revealed a sensational scandal in connection with the looting of the Black Sea fleet.

Advices from Port Said report that the British battleship Victorious, which sailed from Malta on February 11 for China, went ashore outside the bar while entering that port.

All the details have been settled for carrying out Cecil Rhodes' scheme for the extension of the Bulawayo Railway to Lake Tanganyika (Central Africa). There is no difficulty apprehended in getting \$3,000,000, the amount of capital needed.

The British brigantine Phyllis, Captain Davies, arrived at St. Johns, Nfld., on Monday from Turks Island with her bulwarks gone, her life boats smashed and her sails and rigging carried away. For twelve days she was among the ice floes and she had her sides nearly cut through.

An attempt was made late Saturday evening in Kingston, Jamaica, to kidnap Prince Clarence, formerly chief of the Mosquito territory, who is now living there as a pensioner of the British Government. The attempt is believed to have been the result of Nicaraguan instigation.

NOT SYNONYMOUS TERMS.

The Difference Between Contagious and Infectious Diseases Explained.

The terms contagious and infectious are not synonymous. A disease is contagious when it is transmitted from the sick to the well by personal communication or contact, more or less intimate; and all contagious diseases are infectious, i. e., they are due to the introduction into the body of a susceptible individual of a living germ. But all infectious diseases are not contagious. Thus small-pox, scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria, influenza, etc., are infectious diseases which are contagious; while malarial fevers, typhoid fever, yellow fever, cholera, pneumonia, peritonitis, etc., are infectious diseases which are not contagious—at least they are only contagious under very exceptional circumstances, and those in close communication with the sick as nurses, etc., do not contract these diseases as a result of such close association or contact.

The generalization that all infectious diseases are due to the introduction into their bodies of susceptible individuals of living germs capable of reproduction is based upon exact knowledge gained chiefly during the past twenty years as regards the specific infectious agents or germs of a considerable number of the diseases of this class. In some infectious diseases, however, no such positive demonstration has yet been made. The investigations which have been made justify the statement that each infectious disease is due to a specific—that is, distinct—micro-organism. There are, however, certain infectious diseases which physicians formerly supposed to be distinct, and to which specific names are given which are now known to be due to one and the same infectious agent or germ. Thus puerperal fever and erysipelas are now recognized as being caused by the same germ. The germ which is the usual cause of pneumonia is also the cause of a considerable proportion of the cases of cerebro-spinal meningitis, etc.

THE FARM.

FOOD AND CARE OF FARM HORSES.

It is not every farmer who is the fortunate owner of a stable of good horses but improvement in feeding might be employed to advantage for the well-being of his stock and to his own interests. The feed for the horses on the average farm consist of a rack filled with hay, morning and night, with ten or a dozen ears of corn at each feed, or perhaps a gallon of oats occasionally for variety, and a filling up with water two or three times a day. This kind of feeding is generally the rule, and it is not much deviated from during the months of the year that the horses are worked and kept in the stable, and while a good condition of flesh may be maintained by the practice, it is not the best for insuring good healthy digestion and longevity to the animals. In the first place, the farm horse is deserving of the best that the farm produces, suitable for his food; this in the end is cheapest. A variety of provender should be mixed together, and the quantity of each kind so adjusted that the mass shall contain as much of the elements of nutrition and nitrogen as possible. In England it is the custom to feed farm horses, when at full work, on vetch seed and beans, the latter crushed, these containing an excessive proportion of nitrogen, mixed with bran, this alternated with oats, either crushed or whole, makes almost an ideal horse feed. Except the bulky parts which consist of hay and straw cut and thoroughly mixed; it is then called "chaff." To every forty pounds of this chaff mixture, sixteen pounds crushed oats and four pounds crushed beans are added, and thirty-six pounds of the compound is used for a daily ration for the horse when at work. English farm horses are proverbially sleek, fat and well rounded out.

The stomach of the horse is very small in proportion to the size of his body, and to secure the best all round results, he should never be without food for any great length of time, yet farmers' horses often work eight or nine hours without a break; the stomach becomes empty and the intestines are filled, more or less, with gas, and when the animal comes to the stable water and food are at once given him, which he consumes voraciously to his injury, often followed by an attack of gripes or colic.

Whenever a term of work of unusual length is in prospect, and a long fast to be expected, the nose bag should be used, and the horse given his regular ration at the customary time.

Good hay stands probably first in importance in the list of horse foods, so far as rough provender is concerned. Many winter their horses, when standing idle, upon hay alone, others again on corn-fodder and straw, and if these materials are sound, bright, free of dust, and in every way of the highest quality, a degree of thrift and health will be maintained, that cannot be improved upon.

Straw, if fed alone, however, and free access to it is given when the horse is doing no work, is not exactly the thing to insure best results; it is hard to digest, and there is danger of the horse eating more of it, while he is at rest and doing nothing, than the organs of digestion can dispose of, and then more trouble ensues.

CLOVER FOR VARIOUS SOILS.

