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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 curfew bell was rung for the first time in Ottawa on New Year's night.

The London Y. M. C. A. Hall, costing \$30,000, was opened with a New Year's reception.

The Manitoba winter is becoming uncertain. A regular thaw, with rain is reported at Winnipeg.

A London West Methodist minister, Rev. Richard Hobbs, denounces skating as "an evil pastime."

Tenders have been received at the Department of Railways and Canals for new pier works at Port Dalhousie.

General Manager Hays and other officials of the Grand Trunk inspected the company's new car shops at London.

It is expected that Mr. Laurier will be made Inspector-General at the coming celebration of the Queen's long reign.

The Hamilton Iron & Steel Company has closed down the smelting works for a while, it having a plentiful supply of material on hand.

The cattle which were destroyed at Belford, Que., on November 7 were suffering from tuberculosis and not pleuropneumonia, as reported.

Detective Silvio H. Carpenter of the Canadian secret service has been appointed chief of the Montreal detective force to succeed Chief Cullen.

The engagement is announced of Miss Myrtle Brown, of Nashville, Tenn., and the Hon. Archibald Macdonald, brother of Lady Aberdeen.

Robert Glass, a ten-year-old London boy, was rescued from drowning in the Thames by a companion named Lewis Fidderson, nine years old.

The will of the late Lieut.-Governor Fraser was probated at Fredericton. The estate is entered at \$11,500, which is bequeathed to the deceased's family and near relatives.

Land Commissioner Hamilton of the P.P.R. says that the sales of Manitoba lands exceed all records the past few months. The demand is good and farmers are paying up well.

Major Kitson, the new commandant of the Royal Military College, Kingston, in company with Major-General Gascoigne, on Thursday morning had a long interview with the Governor-General.

The Canadian-Australian Royal Mail steamship line, the vessels of which ply between British Columbia and the Australian colonies, is about to place a new steamer of 4,250 tons register on the route.

The C.P.R. Company propose to inaugurate their entrance into Hamilton and Buffalo by placing two trains on the road of exceptionally fine workmanship, which will make the journey in very fast time.

Mr. Alex. Abbey, one of the oldest and most respected residents of Port Dalhousie, Ont., died on Sunday, aged 85. He had lived in Port Dalhousie and followed his occupation of shipbuilding for upwards of half a century.

Word has been received from London announcing the serious illness of Lieutenant-Governor Kirkpatrick. He will undergo an operation in a fortnight, and Mrs. Kirkpatrick will leave Toronto immediately to join her husband.

Mr. Gundersheve, general manager of the British Columbia Navigation Company, believes that navigation could be prolonged two or three weeks at each end of the season by employing powerful ice-breakers on the river.

Mr. Alex. Lanctot and his son Frederick were stabbed at Montreal by a gang of Italians, who layd them near their home. The elder Lanctot died of his wounds and the younger is in a precarious condition. Two of the Italians have been arrested.

Sir James Grant, who was physician to the Princess Louise during her residence in Canada, and who recently was granted the honor of a long interview with her Majesty, says he places no credence in the report in a New York paper as to the alarming state of the Queen's health.

There is a movement on foot among a number of Toronto sporting men to make a pool for the purpose of sending Champion Jake Gaudaur and Eddie Bernard, New Haven, nephew, abroad. It is proposed that enough money be raised to send the pair to England, and probably Australia, and give them all the backing they want.

GREAT BRITAIN.
Sir Alexander Milne, Admiral of the British fleet, is dead. He was ninety years of age.

Visitors to Hawarden say that they have not seen Mr. Gladstone in better health for some time.

London was enveloped in a heavy black fog on Saturday and business was practically suspended.

Sir Charles Tupper has postponed the date of his departure from England for Canada until February 4.

Lord William Beresford met with a serious accident on the hunting field last Wednesday, and now lies in a precarious condition.

Ian MacLaren (the Rev. John Watson, D.D.) says the richest class in America aim at a close imitation of English country house life.

THE FIELD OF COMMERCE.

Some Items of Interest to the Busy Business Man.

