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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.

Stratford is to have a Free Library.

The miners' strike at Springhill, N.S., continues.

Mr. Richard Pope, Commissioner of Patents at Ottawa, is dead.

Mr. D. W. Bole has been elected President of the Winnipeg Board of Trade.

Last year's cut of timber in the Ottawa valley is estimated at 614,250,000 feet.

Winnipeg School Board is asking the city for $100,000 to meet this year's expenses.

A number of changes have taken place among the street railway company's officials at London.

The report that the Montreal cotton mills intend closing down for three months is denied in Montreal.

Mayor Bingham, of Ottawa, has given his first month's salary as Chief Magistrate to the poor of the city.

It is now thought probable that Surveyor Ogilvie and party will remain in the Yukon country over winter.

Ald. Watkins, of Hamilton, has complained to the Mayor of tobacco-smoking at the Board of Works meetings.

Mine owners at Rat Portage are agitating to have the Indian reserve at that town done away with and the Indians moved to some other location.

Strong pressure is being brought to bear on the Dominion Government to have insolvency legislation introduced as soon as possible.

The trouble between the garment-workers and the Sanford Manufacturing Company of Hamilton has been amicably settled.

The petition for a reduction in the number of liquor licenses in Hamilton was considered by the Markets Committee and refused.

The retail merchants of Ottawa are petitioning the Dominion Government for the right of garnishee against the salaries of civil servants.

A Duluth firm will erect an elevator at Kingston, Ont., accepting the city's offer of a bonus of $25,000 and tax exemption for ten years.

As a result of the new quarantine regulations large droves of cattle are being driven across the ice from Brockville to the United States.

Arrangements are being made for a deputation to wait on the Government to press the claims of the Montreal, Ottawa and Georgian Bay ship canal.

The Dominion Minister of Agriculture contemplates sending an officer to the Old Country to take special notices of Canadian shipments during the coming summer.

The leading steamship companies are asking the Government to pay half the cost of fitting up vessels for cold storage. The total payment would amount to $150,000.

Dr. Selwyn, in a paper read at the mining engineer's convention at Montreal, held that the idea that Canada was exceptionally rich in minerals was a fallacy.

Earnings of the Montreal Street Railway Company for the first four months of the fiscal year amount to $412,665, against $385,520 for the corresponding period of last year.

The Canadian Pacific railway will run colonist specials every Tuesday during March and April, to meet the requirements of the settlers' movements towards the North West.

Nova Scotia's finances, as reported to the Legislature at Halifax, on Wednesday, show the expenditure for the year ended September last to have been $853,893, or $12,734 less than the revenue.

The India famine fund is meeting with much criticism in Montreal. It is pointed out that there is distress enough in that locality to employ all able.

At the Business Men's Convention held in Winnipeg, on Friday, a resolution was passed recommending that the Dominion Government build the proposed railway through the Crow's Nest pass.

Within a short time a new life insurance company, which is to be all Canadian in its character, will begin business, with head offices in Montreal. It will be known as the Royal Victoria Insurance Company.

The Nova Scotia House of Assembly on Friday passed a bill appointing July 1st a public holiday. This is the first time since Confederation that Dominion day has been recognized in Nova Scotia as a legal holiday.

Messrs. Gordon and Keith, undertakers, of Halifax, are bringing an action against the Dominion Government for Sir John Thompson's funeral expenses, which the Government disputes on the ground of overcharges.

John R. Hooper will be required to serve the sentence of 25 years in the penitentiary which was imposed upon him for attempted wife murder three years ago, Sir Oliver Mowat having reported adversely to any commutation.

The Dominion Government is in receipt of a score or more applications for railway subsidies. Some of them are new, and some are for a renewal of subsidies which lapsed through the refusal of Parliament last year to revote the money.

Under the instructions of the Minister of Agriculture, the free distribution of sample seed packages of certain varieties of grain and other agricultural products which have succeeded on the Experimental farms will be made again this season.

