

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.

Hall & Co., bankers of Holland, Man., have assigned.

The Saw Bill mine, near Port Arthur, has closed down.

Montreal has asked the Government to establish an infantry school there.

One dollar Dominion notes, raised to five, are in circulation at Winnipeg.

Some London ladies intend urging the Aldermen to adopt the curfew by-law.

A number of aldermen, it is said, favor municipal control of the street railway.

The Allan Line has given a contract for another steamship designed by the St. Lawrence route.

The herd of Buffalo at Silver Heights will be shipped to Banff National Park about the end of April.

The centralization of Wabash railway freight crews in St. Thomas will increase the population of that city 150.

While hunting near Hamilton James Findlay picked up a portion of a tooth of a mastodon weighing about five pounds.

Doyle, alias Sullivan, tried on a charge of murder at Nelson, B.C., has been found guilty and sentenced to be hanged.

The Yukon military expedition will be brigaded at Ottawa about the middle of April and sent forward from there after inspection.

The eight Italian laborers from Buffalo who were arrested for working on Sunday in Toronto, were fined in the Police Court on Tuesday.

A reduction of ten cents per thousand feet has been made in the price of gas at Hamilton, the nominal price being \$2, with a 30 per cent. discount.

The Toronto Board of Trade Council has appointed a special committee to consider and report on the question of an expert duty on nickel matte.

Sir Roderick W. Cameron, of West Alberta has sent to the Ontario Department of Agriculture, asking for 2,500 young cattle, preferring Ontario stock.

City Engineer Barrow of Hamilton has demonstrated that coal can be used with success for the filtration of sewage, the coal not being injured in the process.

Police Inspector Talbot, of Bradford, Eng., has arrived at Halifax to take charge of Hall, the embezzler of that city, who was arrested two weeks ago on his arrival from England.

A deputation of the Railway Trackmen's Association waited on Superintendent Williams of the Canadian Pacific, at Toronto on Wednesday to ask for an increase in wages.

Prosecutions against smugglers are in active progress in Nova Scotia. A United States Consul-General has been dismissed by President McKinley in connection therewith.

It is reported at St. Catharines that John D. and James Neelon, sons of the late Capt. Neelon, have been offered \$50,000 for their shares in a Colorado gold mine.

The Presbyterian ladies of Toronto have agreed to support the movement to send nurses to the Klondike, and an appeal for that purpose will be made to every congregation in Canada.

An amendment prohibiting the employment of Chinese or Japanese labor has been inserted in the Mountain Tramway and Electric Company's bill by the British Columbia Legislature.

Mr. W. T. McCoun has been appointed horticulturist at the Ottawa Experimental Farm, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. John Craig, who left the Government service last autumn.

An order-in-Council has been passed, providing that those persons who obtain leases for dredging for minerals in the rivers in Manitoba and the North-West must take out free miners' certificates the same as on the Yukon.

Mr. E. A. Macdonald is bringing suit against the directors of the Toronto Street Railway Company, charging them with having obtained their franchise by bribery and fraud, and asking on behalf of the city \$8,000,000 damages.

The next session of the Supreme Court will be held on the third of May next. In connection with the appeals to be heard during the term, notices have been posted to the effect that the last day for filing printed facts is April 12, the last day for filing printed facts is April 16, and the last day for inscribing appeals for hearing is April 18.

Dominion Analyst McFarlane has issued a bulletin giving the result of his official examination of condensed milk and fertilizers. The bulletin will give many cases in which condensed milk offered for sale was found to be prepared from skim milk, instead of whole milk, with an addition of sugar to give it body and appearance. It is likely the department will take action against the parties offering this adulterated milk for sale.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. James Payne, the English novelist, is dying.

Great Britain is not, it is reported, plotting for the absorption of Hawaii.

It is said in London that the Earl of Elgin is desirous of resigning the viceroyship of India.

England has sent the torpedo destroyer Rocket to Halifax to join the North American squadron.

The British Government has decided to spend \$12,000,000 in buying sites and erecting buildings for the great public departments, including a new War Office.

A receiving order in bankruptcy has been made against the Roberts Billiard Company. The liabilities are put at £10,000. The partners are Roberts and Hogine. The former the English champion billiard player.