The gross earnings of the Grand Trunk Railway increased \$7,555 for the week ended December 31.

Stocks of wheat at Port Arthur and Fort William are 2,075,588 bushels against 2,101,996 bushels a year ago.

The stocks of wheat at Toronto are 265,676 bushels as against 231,737 last week and 48,091 bushels a year ago.

The money market at Toronto is easy with call loans quoted at 5 per cent. Stocks quiet and firm. A feature is the further advance in Postal Telegraph.

The net earnings of the Canadian Pacific Railway for the month of November decreased \$145,917, as compared with last year. From January 1 the net earnings increased \$371,355.

The deposits of Canadian banks increased over \$4,000,000 during the month of November. Current discounts decreased \$1,250,000 and the balance due from agencies in the United States increased nearly \$3,000,000.

During the past week the visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada decreased 720,000 bushels, the amount afloat to Europe decreased 1,840,000, and the English visible supply decreased 1,000,000 bushels. This is a decrease of 2,882 bushels for the week. The visible supply of wheat in Canada and the United States, together with the amount afloat in Europe, is now 85,403,000 bushels as compared with 86,598,000 bushels a year ago.

There is nothing specially new or interesting in the general trade situation at Montreal. Retail holiday shopping has been brisk, but among the wholesale warehouses there is a general quietude as far as sales are concerned, and the main attention is being engaged by the final closing of accounts and the figuring up of prospects for the year, which, in the majority of cases, is completed, will not by any means be excessive. Among the factories there is a great deal of shutting down, as is usual at the season. The money market shows no change of any kind, the discount rate remaining at 6 to 7 per cent, and call money at 4 1/2 per cent.

Trade in wholesale circles at Toronto for the week has been quiet. Many travelers are in, and stock-taking is the rule. Business is likely to be quiet the next two weeks, and after that the market will be more active.

The dry goods trade in particular is in a somewhat unsettled state. That the great department stores are responsible in a great measure for the unhealthy conditions existing cannot be denied. Some important changes are anticipated in the near future with regard to this trade. Failures are numerous in many lines, but this is not unusual at this season of the year. Groceries and hardware are less active now than the holiday trade is over. Prices of the leading staples are unchanged, and remittances are fair.

The strength of British and foreign wheat markets is being reflected in the highest prices for the week has been quiet. Many travelers are in, and stock-taking is the rule. Business is likely to be quiet the next two weeks, and after that the market will be more active.

The trial of Sofia of the alleged assassin of Stambouloff, formerly Premier of Bulgaria, was concluded on Wednesday. Two of the prisoners were found guilty and given short sentences. The third was acquitted.

Gen. Weyler, in a very boastful interview asserts that the Province of Pinar del Rio has been cleared of rebels, and that the insurgents are lacking in valour and other elements to make the uprising a success.

The wife of the insurgent Col. Mirabal arrived at Key West, Fla., on Wednesday. She claims to have come direct from the insurgents' camp, and declares that Gen. Maceo, whom she has been nursing, is not dead, but is in a fair way of recovery. The Junta in New York does not believe the story.

WRECK OF THE WARWICK.
Trying Experiences of the Crew of Fifty-Two Men.

A despatch from Seal Cove, Grand Manan, N. B., says:—The steamer Warwick of the Donaldson Line, Capt. Kemp, from Glasgow for St. John, N. B., ashore on the Yellow Muir ledge near Grand Manan, encountered heavy gales all the way across. Sixteen days she sighted Sable Island at 2.30 p. m., and struck the ledge at 20.30 p. m. There was a strong southerly wind and a heavy sea, which washed the ship continually. Soon after striking the crew launched two boats, which were instantly smashed. The crew clung to the rigging till the next forenoon. One man was washed overboard; the next sea threw him back and he was saved. At 11 a. m. the crew succeeded in launching two more boats. The entire 52 men crowded into the small boats and battled with the heavy seas for two hours. They were finally rescued by the schooner Gen. DeWelle, Capt. Z. Suerette, of Gloucester, with the aid of the additional crew from Seal Cove, and were taken to Seal Cove and are being treated there. The carpenter of the ship was injured by being thrown against the bulwarks by a sea. It is impossible yet to obtain the cause of the disaster. The master probably mistook Gannet Rock light for Brier Island. The night was very dark, but not thick. The tug Storm King of St. John with Superintendent Nairn, at once surveying the wreck. The sea was very smooth next day, but the ship will be a total loss.

