

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.

Twenty-five settlers from Michigan arrived in Winnipeg on Monday.

The assessment of Brantford has been fixed at 17-1/2 mills for this year.

Cornwall is suffering from an influx of tramps, and several have already been sent to gaol.

After July 1 the Government Savings Bank will allow only 2-1/2 per cent. interest on deposits.

A large number of Ontario settlers and delegates from the southern States have arrived at Winnipeg.

A prospector named Corrigan, of Donald, P. C., was found dead in a cabin on Bald Mountain, where he had a claim.

Models for the proposed status of the Queen and Hon. Alex. Mackenzie are now on exhibition at Ottawa.

The Salvation Army are pressing the Government for a grant towards the support of their rescue homes in Winnipeg.

The Montreal Cotton Company have been asking the Sherbrooke Council what concessions they might expect in case of establishing works there.

A Montrealer who does not want his name mentioned, is in Kingston, negotiating for the purchase of the Locomotive Works for a syndicate.

The duties collected at the port of Toronto for March, 1898, show an increase of over \$100,000 over the receipts for March, 1897.

A large party of prospective settlers for the west arrived in Toronto on Tuesday from Michigan, in charge of a Government immigration agent.

The British Columbia Legislature has adopted a resolution urging upon the Dominion Government the establishment, in that province, of a mint.

The Montreal City Council appointed a deputation to go to Ottawa and urge the Government to carry out without delay its share of the harbor improvements.

Mr. R. E. Watts of the Agricultural Department at Ottawa is the inventor of a roller boat which it is claimed possesses many advantages over the Knapp invention.

Miss Faith Fenton, who is well known as a contributor to the press, will accompany the contingent of the Victorian Order of Nurses to the Klondike as special correspondent.

The late Arthur Chown, of Kingston, bequeathed \$1,000 each to the Sydney street Methodist Church, Kingston, the Methodist Missionary Society, and the Methodist superannuation.

It is said that the Government intends, when the close season for lobsters begins this year, to put on five steam cutters to prevent illegal lobster fishing on the Atlantic coasts.

The story sent out from Ottawa that the Government of the United States had made overtures for the purchase of the fisheries protection cruiser Acadia is denied by Sir Louis Davies.

Mr. Kelso, Superintendent of the Ontario Government Home for Neglected Children, has accepted an invitation from the Government of British Columbia to go to Vancouver to explain his work there.

In order to provide that there shall be absolutely correct time over the system the Grand Trunk Railway has appointed Prof. McLeod of McGill University Observatory to take charge of the company's time service.

David Lowry of St. Thomas was terribly burned about the head and will probably lose the sight of his left eye as the result of the explosion of a gasoline stove in Glover's confectionery store.

The Department of Marine has paid \$20,000 over to the owners of the sealing schooner Willie Macgowan, the sum allowed by the Russian Government for the illegal seizure of that vessel by the Czar's cruisers in 1892.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lord Salisbury is at Nice.

The Earl of Strafford is dead at London.

Forty thousand coal miners in South Wales have struck.

Mr. Gladstone is able to take an airing in his garden.

Sir John Arnott, Baronet, proprietor of The Irish Times, is dead.

The British revenue returns for the year ending March 27 show an increase of £2,664,119.

A London despatch reports the death in that city of Athur Orton, the Tichborne claimant.

An English syndicate has been formed, at the request of China, to develop its mineral resources.

The British House of Commons has rejected the bill introduced by Flavin, Anti-Parnellite, to amend the land laws in favor of the tenants.

In connection with the celebration in Ireland of the centenary of the revolution of 1798, the police have searched the farmers' houses in the counties of Limerick and Cork, taking possession of all the firearms found, and announcing that they will be returned after the celebration.

UNITED STATES.

The Spanish torpedo flotilla has arrived at Porto Rico.

The Florida orange crop will be a failure this year, owing to frosts.

The Wabash and White rivers are overflowing portions of Indiana.

The United States Government has given orders to abandon the Maine, sunk in Havana harbor.