UNITED STATES.

The California orchards have been badly nipped by frost.

Two men who robbed a train near Goshen, Cal., secured not less than \$50,000.

The United States Cabinet is said to have determined that the present state of affairs in Cuba must end.

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, the well-known novelist, has instituted suit for divorce from her husband, Dr. Swan M. Burnett.

The reports from all over Indiana concerning the damage done by the floods will send the aggregate loss up into hundreds of thousands.

The Pacific Mill, at Tacoma, Wash., the largest shingle mill in the world, operated by Metcalf & Ware, has been completely destroyed by fire.

Julius M. Price, artist, of the Illustrated London News, and Lionel Harris, of the London Financial News, are at New York en route to the Klondike.

William Olmstead, a farmer of Cass county, Michigan, has left a will bequeathing all his estate, valued at \$15,000 to the Barnum and Bailey circus.

A Southern Pacific passenger train was held up Tuesday night at Cross station, California, by two masked men, who blew the express car up with dynamite. They secured one mail pouch.

The Austrian Government will protest to Washington against the acquittal of Sheriff Martin, and the deputy sheriffs of Wilkesbarre, Pa., who were charged with shooting a number of striking miners, including Austro-Hungarians, at Lattimer on September 10 last.

Puget Sound merchants have stolen a march on Canadians in connection with the Yukon trade. Eight complete stocks for general supply stores have been landed at Wrangell for Glenora and Teslin Lake, consigned to Yankee traders, who will establish themselves at these points.

The Philadelphia water works scandal was aired in court Wednesday. One alderman confessed to taking a bribe, another was accused of the same offence and two others with offering the bribes. The whole affair grows out of the ordinance offered in council to lease the City Water Works to the Schuylkill Valley Water Company.

Edward B. Coombs, a former coroner of Brooklyn, N. Y., was, on Monday, sentenced to one year and seven months imprisonment in the penitentiary, and also to pay a fine of \$1000, for malfeasance in office during his term as coroner. There were 49 specific charges in the indictment of his having recorded bogus inquests on which he collected about \$2,200.

Floods are doing great damage in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Dayton, Ohio, is in great danger and the northern portion of the town is completely under water. Pittsburg, Pa., is a great sufferer, and fears are entertained that the flood will be as great as in 1884. Bridges are being carried away at many points in these States.

GENERAL.

Admiral Zopoff, aide-de-camp of the Czar, is dead.

Austria has decided to withdraw her troops and warships from Crete.

There were 1,259 deaths from the plague at Bombay during the past week.

The Panama Railway Company has offered its men an increase of wages and ended the strike.

A report that Japan has requested Russia to evacuate Port Arthur finds credence in the Japanese press.

Russia has withdrawn its demand of the Sultan of Turkey for the \$3,500,000 arrears of the Russo-Turkish war indemnity.

Ambony, a town on the island of Ambona, one of the Malacas, was completely destroyed by an earthquake. Sixty persons were killed.

Radical Italian deputies demand that ex-Premier Crispi be tried on the charge of complicity in the Bank of Naples scandals.

It is reported that the French expedition sent against Bossiris in Madagascar has met with a serious reverse, losing six officers and 100 men.

Cuban insurgents on Saturday night dynamited the iron railroad bridge near Madruga, Province of Matanzas, partly destroying the structure.

A suspicious case, believed to be sickness caused by the plague, has been discovered at Jeddah, Arabia. The pilgrimage to Mecca has been commenced.

A heavy southerly gale cleared the Newfoundland coast of ice on Sunday. This will allow the sealing steamers to prosecute that industry with some prospect of success.

The Czar has authorized an increase of over \$2,000,000 yearly for six years, in addition to the present special grant of over \$60,000,000, for naval purposes.

The Japanese parliamentary election returns show that the two parties will have about equal strength and that some fifty neutrals will probably hold the balance of power.

The Newfoundland Government has introduced a pension bill retiring Chief Justice Sir Frederick Carter, of the Supreme Court of the colony, now in his 80th year, with a salary of \$8,000.

The bill to incorporate the Customs duties on pigs and pork products was adopted by the French Senate on Tuesday. In reply to a statement that the United States might retaliate the Premier said that the United States would make a bad mistake in resorting to reprisals, since the United States was the first to protect herself with high duties.