Mr. Dobell, who has returned from England, says that Canada ought not to be in too great a hurry in getting her new Atlantic service, as a new style of steamer is being projected, of shallow draught with great capacity, and speed, which would be admirably suited for the St. Lawrence route.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Earl of Kinnouil is dead, at the age of seventy years.

The Queen's health, both physical and mental, is reported to be excellent.

Sims Reeves, the celebrated English tenor singer, has been declared a bankrupt.

Several warships of the British mediterranean squadron have been ordered to Crete.

Lady William Beresford, formerly Duchess of Marlborough has given birth to a son.

The Queen has announced her intention of opening the Sheffield Town Hall in May next.

Thomas Bateman, who was twice president of the Primitive Methodist Conference, is dead at London.

The steamer Peruvian lost 100 head of cattle and 35 sheep on her last trip from Portland to Glasgow.

Floods are prevailing in the valleys of the Thames and the Ouse, where large tracts of land are submerged.

The Allan line steamer Assyrian, which has been in collision off the Skerries, has sustained considerable damage.

It is expected that on the occasion of the Queen's jubilee the Marquis of Salisbury will be raised to a dukedom.

Dr. Nansen, the Arctic exlorer, and Mrs. Nansen arrived in London on Wednesday. They are the guests of Sir George Haden-Powell.

The Prince of Wales attended on Wednesday night the dinner given in his honour by Mr. Bayard, the United States Ambassador in London.

Elaborate plans for the fortification of London have been revived by Lord Wolseley and the work will probably be commenced at an early date.

Baron Herschell, formerly Lord High Chancellor of England, and the Right Hon. Sir Richard H. Collins, a Justice of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court have been chosen as the representatives of Great Britain on the Venezuela Arbitration Commission.

The Marquis of Lansdowne, the Secretary of State for War, announced on Thursday that the Government intended to increase the army by 7,385 men.

The British House of Commons, by a vote of 325 to 110, passed the financial proposal in the educational bill to grant to voluntary schools the sum of five shillings per child.

England is not taking any precautions against the importation of the bubonic plague, as experts say that it is simply a dirt disease, and that cleanliness is the true prophylactic.

Mr. Chamberlain states that the question of an Imperial conference to continue the work of the Ottawa conference to be held when the Colonial Premiers go to London is under consideration.

The plan formulated by the Imperial Government for increasing the strength and efficiency of the navy contemplates the construction of five battleships and three first class cruisers and the addition of ten thousand more men.

The bold utterance of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach in regard to England's occupancy of Egypt has created some sensation on the Continent, especially in France, where the Paris Autorite says that England must be replied to with the sword.

The London Privy Council on Saturday dismissed the appeal of the Ontario Brewers and Distillers, and sustained the judgment of the Ontario Court of Appeals, which held that Ontario had the right to impose an extra tax for the right to sell in Ontario.

The Prince of Wales has issued to the press a lengthy communication, in which he advocates the creation of a fund to be called the Prince of Wales' hospital fund for London, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

The London press is very severe upon the amendments passed upon the arbitration treaty by the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate. The Daily News says that the amendments were chiefly made with the view of amending the treaty out of existence.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach made a speech in the British House of Commons on the Egyptian and Dongolan expedition question, in which he took a very firm stand on British policy in the east. The speech caused much comment, and a full report of it was cabled to France.

UNITED STATES.

The Capitol of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg has been burned.

Thirty thousand people in the State of Louisiana are practically starving to death.

Highwaymen looted the Eldon Bank at Ottumwa, Iowa, the other day to the extent of $30,000.

The Anglo-Venezuelan treaty has been signed by Ambassador Pauncefote and Minister Andrade at Washington.

Over 100,000 persons in the State of Louisiana are said to be destitute, the result of last year's drought.

It is intimated that President-elect McKinley intends to appoint Mr. Chauncey M. Depew Ambassador to England.

Col. George Meade, a son of General Meade, the hero of Gettysburg, died on Wednesday in Philadelphia after a brief illness.

Lee B. McFarland, teller of the Second National Bank of Parkersburg, W. Va., is reported short $43,000 in his accounts.

