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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 trial of the Winnipeg election petition has been postponed to January fifteenth.

An Austrian immigrant girl is ill at Winnipeg with a disease believed to be smallpox.

Mr. Charles J. Mickle, M.PP., for Birtle, is the new Provincial Secretary of Manitoba.

Deposits in the post-office saving banks last month exceeded the withdrawals by $20,000.

Up to November 156,030 vessels passed through the Canadian Soo Canal since the opening in 1895.

Mr. John McKeown, County Crown Attorney of Lincoln, is ill at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston.

W. Watson, a miner at Rossland, was drowned in the Columbia River while removing driftwood.

Trade returns for four months of the current fiscal year shows an increase in exports amounting to $4,727,000, and imports of $2,163,000.

The ocean shipping season just closed at Montreal shows an increase of 238,- 269 tons shipped. The live stock trade was very unsatisfactory.

Prof. Calendar, of McGill University, has succeeded in photographing a man's lungs showing with great distinctness the diseased condition of the organ.

Mr. John Gee, watchman at a Grand Trunk crossing in Montreal, was seriously injured while rescuing another man from the wheels of a train.

Lord Aberdeen has recommended Mr. Laurier to the Imperial authorities for the honour of knighthood, and it is understood that the Premier has consented to be knighted.

As a result of his recent visit to Quebec, Mr. Borden will recommend immediate work upon a number of military buildings in the Ancient Capital that are falling into ruins.

Alex. Bell, the missing Manager of the imaginary Scottish Canadian Loan & Investment Co. of Montreal, seems to have swindled a large number of Ontario people.

The Militia Department is investigating some of the supplies received under old contracts, and discovers that shoddy blankets were sent by firms that tendered for woollen ones.

Dr. Slack, of Farnham, who recently pleaded guilty of uttering a forged power of attorney, was on Friday sentenced to twenty-three months in gaol.

Sir Henry Strong, Chief Justice of Canada, has been nominated by the Government of Canada as the Dominion's representative on the Judicial Committee of the Private Council.

St. Thomas has now a population of 11,008, and an assessment of $5,295,890. The exemption of the M. C. R. property expiring this year adds a million to the ratable property of the city.

The steamer Carthagenian has arrived at St. John's, Nfld., from Liverpool, conveying drafts of 800 officers and men to relieve the British garrisons at Halifax, Bermuda and Esquimalt.

A shooting accident occurred at the north end of Jackfish Lake, by which a young woman named Celestine Parenteau was instantly killed by the gun she was handling exploding.

Mrs. James Reid, the wife of a Grand Trunk engineer in Belleville, had her clothes set on fire by an overturned lamp on Saturday, and was so terribly burned that she died shortly afterwards.

The monthly return of deaths from contagious diseases throughout the province of Ontario for the month of October, has been issued. The total number of deaths from these causes was 530. The number of municipalities reporting was 527 out of a total of 745.

The citizens of Battleford and members of "C" Division of the Northwest Mounted Police have recently erected a pair of stone pillars and gates in memory of those who gave up their lives during the rebellion of 1885.

At Chambly Canton, Que., during a street fight between Italians employed on the public works and townspeople two men were stabbed. One, Frederic Mark, died on the spot; the other, a Mr. Dube, is not expected to recover.

The Minister of Marine will not authorize an investigation into the cause of the collision between the steamship Tiber and the schooner Maggie in St. John't harbour, Nfld., the captain of the Tiber being now on trial for manslaughter.

The annual report of the Inland Revenue Department shows that the revenue accrued during the year was $8,041,686, as compared with $7,912,697 for the previous year. Canada's whiskey bill for the fiscal year ending June is the lowest on record.

Ald. Carpenter of Montreal has been committed for trial on a charge of criminal libel preferred by ex-Ald. Robert. They were opponents in the last municipal election, and the libel is contained in an anoymous circular distributed during the contest.

Sir Oliver Mowat is to be informed of the doings of tramps, and asked to make them the subject of special legislation. He will be requested so to amend the criminal code that any tramp arrested with a revolver or other weapon may be liable to six months' imprisonment and fifteen lashes of the cat-o'-nine tails.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

James R. Roosevelt, first secretary of the American Embassy at London, is seriously ill.

Sir Charles Staveley, conspicuous during the Crimean and Chinese wars, is dead at Dublin.

A speed of 30 miles an hour has been reached by motor cars between London and Brighton.

