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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 promoters of the Hamilton band tournament have a deficit of $200.

There are twenty typhoid fever patients in the Hamilton City Hospital.

Winnipeg's rate of taxation for the current year will be two cents on the dollar.

Mr. W. H. Nelson, grocer of Kingsville, shot himself through the lungs with a revolver.

Coal was struck by the Manitoba Government well-boring machine near Cartwright at a depth of 62 feet.

Mr. Stewart, of the engineer's branch of the Marine Department, in Ottawa, is at present engaged in making a hydrographic survey of Lake Erie.

Mrs. Charles Hurton of Hamilton, has, with several other Canadians, fallen heir to an Irish estate valued at about a million dollars.

Vandals pried up the corner-stone of the new Southern Congregational Church at London and extracted therefrom the coins which had been deposited in it.

The Winnipeg Board of Trade is discussing the advisability of holding a business men's convention for Manitoba and the Northwest Territories this fall.

Applications for farm laborers are being received by the C. P. R. authorities at Winnipeg. It is estimated that between 2,000 and 3,000 men will be required.

Mr. Francis Robinson, who had been employed on the G. T. R. as a teamster for the past sixteen years, fell from his wagon at London and broke his neck.

A break is reported in the Government cable extending between Anticosti and the north shore of the St. Lawrence. As there is an alternate cable the accident will not cause any break in communication.

One million rounds of Lee-Metford ammunition reached Kingston from England and was placed in the Government stores. Five hundred stand of Lee-Metford rifles also came with the ammunition.

Mr. J. A. Ruddick, Dominion Dairy Instructor, will shortly sever his connection with the Ottawa Government, and assume charge of the Dairy School branch of the School of Mining and Agriculture at Kingston.

It has been decided that in the Maritime Provinces and Quebec one-half of the infantry battalions will go into camp after Parliament has voted the necessary appropriations. The artillery camps will not be held until next June.

The difference between the dead meat schemes of Mr. Bender and Prof. Robertson is that the former advocates one monster abattoir at Quebec, whereas the professor favours the establishment of abattoirs at Winnipeg, Toronto, London, Montreal, and other places.

The chemists of the Department of the Interior have been employed for some time back on the analysis of maple sugar samples, which were collected this spring in different parts of the country. There was found to be much adulteration, glucose syrup being mixed with the maple very largely.

The dry goods section of the Toronto Board of Trade, at a meeting on Friday, placed on record its strong disapproval at the action of the Dominion Coloured Cotton Mills Company and the William Parks and Sons' Company, of St. John, N.B., in recklessly cutting prices on flannelettes in some cases below their cost of production.

Two men working in a trench in Montreal were overcome the other day by sewer gas. The crowd that gathered did not realize the seriousness of the situation and stood stupidly gazing at the men for a quarter of an hour. At length, when the fire brigade was called and the men were taken out, one was dead, and the other was restored to consciousness with great difficulty.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Earl of Limerick is dead.

Sir John Millais, President of the Royal Academy, is dead.

The Imperial Parliament has been formally prorogued till October 31.

Spain has ordered two new first class cruisers from the Thompsons of Glasgow.

The weather in England during the past week was very unsettled, but there was no great heat.

The Spanish government is inviting tenders in England for the construction of a floating dock at Havana.

Two valuable pictures in the British National portrait gallery have been deliberately damaged by vandals.

The Marquis of Salisbury was installed Warden of the Cinque Ports on Saturday, with quaint and ancient ceremonies.

The Duke of Wellington is dangerously ill with dropsy. He is 50 years of age and has no children, his heir being his brother.

The Daily **News** says that a commission which has been sitting for seven years will report against compulsory vaccination in England.

Baroness Tennyson, widow of the late poet laureate, is dead. She was a daughter of Henry Sellwood, and was married to Lord Tennyson in 1850.

It is said that the Irish conference which is to meet in Dublin next month will be a failure, as neither the Parnellites or the Healyites will attend.

The debt of London on March 31 was £37,856,502, nearly £20,000,000 of which has been incurred by the County Council during the seven years of its existence.

It is learned that the visit of Sir Julian Pauncefote to London is due to the direct summons of Lord Salisbury, who wishes to discuss with him some points of the Venezuelan question.