Five children, their ages ranging from 10 to 15 years, were drowned on Tuesday by falling through the ice at Nebraska City

The United States revenue receipts during January were $24,316,994, and the expenditure $30,269,389, leaving a deficit of $5,952,395.

Lady Henry Somerset will be asked to preach the annual sermon during the National Convention of the W. C. T. U. in Buffalo next fall.

At Stockton, Cal., on Wednesday night Chas. A. Kleupfer, a saloon keeper, shot and killed Charles Dodge and Alexander Borland, two prominent citizens.

Indictments have been returned against 14 persons, including aldermen and police officers, at Louisville, Ky., for failing to suppress gaming.

The works of the Case Threshing Machine Company at Racine, Wis., will resume operations Monday next. They have been closed for six months.

Casper Cyrus E. Breder, of the First National Bank, Bethlehem, Pa., who disappeared with a shortage in his accounts, is said to have taken refuge in Toronto.

The United States Senate, before agreeing to the arbitration treaty, emasculated it in such a manner as to render it doubtful of acceptance to Great Britain.

Gardner, Morrow & Co.'s insolvent bank building at Hollidaysburg, Pa., was wrecked by dynamite. It is supposed to be the work of creditors in revenge.

Enough money to erect a chapel at Mount Hermon, Mass., is to be given Evangelist Dwight L. Moody, who will be 60 on Friday, by his friends as a birthday gift.

The schooner Cora Hanson, of Providence, R.I., has been given up for lost. She left Brunswick, Ga., several months ago on a trip north. She had a crew of 10.

Hamilton F. Coleman of the Land Office at Washington has been arrested on a charge of stealing postage stamps from the Government. It is said his takings amount to over $100,000.

Lady Aberdeen will be the convocation orator at the University of Chicago commencement exercises on April 1. Lady Aberdeen will have the honour of being the first woman chosen for such an occasion in the United States.

The last ship of the United States navy to get into trouble is the battleship Indiana. She was unable to accompany the squadron to sea, and had to return to Hampton Roads after a short run as she rolled dangerously. It is now porposed to dock her and put on a new "bilge keel."

There is no new nor distinctive feature in business throughout the United States. During the most dull period of the year of course little is usually expected, and small as the expectation may be, it is seldom fulfilled. This week shows no change in the usually monotonous record. Bad weather and bad roads mean bad business, and the story is about told. Fairly favourable trade reports come from St. Paul, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Louis, and a few other points; but generally no change is reported, and little prospects of immediate improvement.

GENERAL.

Prince Chimay has secured a divorce.

The Portuguese Ministry has resigned.

The Czarina has recovered from her recent illness.

The Pope is reported to be suffering from fainting fits.

Emperor Francis Joseph will visit St. Petersburg on April 27.

A number of strikes and bread riots are breaking out in Spain.

Riotous conduct of students caused the closing of the university at Rome.

Munkacsy, the famous Hungarian artist, is reported to be dying at Vienna.

M. Martini, the inventor of the rifle of that name, is dead at Frauenfeld, Switzerland.

The Hamburg dock strikers resumed work on Monday, funds being exhausted and the battle lost.

There is a crisis of blood and fire in Canea, where the Musselmans are ruthlessly butchering the Christians.

The Portuguese Ministers resigned because the King would not create a number of life Senators to keep them in power.

The Pope was found lying in a fainting fit on Friday, and it was with great difficulty that he was restored to consciousness.

Prof. Haffkine, who uses attenuated plague virus as an antidote for the disease, inoculated 156 prisoners in the jail at Bombay.

A panic is reported at Kurrachee as a result of the plague and famine in India. The plague in that section continues to spread at an alarming rate.

The principal fish exporting merchants of St. John's, Nfld., have presented a memorial to the Government, asking for the enforcement of the Bait Act against the French.

Tewfik Pasha, until recently Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, has arrived at Marseilles. He states that a reign of terror prevails among the entourage of the Sultan.

Serious alarm is felt in Brazil at the growth of the fanatical movement in Bahia. A body of 5,000 fanatics is reported to be advancing toward the principal Government post.