COPIED THE NAME FROM HIS GRIP.
Mr. Smith, an English traveler, arrived one evening at a hotel in Austria. On the way he had picked up a smart German and hired him as a servant. In Austria every one staying at a hotel is obliged to register his name and occupation in a book, which is kept for police examination, so Mr. Smith told his servant Fritz to bring this book for him to write his name in.

"I have already registered, milor," said Fritz, "as an English gentleman of independent means."

"But, I've never told you my name, so how do you know what it is?"

"I copied it from milor's portmanteau," answered Fritz.

"Why, it isn't on my portmanteau," cried Mr. Smith, "bring the book and let me see what you have put down."

The book was brought, and Mr. Smith to his amusement discovered that his clever servant had described him as "Monsieur Warranted Solid Leather!"

EXAMPLES OF LONGEVITY.

Habits of Life of Various Male and Female Centenarians.

Among the examples of moderation in diet, Miguel Solis, of San Salvador is conspicuous, says the London Standard. He was, according to the Lancet, 180 years old in 1878, and, if he is still to the fore, is likely to complete his second century. He believed that he had lived so long because he had never eaten more than one meal a day. Even in that he limited himself to what he could tuck in during the short space of half an hour. He therefore was a living argument against those hygienists who bid us eat slowly and masticate well. His diet was chiefly vegetable, meat, which was always cooked the day before, entering into it only twice a week. For two days in every month he fasted, and he drank large quantities of water. His plan included several other details, and on the whole, we are the three-score and ten can, without envy, wish him joy.

Mackin, the comedian, who lived and died in Covington, was a wonderful oddity, in virtue of which—he managed in spite of which—he managed to get through 107 years. He followed a simple and simple rule of eating when hungry, drinking when thirsty, and sleeping when sleepy. He never took off his clothes except for the purpose of having his body rubbed all over with brandy. He always

SLEPT IN BLANKETS.
and history does not record a single journey on their part to the laundress. And his couch, which was hard, was placed on the floor, with the three-score and ten can, without envy, wish him joy.

What is most strange about longevity is that it comes, like the dew of heaven to every class. Kings who live in luxury, according to the details, live in a state of chronic cold and hunger, giants and cripples, abstainers and drunkards, large eaters and small eaters, and sluggards, hard workers and idlers, vegetarians and carnivores, smokers and non-smokers, sane and insane—all have apparently an equal chance of the prize of long life. An old woman, who died in Ireland at the age of 112 was all her life a beggar, and during the last half of it was never known to eat a square meal from one end of the year to the other. In the United States, on the other hand, a man even exceeded this figure, and he was never known to pass a day without eating as much as he himself as an ordinary family of five.

It was also an American who grew a new and fine set of teeth at the age of 106 for the purpose of eating three pounds of pork, three pounds of bread, and a vast quantity of cabbage on the day when he gave up the ghost.

The other hand along the Riviere, who died aged 105, never drank anything but water, and ate only once a day. A priest of Nice lived solely on vegetables, which kept his machinery running, and in perfect order, for 106 years.

Among a host of others, one gentleman of 127 years, a grandson of the famous Thomas Parr, attributes his length of days to

EXTREME TEMPERANCE
and regular exercise. And Mrs. Judith Hannister, who died at Cowes in her 108th year, lived on and turned topsy-turvy for the last sixty years of her life; while a man named Confit, of Burythorpe, achieved the wonderful feat of carrying a half ton of moderate eating, great exercise, and gulping down a raw egg once a day. By a pleasant process one Earl of Huntingdon carried Mr. Weyland, who died aged 116 years. And Mr. Elkins, of Combe, lived a century by feeding, during the latter two-fifths of his life, on apples and turnip tops.