The water famine in the east end of London has developed into a great calamity. Water is being supplied to 1,250,000 of the city's population from two to five hours daily.

The appointment of the special Parliamentary committee to enquire into the administration of Mr. Cecil Rhodes and into the Jameson raid has been postponed until the next session of Parliament.

It is noted in London that a great change has taken place in the manners of Lord Chief Justice Russell. Instead of the suavity for which he was noted at the bar, he has adopted a style of surly arrogance.

The Anglo-Canadian trade is still most satisfactory. Exports to Canada increased six per cent. in July, as compared with the corresponding month of last year, and imports from Canada increased seven per cent.

On Saturday Li-Hung-Chang had an interview through an interpreter with Mr. Gladstone at Hawarden. Mr. Gladstone presented the Chinese statesman with a set of his own works, who in return gave Miss Gladstone some packets of highly prized tea.

Mr. Chamberlain will invite Mr. Cecil Rhodes to testify before the Parliamentary Commission appointed to inquire into the administration of the British South Africa Company and into the origin and circumstances of the incursion into the Transvaal by an armed force.

In the House of Commons on Thursday Sir Matthew White-Ridley, the Home Secretary, announced that upon medical representation it had been decided to release on license Daly, Devaney, Gallagher, and Whitehead, the four Irish dynamiters.

In referring to the Venezuelan question in the House of Commons, Mr. Balfour said that the Government was still considering the latest proposals of Secretary Olney, which are regarded as opening the way for an equitable settlement, and he had reason to expect that the pending negotiations will lead to an early settlement of the dispute.

UNITED STATES.

The Security Bank of Duluth and the Murray Hill Bank of New York have closed.

Swarms of grasshoppers are doing great damage to vegetation in parts of Michigan.

The Italian Government is asking for detailed information of the recent lynching of three Italians in Louisiana.

Employes of the Adams Express Company in New York and Jersey City to the number of six hundred are on strike.

Henry Barfield, formerly a postoffice employee at Liverpool, England, was arrested at Boston on the charge of embezzlement.

Frank Jacobs, of Cincinnati, a balloonist, made his 1,005 ascension at Quincy, Ill., and the balloon burst. He was killed by the fall.

A runaway trolley car dashed down a steep hill in Lancaster, Pa., on Sunday evening, and seven of the passengers were killed and fifty seriously injured.

In view of the probable election of Major McKinley and the adoption of a higher tariff, a number of English manufacturers are projecting the establishment of branches in the United States.

The National officers of the Irish National Alliance of New York have issued a manifesto regarding the proposed convention in Dublin next month, which says that to revolution alone must Ireland look for her redemption.

Baron Fava, the Italian Minister at Washington, in an interview on Saturday with United States Acting Secretary Rockhill, urged that speedy steps be taken to secure the punishment of the New Orleans lynchers, and that redress be made to the families of the Italians who were killed.

According to the reports of the New York commercial agencies, the business situation throughout the United States is unprecedentedly dull. The intense heat has had a considerable effect, but political and financial unrest has had more, while present and impending labour troubles have intensified the general depression. Wheat, after a substantial advance, closed only a fraction higher than last week, because the Government report as to crop damage is not generally credited. Corn has declined on the week. The boot and shoe industry is becoming more dull. There is no change in leather; many tanneries have closed, and hides have further declined. There is little or no change in wool, but several mills have closed, and the demand is not equal to expectations. Rates for money are higher, and time loans are more difficult to obtain.

GENERAL.

France is making elaborate preparations for the coming visit of the Czar.

Terrific heat and severe storms prevailed last week in Germany and Austria, and many lives were lost.

The Island of Madagascar is in a very bad state. Outside the French lines the country is seething with anarchy.

Advices received from Abyssinia indicate that there is a prospect of a reopening of the Italian war in the autumn.

Lord Salisbury is being roundly berated by the Berlin press for refusing to join the powers in a blockade of the Island of Crete.

Mollah Reza, who on the afternoon of May 1, assassinated Nazr-Ed Deen, Shah of Persia, was hanged for his crime at Teheran.

Sixteen members of a boating party on the Spree, near Berlin, were drowned by an excursion steamer running into their boat.

Dr. Nansen, in his search for the North Pole, reached 86 degrees 17 minutes, but had to turn back, not having a sufficient number of dogs.