Prince Bismarck celebrated the 83rd anniversary of his birth on Friday, giving a banquet to 22 guests.

Secretary Bliss has sent to the United States Congress a deficiency estimate of \$8,070,872 for pensions for this year. On June 30, 1897, there were \$76,014 pensioners on the list, and in February 28 this year this number had been increased to 989,613. Between the latter dates there were disbursed for the payment of army pensions \$95,370,872, leaving the sum of \$40,629,272 for the payment of pensions to end of the present fiscal year.

GENERAL.

The Emperor and Empress of Germany were given an ovation on reaching Hamburg on Tuesday.

The sealing steamer Panther has arrived from the St. Lawrence at St. John's, Nfld., with 15,000 seals.

Orders have been issued to mobilize all Spanish warships, and a second torpedo squadron is being prepared for sea at Cadiz.

Karditzi and Giorgi have been sentenced to death on the charge of an attempt to assassinate King George of Greece on February 26 last.

Gen. Pellieux, in a recent speech at Paris said that France had a better supply of rifles and cannon now than had Germany.

The French cruiser Friant collided with and sank the torpedo boat Ariel during the manoeuvres near Brest. The crew of the Ariel were saved.

Germany, like Canada, is taking steps for the purpose of excluding the San Jose scale. The complete exclusion of American apples has been requested.

The Amazon Hosiery Company, of Muskegon, Mich., has failed, with liabilities of \$180,000.

It will probably be two weeks before E. S. Willard, the actor, who is stricken with typhoid fever, at Chicago, will be able to leave for Italy.

Thirty farmers of the neighborhood of Kankakee, Ill., with their families, have gone to the Canadian Northwest to found a colony.

H. Walter Webb, third vice-president of the New York Central Railway has determined to resign his position owing to ill-health. Overwork and close attention to business have caused the break-down. His doctors insist on rest and travel.

Richard F. Loper, vice-president and general manager of the Guarantors' Finance Company, of Philadelphia, which closed its doors March 25th, has been arrested charged with conspiracy.

The Chinese complain bitterly of the fact that they do not possess a war port for the five warships which are being built for them abroad, and which are due to arrive in Chinese waters this summer.

M. Hanotaux, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs, has notified Archbishop Brochesi that he intends to present a painting to St. James Cathedral, Montreal, in the name of the French Republic, representing the first Mass in Canada, on June 25, 1615.

Senor Sagasta, Prime Minister of Spain, said to a friend after Thursday's council at the palace:—"We went in seven men to see one woman and emerged seven women leaving a man inside." Meaning that they went in disposed to yield, but that the Queen's patriotism and firmness inspired them.

PLUCKY MME. DREYFUS.

Wanted to Share Her Husband's Exile, but Her Appeal Was Denied.

While former Captain Dreyfus, the disgraced French army officer, is passing his days in maddening solitude on Devil's Island, his wife is making every effort to join him that she may share his fate. The political prisoners of France who are sent into exile are usually accorded the privilege of having their wives with them if they so desire, and many a brave Frenchwoman has given up home and friends and has sacrificed everything to be near her husband in his time of tribulation.

In the case of Albert Dreyfus, however, even this comfort has been denied. Mme. Dreyfus has all along been eager to join her husband, and has brought strong influences to bear upon the government with this end in view. The cables now announce that she has presented a petition to M. Lebon, Minister of the Colonies, in a final effort to gain her point, and that the request has been refused.

The French government, it is claimed, has refused to allow Mme. Dreyfus to go to her husband, claiming that such a course would tend to lessen the severity of Dreyfus' punishment. Such an action, particularly at this time, when the excitement attending the Zola trial has not yet abated, would it is claimed, have a tendency to cause another anti-Semitic outbreak.

Mme. Dreyfus knew full well what was before her in petitioning the government to grant her request. She is not only willing, but eager to share her husband's lot, and is fully prepared to submit to the same rigorous discipline as that imposed upon him.