At every meal, Roasted turnip for supper every night in the year formed the chief part of his diet. On Richard Brown, of Peterchurch, was never without a pipe in his mouth. It would be interesting to hear some of the records of the men and women who keep the pipe going with as much constancy as a blast furnace.

BRITISH TRADE.
Prosperous State of the Finances—There Will be a Surplus.

For the nine months expired of the British fiscal year the Customs show a net increase of \$2,165,000 compared with the corresponding period of 1895. The excise duties increased \$3,055,000, while other sources of revenue give the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the nine months ten million dollars more than the budget estimated for the whole year, and promise another \$500,000 budget surplus. Yet, with the ever-increasing demands for the army and navy and doles to the landlords and Church schools, the expenditure grows as fast as the revenue. The income tax now stands at one shilling and eightpence, almost a war rate, while the free breakfast table seems as far off as ever. All signs show, despite the fair trade and preferential tariff arguments, that trade is expanding steadily, if not rapidly. Railway receipts increased \$16,000,000, or 4 per cent. during the year. British investors have been asked to subscribe \$750,000,000 to the new loans and companies, of which \$90,000,000 represents breweries and distilleries, \$25,000,000 cycling, and \$25,000,000 motors. Last year's total was \$500,000,000. The production of the shipbuilding yards was 1,316,900 tons or 100,000 tons above the best previous year, 1893. This is equal to 5,000 tons of carrying capacity launched daily.

A STRANGE PLANT.
The corpse plant is the name of a remarkable carnivorous specimen that grows in the Colony of Natal. Its principal feature is a bell-shaped throat, opening into a hollow stem. It is a green plant, and covered with a thick glutinous secretion, while its odor is very offensive. This attracts carrion-feeding birds to it, and once they alight on it, they are lost. The claws being entangled in the secretion, the bell-shaped mouth folds up, and they are literally swallowed.

OLD STYLE AND NEW.
Teacher—What is that letter?
Pupil—I don't know.
Teacher—What is it that makes honest?

Small boy (son of a manufacturer)—Glucose.

SOME LATE CABLE NEWS

THE TIMES REVIEWS BRITAIN'S FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Disagreeable Friend—Death of Mr. Gladstone's Old Friend—Nicker for the Navy—The Farmer Satisfied—Old Age Pensions—Consular changes.

A despatch from London says:—The Times, in its New Year editorial, reviewing the foreign relations of Great Britain says:—"It is peculiarly appropriate that the year which will be distinguished by the celebration of the diamond jubilee of the Queen should also be marked by the conclusion of a treaty of arbitration with that other great nation of our race." It adds, "We hardly hope or desire to arrange our differences with other States in this manner, which seems natural and people classically when dealing with a people peaceably allied by blood with ourselves."

London was enveloped in a heavy black fog on Friday, and business was in consequence practically suspended. A large number of street accidents, mostly collisions of vehicles and pedestrians took place.

The chief feature of the estate market year just closed was the large number of noblemen selling. The Duke of Devonshire sold a fine estate of 32,000 acres in West Cork, including the town of Bandon, to Sir John Arnott, for £250,000. Lord Ashburnton disposed of a Wiltshire property of 10,000 acres; Lord Churchill sold the magnificent Cornbury park, Charlbury, Oxfordshire, consisting of 5,000 acres, with the historical mansion, which was formerly the hunting lodge of Henry II, and the Marquis of Queensberry disposed of his vast Kinnmont estate to a Huddersfield manufacturer.

Unseasonable weather continues to prevail in England and on the Continent. In this country for several days during the past week the temperature was almost spring-like, the mercury ranging over 50 degrees in the shade and in Paris, on Sunday last, the tables in front of the cafes and restaurants on the boulevards were crowded with people breakfasting or otherwise refreshing themselves. On the other hand along the Riviere, and in Algeria, the weather has been unusually cold, the mercury at Monte Carlo and at Algiers recording under 40 degrees.