Clover succeeds well on all soils where there is sufficient moisture. It grows in the eastern and central states and as far north as Minnesota, but succeeds best on the heavy clay lands and dark soils of the South. It also succeeds well on soils too poor to produce any other crop of value. On our cold clay uplands it succeeds well if the surplus water is removed by tile drainage. It grows more luxuriously in dark, loamy soils with a gravel or sand drainage, not too close to the surface. Still by artificial drainage, and the application of stable and barn yard manure, it can be made to produce a heavy crop on stiff clay lands. In any system of first-class farming, on soils that will produce grain crops regularly, it can be made to play an important part and produce profitable crops. Its successful growth in the West is only limited by the lack of moisture. It is out of the question to grow it on soil too wet or too dry. It can be grown successfully in rotation with all farm crops—and we doubt not with many of the garden crops. The part it takes in a rotation depends very much on the section of country in which it is grown, and the crop most in demand. Suffice it to say that we cannot get too much of it. As a rule farmers are satisfied with too little. The shortest rotation profitable, running through a series of years, is one in which it occupies the land every third year. Such a rotation of corn, wheat and clover; or of potatoes, wheat and clover; or of corn, rye and clover. Where the hay crop is a profitable one, clover and Timothy can follow wheat. In the first crop of hay the clover will predominate, the second will be Timothy in the main, the fertilizing benefits of the clover stimulating the Timothy to a remarkable degree. It should be understood by farmers that in our great farming area, where mixed farming is practiced, that clover reaches the highest state of perfection, the second year after sowing. Leaving it to occupy the land longer than

this results in loss. Very seldom is the third year's crop as good as the second. Usually not much more than one-half as good, oftentimes nearly a complete failure. If there is a farmer who grows wheat, corn and Timothy on his land, and thinks he cannot grow clover, the best thing he can do is to know why he cannot. By his system of farming he or his progeny are sure to come to want with the increasing poverty of the soil. On such lands, clover will certainly thrive if the land is put in proper mechanical condition. It will do work in improving the soil that no other known agency will accomplish as well and perfectly.

MICE-GNAWED TREES.

When the bark of young trees gets gnawed off either by mice or rabbits if taken in time, before the bark gets too dry, they may be saved. When the bark is not cut off completely around the tree, says an exchange, one of the best ways of saving it is to take rather dry cow manure, mix with it an equal quantity of loamy soil, wet up to the consistency of thick paste and spread it entirely over the wound, covering and tying on with a cloth, and leave on till rotts off. If the wound extends clear around the tree so that sap circulation is entirely cut off, three or four scions can be inserted, taking care to see that the inner bark of the scion and tree fit closely together. Use grafting wax to hold in place and then wrap with a cloth band. A little care in this way will often save a tree that would otherwise be lost. It will be found a good plan to go through the orchard occasionally, even though protection has been given, and if any trees have been injured care for them at once. Winter is a good time to graft one-year-old stocks. The work can be done indoors if the scions have been cut in good season and properly stored. In grafting care must be taken to keep varieties separate, tying each up in separate bundles and marking them. In grafting one-year-old stock the top should be off below the lowest bud. Make a smooth slanting cut and then cut the scion to fit it. Have grafting wax spread upon muslin or some kind of thin cloth, cut in narrow strips. Wrap it two or three times round and tie with woolen twine. This is to hold it in place until a start to grow is made. This is the simplest form of grafting. Another way is to cut the scion wedge-shaped; split the stock, taking a little of the center wood out and insert the scion, tying as in whip grafting. The idea is to bring the inner bark of the scion and stock together, as this is where the growth together commences.

ORDERING FRUIT TREES.

There is likely to be a good deal of fruit tree planting of all kinds the coming spring. If all orders for trees are sent out early in the winter they will stand much better chance of being filled than if the order is delayed until the last moment. The trees need not be sent until you desire them, and the nurseryman, if he understands his business, will know not to forward them until the season has been far enough advanced to make it possible to plant them when they are received.

THE FARMERS' HEN.

The farmers' hen is very apt to be a mongrel fowl, and in truth the care which she receives would put one of finer breeding to shame. Is it not a fact that on the majority of farms the poultry are treated with less attention than any other living being about the place? The average hen-house is a disgrace to the farm and to its occupants. It is filthy, ill-lighted and ventilated, and swarming with insect life. Is it any wonder that hens desert it in summer and take to the trees, the farm implements, or the fences? Very many farmers declare that hens are a nuisance, and as commonly kept there is no doubt that this is true. They say with emphasis that they do not get eggs enough to pay for half what the hens eat, and this is also true. Yet the hens ought not to be blamed for the mismanagement which brings such poor results. If one-half the care and attention which they deserve were given these much-maligned birds, there would be no more complaint in this direction. Properly treated, there is no better money-producer about the farm than the hen. She will give a greater profit pro rata than a cow.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS.

This year's crop of centennial celebrations includes observations of the four hundredth anniversaries of Vasco de Gama's discovery of the way to India, by way of the Cape of Good Hope, at Lisbon in May; of the burning of Savonarola at Florence, also in May, and of the birth of Holbein at Basel, in Switzerland. Montpellier will celebrate the hundredth birthday anniversary of the philosopher Auguste Comte; Ancona that of the poet Leopardi, who was born at Recanati, close by, and Paris that of Micholet, the historian.

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