The Prince of Wales and the Duke of York have captured prizes at the Norwich cattle show.

Five tenants on Lord Dunraven's estate near Limerick, have been evicted for non-payment of rent.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are visiting the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough at Blenheim Palace.

Of the 218,224 masters and seamen employed in British merchant ships last year, 1,843 were lost by drowning or other accidents.

Dr. Jamesonm and some of his associates in the Transvaal raid will probably be released from prison on the ground of ill-health.

The ill-health of the Princess Louise prevented her visiting the Queen at Balmoral, and may seiously interfere with her plans for the winter.

It is announced by a London newspaper that the Government will devote one million pounds to the endowment of a Roman Catholic University in Ireland.

The memorial to the late Archbishop of Canterbury is to take the form of a monument in the cathedra, and the completion of a portion of Truro cathedral.

The Queen has sent a blu woollen hood and a cream quilt, made by herself, to the meeting at Frogmor house of the County Needlework Guild of which Princess Beatrice is president.

Coventry Patmore, the English author, is dead. He was one of the assistant librarians of the British Museum for more than twenty years. He was seventy-three years of ige.

The Lord Mayor of Londoi is inviting subscriptions to endow in perpetuity the Queen Victoria Institute for Nurses, founded for the purpose of nursing the poor in their own homes.

The London Times, referring to the Colonial Cable Conference, expresses the belief that both the Pacific cable and steamship service projects are well on the way towards realization.

It is stated that the Imperial Government will ask for a credit of several millions for the rearmament of the artillery, increasing the infantry and reorganizing the transport service.

Mr. Ritchie, president of the Board of Trade, has laid the bogie of ruinous trade competition by Germany by showing that the British export trade to Germany is constantly increasing, while imports remain about stationary.

### UNITED STATES.

Whitelaw Reid is mentioned as a probable successor to Mr. Bayard as United States Ambassador to England.

George G. W. Ferris, designer and builder of the Ferris wheel at the Chicago Fair is dead at Pittsburg, Pa.

Seattle and the entire north-western portion of the State are just recovering from another disastrous snowstorm.

The embezzlements of John H. Hoffer, cashier of the First National Bank, of Lebanon, Pa., have already amounted to $185,000.

A rolling stone beheaded Joseph Champaign while Joseph was hunting among the mountains neaar Cedar Run, Pa., on Saturday.

A St. Louis powder firm has received a telegram asking for a price on ten tons of dynamite. It is understood the Cuban insurgents are negotiating.

One policeman and twelve church members were injured in a free fight between two factions of the St. Stanislaus parish in Bay City, Mich.

An English syndicate is reported to have made a number of investments on the American side of Niagara Falls with a view of making a more attractive resort.

Topeka, Kas., with a population of 35,000, is reported to have 400 divorced women. The divorce mill is running steadily, the general charge being incompatibility of temper.

Reports as to the condition and prospects of business in the United States—as furnished by the commercial agencies of Messrs Dun and Bradstreet—continue, as a rule, of an encouraging nature. Orders in some lines have fallen off, but this is only natural in the circumstances; while usually business everywhere is steadily improving, and with increased employment the purchasing power of the people is a factor which soon tells throughout the country. The unseasonable weather this week has injured some trades, but a more confident feeling exists everywhere. What was lately known as the financial difficulty is rapidly righting itself and the outlook is favourable.

### GENERAL.

Italo Campanini, the well-known tenor singer, died near Parma.

Gen. Riva Palacio, Mexican Ambassador to Spain, is dead at Madrid.

The rebellion in Madagascar has spread over nearly the whole island.

Twelve thousand dock laborers are on strike in Hamburg and neighboring ports.

Natives of the New Hebrides are being sold as slaves to masters of trading vessels.

It is reported in Berlin that Prince Bismarck will continue his newspaper disclosures.

Tom Mann, the English agitator, was arrested at Hamburg and sent out of the country.

The market building and adjoining houses in Antwerp were destroyed by fire Saturday at a l oss of $350,000.

Despatches from Cuba say that a Canadian named Dalbrigeon has been murdered at Cienfuegos, Province of Santa Clara.

The 27th Punjaub Regiment of Infantry became riotous, looted shops and wounded several persons who resisted them.

In the floods in Greece the cemeteries were swept by water and bodies washed out of their graves. The loss of life is large.