During his Norwegian tour, which was rather a failure on account of bad weather, Emperor William conducted Divine service every Sunday.

Malmaison, so pregnant with memories of Napoleon and Josephine, has been purchased by a well-known French financier, who will restore it and present it to the nation.

It is feared that 'serious troubles are impending in Ashanti. It is reported that the Inkoranzas and other tribes have joined Chief Samory with the object of expelling the British from Kumassi.

Dr. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, has arrived at Vardo Island, Norway, on board the steamer Windward, which recently went to Franz Josef Land in order to bring back the Jackson-Harnsworth expedition.

Cholera in Egypt again shows an increase, and anxiety is felt on account of the absence of reports from the camp of the Egyptian forces on the Nile. It is feared that a serious condition prevails there.

Official cholera statistics show that during the past week there were 1,091 deaths from the disease throughout Egypt. The total number of deaths since the outbreak of the scourge is 14,755.

In an article inspired by the German Foreign Office it is intimated that the negotiations between Germany and Denmark for the purchase of the Antilles will be soon resumed, and that Germany does not care a fig for the Monroe doctrine.

A body of Christian insurgents attacked a number of marauding Mussulmans at Katovathia, near Candia. It is stated that the Mussulmans were nearly annihilated. A body of troops was sent to attack the Christians, but they were defeated.

The news from Kansu, the most north-western province of China, is to the effect that the famous Tung-Funsiang, in obedience to an Imperial command, has begun a masacre of all Mohammedans that he comes across. At Hsingfu he slew three thousand business men and sold their wives and female children.

THE WOMEN OF JAPAN.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE DAUGHTERS OF THAT COUNTRY.

The Japs Are a Happy People—The Japanese Belle Does Not Compare With Our Beauties—They Have More Freedom Than the Chinese Women.

Oriental travelers are prone to wax more or less enthusiastic when they come to deal with things Japanese, and their enthusiasm generally seems to reach its height when the fair daughters of that flowery land are under discussion. It is true that some do escape the influence of the glamour which, in most cases, hides the shortcomings of the land and the people, and do their best to dispel the illusions which have deep root among us; but for the most part the general reading public look upon these as but ill-conditioned and discontented grumblers, who have failed to succumb to the all-pervading charm from some defect in their own natures, and do not take them at their own valuation as exceptionally clear-sighted observers, who see defects where others see beauties, and are too hard-headed to let poetic ideas interfere with the sharpness of their vision. Perhaps, in reality, the truth lies between the two, and the enthusiasm of the one set of views may be no worse for a little cooling by a douche of the unromantic prose of the other.

The Japanese are one of the few really happy people on earth. Even the lowest and poorest seem to be strangers to melancholy, and their severest toil is brightened by their constant smiles and laughter. Joyousness is in the air, and if some are sad it is but seldom that any vestige of it is seen on their countenances. This lightheartedness happiness is a part of the nature of the race as much as their complexion or the shape of their eyes. Partly owing to their delightful climate and their pleasant surroundings, it possibly results in greater degree from the smallness of their wants, and the ease with which these are supplied, so that the cares of life do not weigh them down with a heavy burden.

It must be admitted that the women of Japan do not come up to our standard of beauty. In our eyes the squat, shapeless little figure, the olive complexion, high cheek-bones, and almond-shaped oblique eyes of the Japanese belle contrast unfavorably with the beauties of our own land, whether fair or dark. Yet their charm is undoubted, and looked on in their own natural surroundings, where their gracefulness has full justice, their picturesqueness appeals irresistibly to the finest artistic sense. The merry little dame in her lovely national dress, girt with her big bright silk sash, her glossy black hair stuck full of queer ornaments, pattering daintily along in her little wooden shoes, admirably fits the frame of the low, quaint houses, the gorgeous temples and pagodas, the wonderful gardens, flower-filled, and laid out in marvelous array of miniature lake and island, and river and mountain. The inanimate background is set off by the lively crowds, the happy children, the curious music heard everywhere and always, and a gaiety which is always gentle and delightful, never rude or oppressive. The throng is never noisy. These good-tempered people never fight, quarrel or swear, and the women, if they have attacks of "nerves," which is doubtful, make no "scenes."