The Czar has cordially received and restored all the rights of the Grand Duke Michael Michaelovitch, who was banished from Russia and deprived of his uniform by the late Czar for mesalliance.

Despatches from Athens tell of a fearful state of affairs in Crete. Desperate fighting has taken place between Christians and Mohammedans. In Canea the Christian quarters of the city were fired, and the people driven out by flames and massacred at their doors by Turkish soldiery. The warships are landing marines to protect the Consulates.

A DESPERATE FIGHT.

A Notorious Escaped Convict and His Companion Captured.

A despatch from Port Townsend, Wash., says: The steamer Al. Ki, from Alaska, brings news of a sanguinary chapter in the career of Slim Birch, the notorious young desperado of Juneau, who, while awaiting transportation to serve a three years' sentence in San Quentin prison, California, was released by accomplices, who visited the gaol, overpowered the gaoler, locked him in a cell, and accompanied the escaping prisoner. No tidings of Birch were received until the closing day of January, when Indians brought news to Juneau that Birch and his companions were stopping in a cabin thirty miles from Juneau, on an island. Deputy Marshal Hale at once chartered a steamer, and, making up a posse, comprising Deputy Marshal William Watts, Gaoler Lindquist, Guard Baysee, and an Indian policeman, started in pursuit. The cabin was located the following day after a torturous trip over rough snowy country, and terrific cold. Bad generalship in the charge on the cabin permitted two of the inmates to escape to a rocky eminence, between which and the cabin the posse was situated.

A TERRIBLE BATTLE.

Hale once, seriously, and Baysee wounded in both legs. Ten minutes later all then began, Watts being shot twice, the posse except poor Watts started back from the scene of the fight to where the boat was anchored. Watts was left at the mercy of the outlaws on the hill; they shot him several times, where he lay half dead. The steamer made all haste back to Juneau with the wounded men, and a posse of twenty men started out, returning. Next day. Watts was found dead, frozen stiff in the snow, where his cowardly companions had left him. The search was continued for two days without success, until the desperadoes were finally located by Indians, lying asleep in a dense underbrush. Word was carried to two Herculean fellows, named Cheney and Olsen, in a cannery, who made the capture in a picturesque style. Unarmed they climbed a ledge twelve feet above the sleeping and heavily armed pair of bandits and at a given signal jumped down on them. Both men were manacled after a short resistance. Birch's lone companion was also a noted offender named Snell, who robbed the Treadwell works some years ago. Both are in gaol at Sitka. Cheney and Olsen will get the $5,000 offered for Birch's capture.

NECESSITIES OF LIFE.

Mr. Smallpurse (back from wedding tour)—Here we are, my dear, in our new home. If you will look about the house and tell me what's wanted, I'll go out and get it.

Bride (returning from tour of inspection)—My love, we need a cook, a chambermaid and a butler."

ITS INEVITABLE DESTINY

THE MARCH OF BRISISH PROGRESS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The Imperial Dream of Dominion Nearing Fulfillment—The Boers Are a Doomed Race.

A despatch from Pretoria says:—There has been a serious split between Dr. Leyds, the Secretary of State of the South African Republic, and President Kruger, and this is believed to be an explanation of the reported intention of Dr. Leyds to resign his office. Dr. Leyds has a large number of followers, and the prediction is freely made that he will obtain a Boer majority in favour of the independence of the Transvaal Republic, or such a revision of the Anglo-Boer convention as will give the Transvaal Government absolute control over its foreign relations .

The fort works which have been in course of construction around the Boer capital are now being pushed forward to completion with feverish haste. Distrust of England is increasing everywhere in the Transvaal, and a rapidly growing war feeling has set in.