La Paix, of Paris, announces that the text of the treaty signed in Paris by President Faure and the Czar will be published shortly.

China is reported to be about reorganizing her navy and building a lot of ships of war under the direction of Li Hung Chang.

It is expected that a serious conflict will take place this season between the Kaiser and the German Reichstag on the question of the navy budget.

Italian emigration to South America is increasing. Over 6,000 persons have sailed from Geneva for the Argentine Republic within the last two weeks.

A Berlin despatch says that Grand Duke Nicholas of Russia has secured Emperor Francis Joseph's assent to a modified plan for the partition of Turkey.

The Shah of Persia announces that hereafter he will dispense with a Premier, and will preside in person over the Cabinet, which will consist of twelve Ministers.

A report comes from Tokio to the effect that Russia has been granted the right to build the Siberian railway through Chinese territory and defend it with Russian troops.

The Hon. Geo. Emerson, a member of the Cabinet, will succeed to the vacancy on the Newfoundland Supreme Court bench created by the resignation of Sir James Winter.

The Paris Figaro, commenting upon relations between the United States and Spain on the Cuban question, says that war with Spain means war with Europe.

Two Canadians, Richard and John Beattie, have been arrested under martial law in Cuba. Their friends have brought the matter before Mr. Chamberlain, who promises to bring it to the attention of the Foreign Office.

The Hamburger Nachrichten, Prince Bismarck's organ, accuses England of trying to kindle a European blaze under the pretext of helping the Armenians, and the paper adds that Europe with inconceivable blindness, is playing into England's hands.

The prosecution of the persons arrested for bomb-throwing during a religious procession at Barcelona has commenced. The Attorney-General announces that he will ask the court to sentence 28 to death and 56 to imprisonment for life.

## CANADA'S LUMBER RESOURCES.

**A Special Commissioner of The Timber Trades Journal Seeking Information—He Predicts an Active Demand.**

"There is likely to be a very active demand for lumber next year in the English market." This encouraging statement is made by Mr. Edwin Haynes, Director of The Timber Trades Journal, London, England. This journal, which is the greatest authority on timber and lumber in Europe, has sent out Mr. Haynes to write up a series of illustrated articles on the Canadian lumber industry. The reason for doing this is that a very strong colonial feeling is growing and in fact already exists in England in favor of trade with the colonies, and it was considered that this was an opportune time for further enlightenment in regard to one of Canada's most important industries. Mr. Haynes has been visiting the lower Provinces and Ontario. He is already very favorably impressed with the country and says that our timber resources are greater than he imagined. He thinks that the manufacture of square timber for the Quebec market this year will be at least 5,000,000 cubic feet, as against 4,000,000 last year, but he says as the "coves" in Quebec are unprecedentedly bare, more so than for years past, that in view of the active demand the increase will be easily absorbed.

Speaking of the business generally, Mr. Haynes says, that it was a matter of great surprise to him that the manufacturers of lumber in Canada do not cultivate closer business relations with the actual buyers in England. If the wood-converting manufacturers here would take the trouble to study more closely the English market they would find that there were many lines of goods they could manufacture that would find a ready sale there. As an instance he mentioned the extensive trade already done in miscellaneous goods by the Rathburn Company of Deseronto.

Mr. Haynes also mentions the fact that the streets in London were being paved to a large extent with West Australian hard woods, and he thinks it would be well if the Canadian lumbermen would investigate this matter, as he believes there are several kinds of hard wood in this country that would answer the purpose admirably. Mr. Haynes is agreeably surprised with the climate of this country and will endeavor in his journal to undeceive its readers in the matter. He thinks it a shame that the country should be so much misrepresented. Before leaving the country Mr. Haynes will make a short trip to the western States.

## SLAVES OF CEYLON TEA TRADE.

**Sad Life of the People on the Big Plantations—Always in Debt.**

A great deal of hard and ill-paid work goes to the producing and preparation of tea for the market. Edward Carpenter says that the coolies of Ceylon are unfortunate. They go over in gangs from the mainland of India—men, women and children. An agent is sent to conduct them to their destination, and on their arrival at the tea estate each one finds himself several rupees in debt for the expense of the transit.

Their average amount of wages is about 12 cents a day; but each man is set a certain task, and if it is not completed he receives only half pay, so that if he is slow, or lazy, or ill, he may expect but six cents daily. Under these circumstances the debt keeps on increasing, for the estate is far in the country, away from any town or village, and the tea company consequently sells rice and the other necessaries of life to its own coolies. They cannot buy elsewhere.