The death of Mr. Bertram Wedderburn Currie, the well-known banker, on Tuesday last, coincided with the anniversary of the birth of Mr. Gladstone. Mr. Currie was a warm friend of Mr. Gladstone, who frequently consulted him on the budget and general questions of finance. He was an agent of the House of Commons, and had been so disposed, have had a prominent place under Mr. Gladstone when the latter held office. Mr. Currie kindly supported the Irish financial claims.

He was one of the most prominent members of the financial relations commission.

Following the example set by the American Navy Department, the British naval authorities have decided to use naval steel instead of pulverized steel for the protection of the warships now under construction.

The farmer, who is an inveterate grumbler, is finding that some virtue is to be found in the fact that the Argentine Republic and Australia supply 27 out of the 87 pounds of meat which the Englishman eats per head yearly, yet the British farmer is selling more meat than for many years past, and is getting from 2d. to 3d. per stone (14 pounds) higher prices, while his wheat fetches 50 per cent., or 11s. per quarter, higher than formerly.

Visitors to Hawarden say that they have not seen Mr. Gladstone for some time in better health than on his 87th birthday.

Mr. E. T. Hooley, the millionaire, who has attracted so much attention by his recent purchase of stock country, drank rum and whiskey as usual, but in a new character, that of the proprietor of a great scheme for old age pensions. He suggests that a fixed duty of five shillings per quarter be levied on imported wheat, and that the proceeds be invested in a pension fund to provide all indigent persons above 60 years of age with a pension of 15 shillings weekly.

The following changes are announced in the British Colonial Governmentships:—Sir Hubert Edward Henry Jerningham, Governor of Mauritius, has been transferred to Trinidad, his successor in Mauritius being Sir Charles Bruce, now Governor of the Windward Islands. Sir Charles Bruce, is, in turn, succeeded by Sir C. Alfred Molony, Governor of British Honduras, whose successor in Honduras is Hon. David Wilson, the present sub-governor of Crown Lands in Trinidad.

THE BRITISH NAVY.
Description of the New Cruiser the Powerful—More Torpedo Destroyers to Be Built.

Britain's new cruiser, the Powerful, is undoubtedly the most formidable warship in the world and in every way entitled to be called a floating fortress. She is 538 feet long and 71 wide, and her hull contains 106 steam engines for various uses. Her speed of twenty-two and one-half knots, an hour is produced by 26,497 horse-power, and one coaling will carry her 9,600 knots. For offense she has guns that throw eight tons of steel a minute. In other words, she can direct upon an enemy 206 pounds of steel shot a second, and keep it up without cessation. Modern warships are gradually approaching the Great Eastern's 680 feet in length and 83 feet in width.

It is stated that the British Admiralty intends to introduce a new class of torpedo destroyers at a minimum speed of 33 knots. Twenty vessels, it seems, will be ordered immediately of this class.

OIL TO PROPEL WARSHIPS.
Oil is now used on warships for partially heating the boilers. This is one of the most notable departures from the modern methods of producing heat in boilers, for many years, and it is proved the success anticipated it will probably be used by every nation possessing a fleet of war vessels. This new oil is a product of the distillation of lignite, and is dark brown in color, the flame being very bright and absolutely smokeless. Its heating power is declared to be greatly superior to coal, and its cost about the same.

CANADA'S TURN NEXT

The Tide of Emigration is Turning Towards Manitoba.

A despatch from London, says—Mr. Thomas Greenway's speech in Winnipeg on December 15 excites much interest here. It will be recalled that the speech foreshadowed a Government purchase of the railway and other incorporation lands in the Northwest for the creation of free grants. Those here who view the utterance in that light say they feel that such a policy would give an immense stimulus to the settlement of the Northwest, and with the best class of immigrants. It is pointed out that with these choice lands in prospect, Canada would outrival most other countries seeking immigrants, even though they offered assisted passages. Free grants of land are now offered to settlers by New Zealand and Queensland.