The New York Tribune editorially says of the approaching trial of Col. Cecil Rhodes and the crisis in South African affairs, which it declares to be rapidly approaching:—"The beginning of the end is at hand in South Africa. Col. Cecil Rhodes has arrived in England, and is about to submit himself to a searching inquiry into his connection with the Jamieson raid of a year or more ago, and into the attitude and actions of the British South Africa Company, of which he was the creator and has always been the controller toward the South African Republic. That on the face of it, will be the scope of the investigation. But the real question, which, also, is substantially answered, is whether Mr. Rhodes' policy is to be fulfilled, and what has been gained for Great Britain, in South Africa, by whatever means, to be retained. A higher power than courts or parliamentary committees has decided that in the affirmative. The genius of the Anglo-Saxon race has settled it. That is the progressive race, and South Africa, like all the rest of the world, must yield to progress. The men who made of Kimberley a new and greater Golconda, and renewed tenfold the golden glories of old Ophir in the Rand, are sure to win the mastery over those who are content to smoke big pipes and 'wallop niggers.' True, the Boers own the Transvaal by no better a title than the Zulus did before them, and the British have no right to crowd them out by legal process or political intrigue any more than the Boers had to drive out Dingaan and his followers at the muzzles of elephant guns. Yet these things will come to pass. The Pretoria Government may set itself against the march of progress, as it is doing, and, instead of granting concessions and reforms as it promised, may make its regulations of foreigners still more onerous and humiliating. The Boers—or some of them—all through the Cape may try to rouse a war of races and look to Germany for aid. It will not avail. The Imperial dream of British dominance from the Cape to the Zambesi and to the lakes is nearing assured fulfillment, and will doubtless be fulfilled, no matter what becomes of the dreamer."

THE PIPER SAVED HIM.

How Sandy, the Scotchman, Recovered From a Surgical Operation.

Perhaps because the guest of the evening was a Scotchman, or possibly because one man in the party had a Scotch story to tell, the conversation was brought around to a discussion of the Scotch race. "It was while I was attached to a London hospital," said a physician, "that I witnessed a marvelous cure of a Scotchman. We will call him Sandy, though that is not his name. One of his legs had been so badly mangled in an accident that we decided to amputate it. The shock was a severe one to Sandy, and when he regained consciousness after the operation it was evident that he had not vitality enough left to recover. 'Mon, ahm I going to dee?' he asked. 'We hope for the best, Sandy,' I said, 'but your condition is critical. Is there any Scotch dish that you would like?' Sandy said that he didn't want anything to eat, but if he could hear the bagpipes just once more he could die happy. We didn't have a piper on our staff, but one of the nurses found one in a club house not far away.

"When the piper arrived, Sandy was so weak that he could not speak. He looked grateful. Although it was not in accordance with our hospital rules, we hadn't the heart to refuse Sandy's dying request. I gave the signal and the piper began to play. Sandy smiled peacefully, and at the end of the second tune he had gone asleep. His temperature and pulse showed a remarkable improvement, and because Sandy was a good fellow and we thought he might call for the pipers again before he breathed his last, we kept the piper. Two hours later Sandy awoke, and the first thing that he asked for was the pipes. Again that weird noise filled the hospital, and once more Sandy went to sleep, stronger and better than we expected him to be. A third time he awoke, and again the piper played. When Sandy once again fell asleep, to our amazement the crisis had passed, and he was on the road to recovery. He is now alive and well."

"The Scotch are a wonderful race," commented a guest. "Now my grandmother was——"

"But I haven't told you the sad sequel," interrupted the physician. "We had been so much interested in Sandy during the night that we had neglected our other patients. Sandy did recover, as I have said, but when we made the rounds in the morning found all the English patients stiff in bed. They were all dead."

AGAIN THE HORSE RETIRES.

Pity the poor horse. Part of the horse market in Paris has been set aside to be used for the sale of bicycles, and the track on which the equines are tested will serve a like purpose for the silent steed.

THE FIELD OF COMMERCE.

Some Items of Interest to the Busy Business Man.

The net gold balance of the United States Treasury is about $145,000,000.

The world's supply of wheat decreased over 2,500,000 bushels last week.

There is an advance of 5 per cent. in Toronto Electric Light Company stock owing to favorable annual statement.

The demand for local bank stocks is better than it was, and Dominion, Standard and Toronto are higher than they were.