"Oh, but they like to be in debt!" said a young planter. "They think they are not doing the best possible thing for themselves unless they owe as much as the company will allow." That planter was very young, and perhaps he did not realize the force of what he was saying; but in any case what a suggestion of despair! at the end of the week the coolie does not receive any money; his debt is simply ticked down a little deeper. If he runs away to a neighbouring estate he is soon sent back in irons. He is a slave and must remain so to the end of his days; but poor food, thin clothing, and the cool air and mists of the mountains soon brings on lung disease, of which the slight-bodied Tamil easily dies.

## GLASS TO KEEP ROOMS COOL.

An Austrian inventor, Richard Szigmondy, is said to have made a new kind of window-glass whose chief peculiarity is that it prevents the passage of about nine-tenths of the heat of the sun's rays. It is well known that ordinary window-glass allows nearly all of the heat derived from the sun to pass through, but on the other hand intercepts nearly all heat coming from non-luminous sources, such as a stove, or the heated ground. This is the reason why heat accumulates under the glass roof of a hothouse. If covered with Szigmondy's glass a hothouse would become most decidedly a cold house, since the heat could not get in to it. One advantage claimed for the new glass is that a house whose windows were furnished with it would remain delightfully cool in summer. But in winter, perhaps the situation would not be so agreeable. Indeed, the panes would have to be exchanged for others of ordinary glass, since otherwise no sun-heat could enter the house.

Misfortune is never mournful to the soul that accepts it, for such do always see that every cloud is an angel's face. Every man deems that he has precisely the trials and temptations which are the hardest of all afflictions for him to bear; but they are so simply because they are the very ones he most needs

# SOME TORONTO FIGURES

## WHAT IT COSTS THE TAXPAYERS TO RUN A BIG CITY.

**Items About Toronto's Debt—Receipts and Expenditures—Bills Big and Little Which Go to Make Up the Rate of Taxation.**

The city gives over $25,000 a year for the support of the Public Library.

The total running expenses of the Assessment Department yearly is less than $18,000.

The estimated value of city buildings is $1,602,620. On these there is a total insurance of $636,980.

Salaries at the City Hall of Mayor, aldermen and municipal officers amount to about $70,000 a year.

The grant of the Ontario Government to city Public schools amounts yearly to about $18,000.

Two and a half million dollars a year are paid by the ratepayers of the city of Toronto in taxes.

Toronto has a seventeen million dollar debt, but she has property and other assets valued at $12,000,000.

The salaries of the police force amount to over $200,000 a year. The uniform worn by the men is paid for by the city.

In connection with Toronto's waterworks there are buildings valued at $[illegible],000, and machinery and boilers worth $210,000.

The General City Debt grew from $2,712,207 in 1871 to $7,107,470 in 1895, to $11,509,590 in 1889, and to $12,- 474,509 in 1895.

The local improvement debt in 1871 was $92,533. It grew to $1,112,792 in 1885 to $2,726,857 in 1891, and to $9,- 052,270 in 1895.

The fire halls of the city of Toronto are estimated as being worth $170,000. On these there is insurance to the extent of $45,000

The old City Hall building is valued at $60,000, and insured at $15,000. There is in it about $30,000 worth of furniture, with insurance of $3,000.

For stationery to be used in its various departments, the city pays over $[illegible],000 a year. Of this the Engineer's Department uses $1,000 worth.

There is $20,000 of insurance on the main building of the jail, and $8,000 more on the residence, cottages and boilers in connection therewith.

Notwithstanding its legal exemption, Jarvis street Baptist church pays in general taxes each year. These taxes amount to about $900 per annum.

Last year the Toronto Electric Light Company received $108,000 for electric lighting, and the Consumers' Gas Company $27,000 for gas supplied to street lamps.

Since 1891 the Bell Telephone Company has paid as revenue to the city for its franchise, $31,814. Yearly this revenue is in the neighbourhood of $8,000

The Government of Ontario paid last year the sum of $5,489 towards expenses of the jail. The County of York paid for the maintenance of county prisoners, $1,920.

For the year ending 31st March, 1896, water rentals paid to the Water-works Department amounted to $352,437. The charge against the corporation aggregated $[illegible]6,731.