The Japanese are truly devotees of cleanliness. Public baths abound, and the poorest citizen bathes usually twice a day. In Tokio there are more than 800 public baths, which are said to be patronized by over 300,000 people daily, at a cost which is merely nominal. Every house has its own bath room, and in villages where there are no public or private bathing conveniences, the people take their "tub" out of doors before their houses, prudery being at a discount in comparison with cleanliness. It is indeed said that at a date which is not very distant, Japanese ladies used to receive callers while in their bath. The same bath serves all the members of a family, the men first using it, in the order of their age and dignity, then the ladies and the younger children, without changing the water, and finally the servants, unless they are sent to a public bath.

Men in Japan do not allow their beards to grow. It is possible to allege as a reason that the women object to bearded men, but it is more likely that the real reason is that they can not grow decent beards, and hence the women prefer the artificially smoothed skin to a mere scraggy imitation beard. One thing at least is certain—the question of kissing has nothing to do with the matter of beards; for kissing, whether in courtship or in domestic life, is totally unknown in Japan, and is in fact looked upon with something of abhorrence, as being at once unpleasant in itself and unhealthy. But if the ladies do not kiss, they chew a kind of reddish seaweed, a few small pieces of which are always being munched, with a quietly elegant sort of ruminating process, far removed from the energetic gum-chewing business. And they smoke, using a small dainty metal pipe, which holds tobacco sufficient for only one puff. They are small eaters, but consume many cakes and candies along with their tea, of which, they of course, drink great quantities.

The women of Japan, though they are considered by the male sex to occupy an entirely inferior position, are not kept in such abjectness as the Chinese. When young they are fairly well educated, being taught to read, write and count, but especially are they trained in domestic accomplishments, and very many of them are accomplished musicians—that is to say, as music is practiced in Japan, being a peculiar affair which possesses neither harmony nor melody. The girls, until they become pretty old, are childish in their ways and fond of games, especially of a kind of game played with ball and racket.

Extensive use is made of cosmetics, and the Jap ladies' toilet apparatus contains a whole series of powders, rouges and other substances, over which much time is spent, with results which may or may not justify the expenditure of labor, according to the point of view of the critic.

In Japan marriage is more of a family than a personal matter. In Japanese literature the fiction deals with love, but never with martial love, always filial. The famlies of the young people take entire control of the whole matter of marriage, and as a natural consequence of this practically impersonal view of the matter bachelors and old maids are almost unknown, and men and women marry very young; while as another consequence divorce is very common, being, however, much rarer among the better classes than among the better classes than among the the poor. As soon as a child has reached the marriageable age the parents set about their duty of securing a partner, which custom decrees must be intrusted to a middleman, usually a married friend, who, after the marriage has taken place, holds the position, during its existence, of a kind of godfather to the young couple, or an umpire for the adjustment of disputes. After the various peculiar ceremonies of betrothal—there is very little, if any, of what may be called "courtship," once the parties have been chosen—and marriage, the wife lives with the family of her husband, and is not only supposed to obey him, but actually does so, until they are parted by death or divorce.

The remarkable instances of the long existence of Japanese families are greatly owing to the custom of adoption, which is exceedingly common. In many families there may be half a dozen persons naming each other father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, who are, in fact, no blood relations to each other at all. Celebrated artists have nearly always a son distinguished in the same line, simply because the actor, painter, or whatever he may be, adopts his best pupils, and thus the family does not die out.

A SCOTCH HOME.

Influence of the Mother on a Family of Boys.

A poor peasant on the Scotch coast had an unusually large brood of children, seven of them boys, and little indeed could he do for them. He labored early and late in the fields, and contrived to keep the wolf from the door, but that was all. There was never a shilling to spare, and the farmer's life was a hopeless, exhausting struggle against poverty and adversity.

The mother, too, worked early and late with all the cooking, washing and household drudgery of the humble home. There were many to clothe as well as to feed, and so scanty were the schooling facilities on that lonely stretch of coast, that she herself taught the boys one by one to read and write.

If there had been girls among the older children she would have had help in the housework. Her daughters were the youngest of the flock, and only added to her cares when she was least able to endure them.

Weary and overworked as this Scotch mother was, she was always the light and the life of the household. It was a happy home because it was brightened by her cheerfulness and contentment.