Enquiries among the companies here holding Northwest lands show that they would willingly accede to any proposal to resell part, at least, of the lands on moderate terms, though they believe that the gold discoveries in the West and the higher prices this year for wheat must, in any case, greatly improve the value of their property in the near future. In view of this the remark that "Canada's turn is surely coming at last," is heard on all sides.

At the meeting of the South African General Development Syndicate, on Tuesday, Col. Englede reported that, in view of the bad times in Africa, he had invested in the syndicate's property the Mikado mine, in the Lake-of-the-Woods district. The investment was approved by the meeting. The North Queensland Mortgage Investment Company's report states that owing to the lack of suitable mortgages in Queensland, the directors have placed a part of the company's uninvested funds on the first mortgage of real estate in the North-West, and that they propose to extend the business now being done there.

A CONVENT HOLOCAUST.
SEVEN NUNS PERISH IN FLAMES AT ROBERVAL.

Ursuline Convent Destroyed—There Were No Fire Appliances—Very Little Insurance.

Quebec was thrown into intense excitement on Wednesday by a report from Roberval to the effect that the Ursuline institution there, a branch of the Quebec institution, had been destroyed by fire. At 4.15 a.m., the fire originated in the altar of the chapel, a lighted taper communicating the flames to the cradle in which the representation of the infant Jesus reposed. The flames caught on some lace, and were first discovered by the sacristan of the institution, who at once gave the alarm.

By the time that the news had spread among the villagers the blaze was such that nothing could be done, for the whole interior was a mass of seething flames. The fire spread with incredible speed, and could not be controlled, the spectators being only able to look on and see the building burn, there being no water available and no snow on the ground. More than this, there were no fire appliances available, and the lake was frozen over.

SEVEN SISTERS MISSING.
Since the fire seven sisters have been missing, and it is supposed that all have perished. As the time at which the fire originated was subsequent to that at which the sisters rose, and moreover seen out after the fire broke out, it is thought that they must have rushed in to save some of their belongings and were asphyxiated. This is rendered more probable by the fact that the boarders who were in the convent, including two young ladies, the nieces of the Messrs. N. K. and M. Connelly, of the well-known contracting firm, and Mrs. Connelly and Company, were saved, and were dressed at the time. The other boarders, about 100 in number, were away on their holidays.

THE LOSS.
The loss is estimated at \$75,000, only about \$12,000 of insurance. The school was closed on account of holidays, and most of the pupils had gone home. Those remaining are all safe and housed at Marvoux hotel, where they are well looked after. The nuns are scattered throughout the village.

NAMES OF THE VICTIMS.
The missing are as follows:—Mother St. Francois de Paul, nee Elise Gosselin; Mother St. Charles, nee Marie Gosselin; Mother St. Anne, nee Marie Hulton; Mother St. Antoine de Padoue, nee Catherine Boule; Deschambault; Mother St. Dominique, nee Marie Louise Deschambault; Mother St. Louis, nee Rose Gosselin, Deschambault. The chaplain is said to have narrowly escaped being asphyxiated, and it is likewise reported that a nun was badly burned while fighting the fire.

The institution was established at Roberval in 1882 by Bishop Ravine, of Chicoutimi, but the present building, which is of stone, was erected some years later.

A PRETTY SETTLEMENT.
Roberval is a very pretty settlement on the south-western shore of Lake St. John, and until the recent extension of the Quebec and Lake St. John railway to Chicoutimi on the Saguenay it was the northern terminus of that line. Notwithstanding its remote situation, it is an old and prosperous town, and takes its name from the famous Roberval. It is widely celebrated as a fishing and hunting centre, and is annually visited by a large number of Americans. Roberval is also a prosperous lumbering centre, and has a population of 2,400. The nursery which was visited by fire was one of the most conspicuous features of the town. Roberval is 190 miles north of Quebec.

MOTOR WAGONS FOR PRODUCE.
Motor cars capable of drawing three wagons carrying 10 tons of produce are about to be introduced into Liverpool. The wagons are to be loaded at the ship's side, and the ordinary highways are to be utilized without the use of rails or using any other mechanical aids.