AGRICULTURAL

PRACTICAL POTATO GROWING.

The finest quality of potatoes can be grown on sandy soil but the heaviest yield is usually obtained where there is considerable vegetable or alluvial deposit. Potatoes can be grown profitably on almost any soil, with the exception of heavy wet clay.

The yield will be largely governed by the preparation of the land. A thorough plowing in the fall is undoubtedly the best, for a deep soil will hold moisture and thus be in a better condition to withstand drouth. Potatoes are also a deep feeding crop and for this reason require a deep, mellow soil in which their roots can ramify in all directions.

In order to obtain the best results, plenty of barnyard manure should be applied, as few crops will give such good returns from manure as the potato. If applied in the fall, plow under. If not put on until later, it can either be plowed under lightly or thoroughly mixed with the surface soil by means of a cultivator. Do not plant land until it is in just the right condition, as there is nothing that pays so well as thorough tillage. Where sod is to be planted, it is immaterial whether it be plowed in the fall or not. Many of the most successful growers differ upon this point. Some prefer a clover sod plowed in the spring and the surface well cultivated, to any other preparation. It would be advisable to plow an old turf in the fall so as to allow it to rot before spring. The early varieties should be planted as soon as the land can be thoroughly prepared in the spring. For the later sorts cultivate the land again and plant as soon as through with the other spring seeding.

If good results are to be obtained, perfect seed must be chosen. Select medium-sized, well-formed, smooth potatoes, free from scab. Practical growers advise different methods of cutting, while some do not cut at all. The usual method, however, with the best growers is to cut in pieces containing from two to three eyes.

Potatoes may be planted either in hills or drills. Though the yield will be much the same in either case, the latter method is preferable, for the planting, cultivating and harvesting can be much more easily accomplished since horse labor will, to a large extent, take the place of hand work. Many very successful growers still plant in hills. The drills may be 30 inches apart for small varieties and 33 or 35 for the more growthy sorts. Ten to twelve inches is a good distance apart in the rows. Cover two or three inches deep with the plow, or if the furrows were ridged together a plank, scraper or cover may be used, which would cover two rows at once. A common and very successful way is to plow the land lightly, planting in every third furrow. Those who grow potatoes on a large scale will find it profitable to use a regular planting machine.

If dry weather is feared immediately after planting, harrow the ground just as the potatoes are coming through. It will be wise to repeat this once or twice. Never plant potatoes in a field where the crop was formerly affected with either the rot or the scab, for there will be a sufficient number of spores left in the ground for several years to spread the disease. If either of these diseases is feared the best remedy is to spray with bordeaux mixture at intervals of two weeks. In order to destroy the beetles at the same time, Paris green may be added in the usual proportions, viz., 1 lb to 200 gallons of the mixture.

GRAFTING.

In speaking of grafting at this season, we do not have reference to the nursery operation known by that name, but rather to what is called "top-working," which is done in the spring and not in the winter, as is the case with the grafting of seedlings in the nursery. Top-working on growing trees is not a difficult operation, and may be made to bring good results in many cases. Many varieties, too tender to be grown in a locality, can be made to do well when grafted on hardier sorts, and some that for various reasons are found unsatisfactory when other methods are pursued with them, do well when grafted on other varieties. The Wild Goose plum, for example, does not give general satisfaction, but, if top-worked on the Wolfe or De Soto, can be relied on for good crops. Many valuable combinations can also be made with the apple, and, for the home orchard, kinds that are valued, but lack hardiness, can be secured in this way. It is best to cut the scions for grafting in December, but they may be cut during the winter at any time, after a few days of mild, open weather. If cut when the temperature is low, the bark is pretty sure to shrivel. Plum and cherry trees can best be grafted late in March, before the sap starts, and the wounds should be covered with grafting wax. Apple trees may be top-worked in April, just as the buds are swelling. If it is preferred to bud instead of graft, this may be done as late as the last week in May. Cherries and plums are usually propagated in this way, though cherry seedlings cannot be budded until August or September. The essential feature of successful grafting is that the inner bark and cambium layer of the scion stock shall coincide for as much space as possible, and that the air shall be excluded by the application of grafting wax,