When there was a boy old enough to read a book aloud, there was entertainment for the family while she was sewing, and she taught her children to sharpen their wits by keen argument, and above all, to think for themselves.

Then, too, this Scotch mother, while not a trained musician, had a deep, rich voice, and a stirring way of singing old-fashioned hymns. On Sunday evenings the Bible would be read aloud, and then she would sing one hymn after another; while her

BRAWNY SCOTCH LADS

listened with eagerness and enjoyed the treat so keenly that they often complained because Sunday came only once a week.

The brood of children left the home nest one by one, and the mother died prematurely because of overwork and anxiety. But she lived anew in the boys as they became successful men in various professions and callings; for although at the outset they were poor and had little education, they had her buoyant, hopeful nature, and her fine qualities of mind.

One of them was a soldier, and was mortally wounded in a foreign campaign. The chaplain in the hospital told him that he had only a few hours of life in reserve, and asked him if he had any religious faith.

"I have never had anything else," he replied. "I can hear my good mother now singing her Sunday night hymns on the Scotch coast!"

Another son became a prosperous barrister, with a great reputation for learning and wit. He would have had a larger income if it had not been for a striking peculiarity. He invariably threw up a case when he was convinced that there was no justice in it.

"I like to think of my dear old Scotch mother," he would say, "when I plead a case in court."

Another was an earnest preacher. One was a doctor with a metropolitan practice. Three were successful merchants and one was a high-minded publisher. All were richly endowed with their mother's courage and mental resources, and all shared her deep, religious nature.

In many a temptation and crisis they recalled her face shining in the winter firelight of their old home, and the hymns she had sung, in which she had expressed the religious devotion that had governed her life, and the tender, unfailing love of a mother's heart.

OUR MANUFACTURERS ABROAD.

Uncle Sam is Becoming Alarmed at Our Vigorous Efforts to Secure Trade.

A despatch from Washington says:—Consul James B. Taney writes the Department of State from Belfast, Ireland, that the Canadians are making great efforts to introduce household and office furniture in all parts of the kingdom. One agent of an Ontario firm within a week took orders for about $5,000 worth of furniture in Belfast, and in Dublin for about $10,000 worth. "If American manufacturers," says Mr. Taney, "desire either to retain or increase their trade they should understand that it will be necessary to give it the most careful attention in directions that are comparatively new to them. Their representatives must be prepared to meet representative manufacturers of other countries who are taking great pains to extend their trade."

Mr. Taney says in this connection that it is not too much to say that the Canadians are not only making vigorous efforts to divert export trade from other countries to their own, but are quite successful, not only in many branches of manufactured goods, but also in products of the farm. In fact, evidence is not wanting that the vast resources of Canada are being utilized more generally and successfully in their industrial arts, trade and commerce with the United Kingdom that at any period of her history. Each successive year finds her people elbowing their way more extensively into the foreign trade and successfully competing with the exporters of other countries, and in lines, too, which were entire strangers to them.

SHOOTING AFFRAY AT CLEVELAND.

Outcome of the Great Brown Strike in That City.

A despatch from Cleveland says:—One of the most dastardly attempts at murder ever laid at the door of organized labor took place here on Frriday night, it being the outcome of the great Brown strike, that has been going on in this city for the past three months. As a result four men are wounded, two of whom are liable to die. On June 25 the great Brown Hoisting & Conveying Machine Company discharged its 800 employees because of a threatened strike. Since that time rioting has been the pastime of the strikers and their thousands of sympathizers. About a week ago the seven companies of militia were withdrawn from the Brown works and the police protection taken away. Friday night a party of ten strikers went to the corner of Wade Park and East Madison street and lay in wait for a party of workmen who came by on their way home from the Brown works. There were nine men in the little group of workmen with their dinner pails. Without a moment's warning the strikers rushed from behind a saloon where they were in hiding, and with a cry of "Scab," began shooting into the crowd. A few of the workmen were armed and returned the fire. The battle lasted about three minutes, in which about 30 shots were fired, when the strikers fled. Four men were shot, two fatally. George Plumb, one of the workmen, was shot in the head and is expected to die, while T. Caldwell, another workman, was shot in the right leg and in the shoulder. Two of the strikers were shot, and one will die. The one fatally injured is George Larsen. He was shot through the lungs. The other, whose name is Hixley, is not fatally injured. Several people were hit in the riot, but their names could not be learned. The police made several arrests among the strikers.