Dreyfus is now in solitary confinement, and is not permitted to even converse with his guards. An iron cage has been built about the hut which he occupies in the centre of Devil's Island, and he is cut off entirely from communication with the outside world. He has no knowledge of the events which have stirred Paris so deeply since his trial and conviction, and doesn't even know of the heroic efforts of Mme. Dreyfus to join him in his isolation.

Graphic reports of his condition have been sent to Paris every day since it was reported that the famous prisoner had committed suicide. It is said that he has never quite given up hope that his innocence may yet be proven.

AGRICULTURAL

TREES GNAWED BY MICE OR RABBITS.

If the portion of the tree from which the bark has been eaten is at once covered with grafting wax, healing will usually take place and the tree live. Of course if the exposed wood is allowed to become dry this surface must be bridged over with scions, so that the circulation may be renewed. To make a suitable wax for this purpose take five or six parts of resin, and two parts of beeswax. Melt this and while hot add one part of tallow. Try a coat of this on a green stick, expose five minutes to the cold air or water. If it is too hard and cracks easily, add a little more tallow. It must not be so soft that when warm spring weather comes, it will run off the wood. If beeswax cannot be readily obtained, use only resin and tallow, in which case a greater proportion of tallow is required. This however is not as good as when beeswax is a part of the mixture.

To apply this wax, wind about one end of a small stick, a strip of strong muslin two inches wide. Let part of this extend beyond the stick and then tie the whole thing firmly to it with twine. This is used as a swab. Fill an old tin pail three-fourths full of ashes. On the top of the ashes place a layer of live wood coals and on these coals a dish of wax. You are now ready to go to work. The coals will keep the wax warm.

With the swab put a good coat of wax over all the exposed tissue. Be careful that it is not hot enough to burn the wood and tissues on the bark of the small trees. If the denuded surface is large, after waxing wind a thick strip of old tender muslin about the tree in spiral form; then use a little wax to fasten the end. This is an additional guard against the cracking of the wax or of its running off during warm weather. The important thing with this treatment is to apply the wax at once and do not delay until the wood has in any way become dry, for then the sap cannot ascend and death will finally result.

MAKE THE POTATO FIELD FERTILE

The difficulty with the ordinary farm potato patch is that it is not sufficiently rich to give best results. Ordinarily the field is filled with weed seeds which almost smother out the crop before the season is over. If best results are to be obtained, choose a piece of ground naturally rich and well drained, having it as near the house as possible. If it has been fall plowed, so much the better, but if not fertilized heavily any time from now on with stable manure, and as soon as the frost is out of the ground, and the land is dry enough, plow under to a depth of three or four inches. Harrow several times and just before the crop is to be planted, give the land another plowing, this time going down to a depth of eight or ten inches, provided the soil will permit it. Go over this with the ordinary harrow, a disk or other deep working harrow, until the surface is in the condition of a well-cared for garden plot.

Lay off the land in rows three feet apart and plant the potatoes 18 inches apart in the row. Cover to a depth of three or four inches and after planting go over the field with a smoothing harrow. As soon as weeds begin to appear at all, even before the potatoes are up, go over the field with a smoothing harrow again and continue this until the plants are large enough to cultivate. If all this work has been thoroughly done and the land is not especially foul, the potato crop will be in good condition to withstand the ravages of insects or fungus pests or the effects of drouths. They will also be more easily dug when wanted for table use and of much higher quality than if the field was carelessly prepared and cultivated.

BARLEY AND OATS FOR HOG PASTURE.

When the clover crop has failed or if a field was not seeded last fall and is not to be sown this spring, a very good substitute can be had by sowing a mixture of oats and barley. Mix the seed in proportions of three parts barley to one of oats and sow 2 bu or 2 1/2 bu per acre. Prepare the land as for oats, sow with a seeder and cover by harrowing thoroughly. Have the ground as fine as possible and well compacted so that if dry weather comes the crop will not be seriously injured. If it is not desirable to sow with a seeder, harrow before seeding until the seed bed is thoroughly fined, then go over the ground with a drill, having it set so that the seed will be covered 2 or 2 1/2 in. The crop will be ready for pasture as soon as it is tall enough to hide the ground.