The total law expenses of the city last year were $27,000. This includes salaries of Solicitor's office, counsel fees, costs in suits, stationery and other office requirements.

A premium of one and a half per cent. for a term of three years is the charge to the city for insurance. At this rate the city pays about $3,000 a year for its insurance.

For the maintenance of Public schools and buildings last year $150,000 was paid out by citizens. The Collegiate Institutes received nearly $[illegible]0,000, and Separate schools $32,000.

The contributions by the men to the Firemen's Benefit Fund amounts to nearly $2,000 yearly. The City of Toronto pays interest on the deposits made for this fund of about $900 annually.

There are over $450,000 worth of buildings on the Exhibition grounds; they are insured for about $250,000. There is a mortgage against the buildings of $85,000 to the Canada Life Assurance Company.

The city of Toronto derives a revenue from licenses, Police Court fines, market and weighing fees, street railway and telephone services of about $[illegible]37,000. The revenue from water-works is about $150,000 yearly.

The real estate in the city of Toronto was valued at $36,000,000 in 1875. In 1885 it had grown to $77,000,000. The boom lifted it to $137,000,000, which was its assessment in 1894. It is now valued at $120,000,000.

The water lots owned by the city, the walks and gardens, leasehold property and the market block bring in an annual revenue of $100,000, which will doubtless increase from year to year, as the leases mature and are renewed.

After deducting sinking fund on hand, the net debt of the city on account of local improvements is $5,424,- 160. The general debt is $12,095,751. Thus the total net debt of the city at the present time is about seventeen million dollars.

In 1871 the personal property of the city was rated by the assessors at $7,- 000,000. By gradual stages a total of about $12,000,000 has now been reached. Personal property is here inclusive of income.

It costs the city $5,000 yearly for municipal elections. Returning officers get a total of $1,200; polling booths have cost formerly about $900; clerks and special constables $800. The printing of voters' lists calls for nearly $2,- 000 yearly.

Salaries in connection with Toronto jail amount to $10,000 a year. For temporary services of assistants the charge is about $3,500 per annum. Provisions for 1895 cost $2,987. The total expense in maintaining the jail yearly is about $22,000.

On account of liquor licenses, Toronto receives over $30,000 a year. Auctioneers pay $875; billiard hall proprietors, $2,000; cabmen, $500; cigar dealers, $2,500; victualling houses, $1,000; livery stable keepers, $665. Dog tags cost citizens about $5,500 yearly.

Col. H. J. Grasett, Deputy Chief Stewart and Inspector Stark are allowed $100 a year each for clothing. Each of the detectives is allowed $50 a year to dress with. The inspectors and sergeants are also made an allowance for the same purpose.

Up to the end of 1895 the Toronto Railway Company paid $247,778 for mileage rental and $374,895 for percentage of receipts to the city of Toronto. The mileage rental equals about $60,000 a year, and the percentage receipts about $80,000 a year.

City Treasurer Coady, as required by statute, furnishes bonds to the extent of $65,000 for the due performance of his responsible duties. Of this amount he himself is responsible for $20,000, three other responsible parties for $20,- 000, and Guarantee Companies for the remainder.

Forty-four insurance companies carry the city's insurance, which is divided into 88 parts or shares, of which the great majority of the companies have two. The British American and Western Assurance Companies carry each four shares, and four outside companies carry one each.

In 1874 the rate of taxation was 12 1-2 mills, the lowest for a quarter of a century. In 1877 the rate was 19 1-2 mills, the highest the city has had. Since that the rate has hovered around 16 mills, although in 1889, 1890, and 1892 it was 14 1-2 mills on a very high assessment.

The local improvement annual rates have grown tremendously in twenty-five years. In 1871 there was paid only $8,[illegible]30. The rolls for 1880 showed $45,311. In 1885 locals cost landowners $129,498. The sum of $361,103 was reached in 1890. High water mark

In 1871 there was collected for general taxes the sum of $439,157. In 1880 these general taxes had grown to $852,905. In 1885 the general ratepayers contributed $1,172,805 Five years more and $1,984,866 was required for 1890. No less than $2,607,586 went into the City Treasurer in 1893 for general rates. Last year there was collected $2,396,970.

The total assessment of the city of Toronto in 1871 was twenty-nine million dollars. In 1880 it was fifty million dollars; in 1885, sixty-eight million dollars; in 1890, one hundred and thirty-six million dollars, in 1891, one hundred and fifty million dollars; in 1896, one hundred and forty million dollars. The latest assessment for 1897 is one hundred and thirty million dollars.