PRINCE OF WALES.

His Highness Begged by the London Tailors to Support the Morning and Frock Coats

The London West end tailors are scandalized at the Prince of Wales, who allowed himself to be photographed in one of the recent wedding groups attired in a light check tweed "lounge and knickers." It is well known that the Prince greatly favors the lounge suit; but the tailors of the West end say that "if the male representative of the Crown shows such a decided preference for garments of the three seam class, there will be many who will follow him, entailing startling violence to the laws of dress." Another tailor, who has cut for the Prince, adds to the horror of the situation by saying:—"We dread to think of what may happen if once the frock and morning coat are neglected, and we have no better scope for our workmen's skill than a three seamer. Then we shall have to say good-bye to high-class tailoring."

During his brief stay in London, the Prince's favorite vehicle is a private hansom of dark green pattern, drawn by a large dark bay, and guided by a driver in irreproachable drab livery. Seen driving recently in Bond street, the Prince was attired in regulation frock coat and silk hat. His arms rested negligently upon the door of his cab, and a cigar of large proportion was between his fingers. Unable to raise his hat, he returned the frequent salutes accorded him with a wave of his hand.

NEW REVOLUTIONARY SOCIETY.

Operating in Australia, Honolulu and the United States—Overthrow of the Chinese Dynasty.

According to a San Francisco paper a Revolutionary Society has been formed in China for the overthrow of the present dynasty, and agents are now in that city seeking financial assistance. They are said to have met with much encouragement, and in a short time time they will proceed to action. The society, which is known as the Hing Chung Wolly, has already gained a firm footing among the Chinese of Honolulu and Australia, and its emissaries are now at work in Mexico. Pamphlets issued by the society have been distributed among the Chinese in San Francisco, in which it is charged that the Emperor is lazy, and leaves the control of the empire to Mandarins who are treading on the working classes. Li Hung Chang is charged with traitorous conduct in connection with the late war with Japan, and facts which are now part of the history of China's defeat are cited to show that Li Hung Chang's relations traded their honor for Japanese gold during the war between the two countries. It is well known that the members of the local Chinese colony entertain a bitter hatred for Li Hung Chang, and there are but few who doubt that he would be taking a great risk with his life if he visited this city, and this accounts for his announced intention to return home by way of Vancouver.

STREET-CAR COLLISION.

A Trolley Dashes Into a Fire-Truck—One Fireman Killed and Several Injured.

A despatch from Buffalo, N.Y., says:—At daylight on Sunday morning fire truck, No. 6, with a crew consisting of seven firemen while responding to an alarm, collided with a trolley car at the corner of Woltz avenue and Sycamore street. The truck was stretched across the street car tracks when the trolley which was running at full speed, struck it. Every fireman on the truck was injured. John F. Clarke was pinned under the track and crushed to death. His lungs were perforated by the round of a ladder. Fred Jacky went under the truck and received a cuncussion of the spine. He cannot recover. The other injuries are:—Lieut. Hedden, hip bruised; Michael Rosenberger, left leg sprained and concussions; John W. Brechtel, knee sprained; Nicholas N. Oeller, hip bruised; Anthony Manhard, bruised. The motor car was smashed to pieces, but the motorman escaped with but slight injuries. Both the motorman and conductor of the car have been arrested. James Cowan, the motorman, is blamable for the accident, as he says he heard the fire gong, but did not slow up, as he thought he could cross the street ahead of the truck.

NOTHING TO FEAR.

Lady—Little boy, isn't that your mother calling you?

Little Boy—Yes'm.

Why don't you answer her, then?

Dog's away.

CROPS OF ONTARIO.

Report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries.

From the table of statistics accompanying the report of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, which it must be remembered are estimates of probable yields at harvesting time, and are not based on threshing results (except in the case of hay, which is the final estimate of actual yield), the following comments may be made:

Fall wheat shows a large increase in acreage, as stated, in the two previous bulletins, although, 85,000 acres were ploughed up in the spring; the yield is only 16.6 bushels per acre, making the total yield a little larger than last year.

Spring wheat, with a slight increase in acreage, owing to the partial failure of fall wheat, gives, with decreased yield per acre, about the same total yield as in 1895.