so that it will not dry out. Cleft grafting consists of splitting the stock and holding the cleft open with wedges, inserting the scion after shaping it smoothly to a wedge-shape, taking care to bring the inner bark of the scion and the stock together. In whip grafting, the scion and stock are both shaved off diagonally and brought together in that way. A little practice on branches of green wood of althea most any kind will soon enable the learner to make the cuts so that they will come together smoothly and bring the inner bark of both together. A common formula for grafting wax, is three parts resin, three parts beeswax and two parts of beef tallow, melted together. A cheaper, harder and better composition is four parts resin, one part beeswax and one part linseed oil.

PRUNING GRAPE VINES.

The trouble with an unpruned vine is that it bears too much fruit, and this means poor quality. Take a thrifty Concord vine to illustrate this matter. At the end of the season such a vine, in good soil, kept well tilled, should have somewhere near 300 fruit buds on the new growth of the past season. Now, a good Concord vine should bear about twenty pounds of first class fruit each season; if it does this steadily year after year, no more should be expected. To bear that amount of fruit, not more than fifty buds are required. But as we have seen, our vine has about six times that number, hence many in excess of the need. Leave the vine untrimmed, and the 300 buds will overbear, and the yield will be very inferior. Prune to reduce the number of buds to fifty, and a good crop of fruit may be expected. That is the simple proposition needed for guiding your pruning knife. Cut away, therefore, enough of the young canes to bring the buds down to the right number. A fair rule with Concord is to remove all the canes but five, and cut these back to nine or ten buds each. The Delaware class should have even less. Prune and tie up so as to have a good distribution over the trellis. The pruning should not be deferred beyond this month if it can be helped.

LITTLE KINDNESSES.

To those of us who observe everyday happenings it is a remarkable fact that the seeming trifles are the things that make life bright or dark. And it is the person who remembers to do the little things who is the maker of happiness for others. Few of us can write out a check for our friend; and it would feel intensely uncomfortable in accepting it. But we can each say the bright word to those with whom we come into contact, and can utter the cheerful "Good-morning!" to each member of our household. Even our servants work with a better will when the mistress is cheerful.

But the little duties do not stop with saying cheerful things. There is actual genius in remembering the especial ailment or worry that each acquaintance has, and in inquiring about that particular trouble. There is nothing else that so thrills one with a comfortable sense of his own importance as to find that some one thinks of his little complaints, and the person who thus remembers is sure to win the love of those who know her. The price of popularity is certainly eternal vigilance—the vigilance that notices other people and their pleasures and troubles. Such vigilance and tactful thoughtfulness are not hypocritical, for by practising an appearance of an interest that at first may be only feigned we soon learn to feel it truly from the heart. And surely there is no harm in trying to make others love us if in so doing we promote their comfort. Such an aim and such means cannot be base.

Those of us who are already burdened with the cares of life often long to do great things for our friends, and since we cannot do these we settle down into the conviction that we can do nothing. We are not like Lowell's heroine, who

Doeth little kindnesses

Which most leave undone or despise. For naught that sets one heart at ease Or giveth happiness or peace Is low esteemed in her eyes.

There are many people to do the great deeds that must be done. What this weary old world needs is more people who will remove the pebbles from the pathway of those who are foot-sore, and lift by even a finger's weight the burden on some weary back. It may be just that pebble which would wound the foot, and just that finger's weight which would make the burden intolerable.

BISMARCK'S JEWISH BLOOD.

Bismarck, it is said, authentically, has Hebrew blood, derived from his maternal grandfather, hence his friendship for the Jews and his making of Baron Borchroeder his financial adviser and confidant. A fact not generally known is that some of the Captains of William the Conqueror were Hebrews, and transmitted their blood to many of the greatest of the old Norman families of England.

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SYMPTOM OF LUNG

Dr. Burton Ward, after a long experience in the treatment of pulmonary disease, says that there is a definite symptom by which it can be determined whether a person is or is not suffering from it. Let a person who is so afflicted act as if he were not, and he will find that his or her thumbs remain stiff and sore. This is the symptom. Use their thumb and forefinger in drawing or saluting.