# SOME LATE CABLE NEWS

## MR. LAURIER TO VISIT ENGLAND NEXT SPRING.

**America's Next Ambassador—Prospecting for Gold in China—The Next Expedition to Khartoum—Herbert Booth in London—Dr. Jameson's Health, &c., &c.**

A despatch from London says:—The Canadian Premier, Mr. Laurier, is expected in London, accompanied by Sir Richard Cartwright, Minister of Trade and Commerce, next spring. The questions of assisted emigration, a fast mail service, and Imperial aid towards enlarging the defence works on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts of the Dominion will be the leading topics discussed between the Canadian Ministers and Mr. Chamberlain.

Frederick C. Selous, the African hunter and explorer, intends to take a sporting trip to the Rocky mountains.

There is much speculation among Americans in London as to who will be the next Ambassador to the Court of St. James. It is hoped that with a change of Ambassadors the United States Government will find it advisable to change the Embassy as well. The present quarters, the ground floor of a dingy flat in Victoria street, are not imposing, and do not compare favourably with the splendid houses provided by their Governments for the French, German, Austrian, Russian, Italian, and even Spanish and Chinese Ambassadors.

Mr. Pritchard Morgan, M. P., who is interested in the gold mines of North Wales, which were discovered by him, has started, accompanied by a number of mining experts, for China via the United States. He was in close touch with Li-Hung-Chang while the latter was in England, and it is presumed that Mr. Morgan is going to prospect for gold.

It is announced that Mr. E. T. Hooley, the many times millionaire, whose sensational purchases of bicycle companies and landed estates in a dozen countries, and other various enterprises, have for some time past been the wonder of the financial world, has now acquired Mr. T. P. O'Connor's Sun, which, it is added, will be turned into a Conservative organ. Mr. O'Connor refuses to confirm or deny the report.

The proposed expedition next year against Khartoum will, it is said, number 25,000 men, of which 18,000 will be Egyptian troops, and 7,000 British troops, including batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery and probably a Highland regiment, and an Indian brigade with cavalry amounting to 20,000 men, all to be available for an attack upon Omdurman, the fortified dervish camp near Khartoum, where fierce fighting is expected. The dervishes there are reported to number at least 60,000 fighting men, and the forts are defended by 70 Krupp guns.

Mr. Herbert Booth, late of Toronto and third son of the general, had an enthusiastic reception at the Exhibition building, Melbourne. He is described as a thin, little pallid man, all fire and magnetism and electrical feeling. His voice is not powerful, and he gave the impression of a man struggling with physical disability, but with a decided suggestion of reserved power.

The Countess of Dunraven gave a large ball at Adare manor, County Limerick, on Friday evening.

Dr. Jameson, the leader of the Transvaal raid, undergoing sentence of 15 months' imprisonment in Holloway gaol, whose sickness has previously been noted, is now pronounced to be in a critical condition.

Mr. Alfred Austin, the poet-laureate, had a narrow escape from drowning in the Tweed during the past week. He fell into the water from a fishing boat, was dragged back by a boatman, the oars were lost, and the boat drifted rapidly towards a weir. Thereupon the poet plunged into the water, and was able to reach the weir, to which he clung until rescued.

## TAUGHT TO USE THE DAGGER.

Among the wilder tribes of the Caucasus every child is taught to use the dagger almost as soon as he can walk. The children first learn to stab water without making a splash, and by incessant practice acquire an extraordinary command over the weapon.

## NO REASON.

When you ask a fowl what season
Does his fancy most engage,
Though a wise bird, 'tis no reason
That his answer should be "sage."

# THE FIELD OF COMMERCE.

**Some Items of Interest to the Busy Business Man.**

Speculation in Canadian Pacific is dull and prices weaker. Earnings continue to show decreases.

Stocks of wheat at Port Arthur and Fort William are 2,845,700 bushels as against 2,772,600 bushels a week ago.

The stock of wheat in Toronto is 236,- 500 bushels as against 91,190 bushels a year ago. Barley 106,432 bushels as against 29,114 bushels a year ago.

The earnings of Canadian Pacific for the week ended Nov. 21 were $424,000, a decrease of $78,000 as compared with the corresponding week of last year.