Barley has a smaller acreage, but larger yield per acre than in 1895, and thereby gives about the same total yield.

Oats, with an increased area and slightly lower yield per acre, give but a small increase over 1895.

Rye has an increased acreage, and a yield per acre exactly the same as in 1895.

Peas, with an increased area of 30,000 acres, and an increased yield of nearly three bushels per acre, give a crop of 3,000,000 over that of 1895.

Beans are somewhat less in yield than in 1895.

Hay and clover promise a crop of nearly one ton per acre, giving 400,000 tons more than in 1895, but still 1,000,000 tons below the average.

The area of corn shows an increase of nearly ten per cent. over that of 1895, and is now more than double the average of the previous fourteen years.

Buckwheat shows an increase in area, potatoes a slight decrease, and field roots a drop from 199,191 acres, to 196,668 acres.

BLED TO DEATH.

A Boy's Sudden Death From Internal Hemorrhage—Dies Within a Few Minutes of His Seizure.

A despatch from Toronto says:—Thomas Henry McCord, a boy fifteen years of age, living at 11 St. Paul street, died under peculiar circumstances on Tuesday night. About 9 o'clock he entered Mr. J. R. Lee's drug store, King street east, bleeding from the mouth and nose. Mr. Lee asked him if some had struck him, and he replied, "No; I am vomiting blood." Mr. Lee immediately saw that the boy was in a serious state and telephoned for Dr. Hastings, who arrived quickly, but in five minutes after his arrival the boy died, having apparently ruptured a blood vessel. The circumstances of his seizure are not known, as he was not able to tell anything about it himself and no one seems to have been with him at the time.

Young McCord was an unusually tall boy for his age. He has grown very rapidly during the last year and a half, but was very thin, although he always appeared quite healthy until this spring. He was working in the factory of the Toronto Biscuit Company, and in his work had frequently to put his hand into a bin. Doing this bent one of his ribs, which pressed upon his heart, causing an occasional spitting of blood. Dr. Noble advised that he should discontinue work in the biscuit factory and the bleeding stopped. The deceased since then had done nothing except for a few days' work in a brush factory, where the work proved too hard for him and he had to stop it.

THE OBOE.

A Medical Authority Says Death Lurks in the Instrument.

It has been discovered that the oboe is the most dangerous instrument that is played on—dangerous to the player. A profound German medical authority says that it is doubtful if a healthy man playing any instrument in a correct method ever suffers through playing upon any reed or brass instrument, but those who have any weakness of the heart or circulation may be injured by playing any wind instrument.

As it is quite easy for a musician to inspire between the phrases of the music but impossible for him to expire without overblowing his instrument, it follows that the instruments that require the least expenditure of breath are the more injurious for the reason that the player must hold his breath for long intervals.

This is the case with both the oboe and the flute. The charge is probably true that the curious tickling of the lips that is caused by the double reed mouthpiece of the instrument frequently causes cancer.

The eminent scientist who has discovered these things about the comparatively harmless oboe should now ascertain whether accordeon and concertina playing does not superinduce muscular paralysis in an aggravated and incurable form.

OLD AGE SCHEME.

A Pension for Everyone Who Passes Sixty-five Years of Age.

A despatch from London says:—Mr. Joseph Chamberlain hopes to get the Old Age Pensions Commission to report in favor of his or some kindred scheme before the opening of the House in 1897. The commission will hold its first sitting during the recess in September. Lord Rothschild, who presides favors the proposal of giving every person past 65 years of age five shillings per week. Sir Francis Mowatt, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, who will coach the chairman and the committee generally, has leanings in the same direction. As Mr. Chamberlain means to get an old age pension out of the House next year he is likely to keep his committee up to the mark in reporting on it.

A PALPABLE PLOT.

Mrs. Du Ille—John, my dressmaker arrived to-day, and I must have the materials to-morrow.

Mr. Du Ille—Eh? What? You said you had written to her not to come until next month.

Mrs. Du Ille—Yes, I did, but she never got the letter.

Mr. Du Ille (clasping his hand to his breast-pocket)—Woman! This is a plot—a vile plot! If you had really wanted her to stay away you would have handed that letter to the postman yourself: you wouldn't have given it to me to mail.

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