Enough hogs must be on hand to keep it down for if it gets large it will not be relished and consequently not eaten. If kept down it will furnish pasture during the entire spring and early summer, provided there is a sufficient amount of rainfall. By sowing at different times, this pasture can be made to last the entire season through. For the first crop seed as early as the ground is in condition, then every month or six weeks, thereafter until the latter part of July. The crop can be grown wherever oats or wheat flourish. There is no difficulty in securing a stand and an excellent pasture can thus be secured. Everyone who has

live stock, particularly hogs, should seed a small area this spring.

PRUNING GRAPE VINES.

The trouble with an unpruned vine is that it bears too much fruit, and this means poor quality. Let us 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 to 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. This 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 good 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. All things considered, fall is perhaps even a better time for grape pruning.

WATCH FOR PEACH BORERS.

Everybody who owns a peach tree should examine it about the body near the ground to see if the borers are present. If they are, there will be a gummy exudation. This gum and the soil should be removed and search made for the borer with a knife. From one to a dozen may be found in a single tree. The larva or worm is creamy white, from an inch to an inch and a half long.

For the peach tree borer, whitewash makes as good a preventive as anything that can be used. Apply to the trunk of the tree and carry it above the origin of the main branches. The old dead wood should be pruned out and burned at once. If the tree is badly infested with borers, cut it down and burn. If allowed to remain it will aid in spreading the trouble. If only a small portion has been injured, cut this away, burn the diseased portions and whitewash the wound.

THE MIDDLE-AGED MAN.

On the Different Brands of Care and What We Should Do When Cares Assail.

"When I was a boy," said the middle-aged man, "we used to have a song about driving 'dull care away.' I dare say that children are singing the same song to-day. It was a good, cheerful, lively song and we used to sing it in school. But as I remember things this song must have been sung more as a preventive than as a cure, because we didn't have any care in those days; we used to sing the song without any adequate notion of what care was; we used to gallop through it in the cheerless sort of way possible.

"So 'dull care is a brand that never disturbed me in the least. It is associated in my mind with youth; with a period of life when I actually didn't know what care was, and when I laughed at it, as I did at everything else. And I can laugh at 'dull care now, or smile at it, anyway.

"The first kind of care that I ever struck that did disturb me was of the brand known as 'carking care.' This is a pretty sandpaper sort, very different from 'dull care,' and when a man finds 'carking care' coming his way he wants to shunt it off at any cost.

"And the same may be said of the various other brands of care that one may encounter as he goes through life, which may be well known, staple brands such as can be found anywhere if a man is looking for care, or which may be cares peculiar to the man or his situation. But of whatever brand they may be, common or special, shunt 'em off.

"Care never helped any man. A sense of responsibility is one thing that's just enough good ballast to hold a man steady, but oppressive care is quite another thing, and one that never did anybody any good. It overloads and hampers him.

"Throw it overboard! You can do twice as well without it; do twice as much work and earn twice as much money, to say nothing of being blessed with a far keener enjoyment of life."

HOW IT HAPPENED.

Old Lady—You wicked boy! Ain't you ashamed of yourself, smoking those vile cigarettes?

Newsboy—Yes, lady, I am, an' dat's a fact. But yer see, me stock up cigars is completely exhausted just now, an' I've got to wait till I gets another supply from me dealer in Havana.

J. SHEWELL Dealer in all kinds of Furniture Undertaking and Embalming A SPECIALTY DURHAM, - ONT.

BURDOCK BLOOD BITTERS

Mrs. THOS. McCANN, Mooresville, Ont., writes: "I was troubled with biliousness, headache, and lost appetite. I could not rest at night, and was very weak, but after using three bottles of B.B.B. my appetite has returned, and I am better than I have been for years. I would not be without Burdock Blood Bitters. It is such a safe and good remedy that I am giving it to my children."

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