There is a good deal of bull talk on wheat, and indications are still favorable for still higher prices. May wheat in Chicago sold at 84c. and Liverpool futures are 3 1-4d. higher.

Holders of Postal Telegraph predict 100 for the stock within a short period. It is thought that a favorable arrangement will be made between Cable and Postal, the former guaranteeing 4 per cent. per annum on the latter stock.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada is 59,971,000 bushels, a decrease of 1,037,000 bushels for the week. A year ago the total was 62,221,000 bushels and two years ago 83,974,000 bushels. Wheat on passage to Europe 32,100,000 bushels as against 26,800,000 bushels a year ago.

The New York market for anthracite coal was irregular, but it was claimed that a better price was being realized than last week. The August circular of $4.10 net for stove coal was secured on large contracts, while small buyers paid the September price, 25 cents per ton higher. The demand for domestic sizes is light, and the expected advance in retail prices in New York was not made. Improvement since election has been most apparent in small steam sizes of anthracite. For many months these accumulated in stock, but they are now moving largely into consumption as factories resume. New Jersey orders for steam coals were largest, but the New England market also improved in spite of the firmness of Sound freights.

As to northern pine, says the North-West Lumberman, the season of navigation on the great lakes and canals is nearing a close, so that movement by water cannot long continue. The size of stocks at Lake Erie and Lake Michigan wholesale markets can now be adequately estimated. At Tonawanda and Buffalo they are about the same as last year. In Chicago they are about 75,000,000 feet less than at the close of last season. There is rather more lumber left over at the mills than there commonly is at the close of the season, but considerable of it has been sold. Mill operators are holding their unsold lumber for higher prices.

The Department of Trade and Commerce is in receipt of a report from Mr. John Dunn, its agent at Bristol. He states that steamers from Montreal and Quebec have brought to that port cattle, sheep, cheese and butter in large quantities, and the trade in these seems to be established on a firm basis. So long as Canadian shippers study the requirements of the English market, and keep up the quality of the goods which they desire to send, they can easily hold their own against the Continental merchants and competition from Australia and New Zealand. Shipments like the above are profiting well, and later no doubt there will be further shipments. The prices are bound to improve. Canadian hay has come in largely of late, and the British merchants are in direct communication with the fodder merchants in Canada. He hopes to see the trade assume larger dimensions. There were three or four consignments of Canadian tomatoes this year, but at the time of their arrival in Bristol the local market was simply glutted with tomatoes from the Channel Islands and France. They only realized from one-and-half to two pence per pound wholesale, and this would scarcely cover the cost of transit. The marvellous crop of mushrooms has been ruining the tomato trade, and he regrets that the consigners had not notified him before shipping, as arrangements might have been made for their more profitable sale. Apples from Montreal have been selling at from ten shillings to twelve shillings a barrel at public auction. The English apple crop has been a total failure, and in addition recent storms have simply ruined the orchards. During the early part of this month the English crop must all be put on the market, as it will not keep, and later on prices will be better. There is one thing to be remembered, that the demand is limited, and any extravagant shipments to load up the markets will certainly be attended with loss. On no account must rubbish be sent, but the very best picked fruits.

## JUMPING A STRAW.

Some years ago the late Maj. Roddy Owen was at Aldershot, and offered to back himself to make a horse he was riding jump a straw Every one laughed, and although his fondness for horses was well known, none believed he could accomplish the feat. A long straw was procureed and laid on the ground. Owen proceeded to blindfold the horse, and rode him at the mark, which he animal cleared with a bound that would have settled a five-bar gate. When he returned to collect his bets all the sportsmen had vanished.

## GOLD IN SEA WATER.

According to Prof. Liversidge, of Sydney University, the waves that beat on the New South Wales Coast are literally golden. By exhaustive experiment he has demonstrated that the sea water contains gold to the amount of half a grain to one grain per ton, or 230 to 260 tons of gold per cubic mile. If the same proportion is found in the ocean as a whole, then, at the rate of a grain per ton of water, there are 100,000,000,000 tons of gold in solution. The problem is how to get at it.

## LIFE'S AVERAGE INCREASED.

The statistics of life insurance people show that in the last 25 years the average of man's life has increased 5 per cent., or two whole years—from 41.9 to [illegible]

## COMPENSATION.

Diner—Isn't that a pretty small steak?

Attendant—Yes; but you'll find it will take you a good while to eat it.

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