The earnings of Toronto Railway for January were $74,545 as against $73,969 the corresponding month of last year, an increase of $575.

The stocks of wheat at Fort William and Port Arthur are 2,575,000 bushels, a slight increase for the week. A year ago the amount was 3,266,000 bushels. The movement of wheat is limited in Manitoba, and many of the elevators are closing down.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada is 49,591,000 bushels, a decrease of 1,704,000 bushels for the week. A year ago the total was 66,734,000 bushels and two years ago 83,376,000 bushels. The amount afloat to Europe is 26,640,000 bushels, an increase of 160,000 bushels for the week, and the total a year ago 24,560,000 bushels. The visible in America, combined with amount afloat, in 76,231,000 bushels as compared with 91,294,000 bushels a year ago, a decrease of 15,063,000 bushels.

Montreal trade has not picked up as it was hoped it might when the snow came, and in casting about for the reasons for the non-improvement, a good many people are inclined to lay a good part of the blame upon uncertainties regarding tariff matters, which no doubt in a good many instances, causes merchants to delay their buying. Sugars are particularly dull, and both refineries continue closed down, with considerable stock on hand. Teas, on the other hand, are more enquired for, with some reported inclination to speculative buying, in anticipation of a possible tariff change, and the market has seldom been in such strong shape. Cable advices from Barbadoes show that the market for molasses has opened considerably below last year, at 11 cents. Dry goods orders are reported fair, but collections rule slow, though in the case of one or two leading houses we are told they have been found better than in January 1896. Quite a few city retailers are reported to be seeking favors in the shape of extensions and compositions. Woolen manufacturing interests are apparently in unsatisfactory shape, and dealers in raw wool report a very light business. Shoe factories are as a rule very well employed, but are not large buyers of leather. Metal, oils, paints, etc., remain rather dull. Among the dealers in cement there has been a little flutter of excitement owing to the Government calling for tenders for 83,000 barrels of cement, to be used on the Soulanges and Trent canals. As anticipated last week the money market has an easier tone, and the rate for call funds may now be quoted at 4 to 4 1-2 per cent.

The business situation at Toronto is apparently without change. The slight improvement in wholesale circles as reported last week continues, but the volume is nothing to boast of. The unsettled condition of the woolen trade in consequence of the financial difficulties of several manufacturers came unexpectedly, and put a damper on trade. A fair business in spring goods is being done, while sorting up orders in heavy goods have been more numerous the result of seasonable weather. The grocery trade is fair, while hardware and leather dealers are having a satisfactory turnover. The hog packing industry is not as active as usual, the packers being doubtful as to prospective changes in the tariff on cured meats. There is a disposition to hold off, and the packing of heavy hogs is smaller than usual with a great consequent disparity in the prices of heavy and light hogs. Eggs are unusually low at this season of the year, with large supplies of all kinds. The flour and wheat trades are dull with little change in prices during the week. Money is cheaper with call loans at 4 1-2 to 5 per cent. at Toronto. In London the rate is lower at 1 per cent. during the week. The open market discount rate in London is easier at 1 7-8 to 2 per cent., and the Bank of England was reduced 1-2 to-day, making the minimum rate 3 per cent. Stocks fairly active with bank shares firmer, and Toronto Electric and the leading mining shares higher.

TRIUMPH OF BEER.

Sunday Closing Rejected By the British Parliament.

By a vote of 206 to 149 the British House of Commons on Wednesday rejected the bill of Mr. Charles H. Wilson, Liberal member for West Hull, providing for the entire closing of public-houses throughout Sunday. They are at present allowed to be open for a short period during the middle of Sunday and on Sunday evenings.

The licensing laws at present permit public-houses outside of the Metropolitan area to open on Sundays from twelve noon, till two p. m., and from six p.m. to eleven p.m. In the Metropolitan area the hours are from twelve, noon, till two p.m., and from six p.m. till after midnight. The local justices may slightly vary those hours outside of London. The partial Sunday closing of public-houses in England became law in August, 1872.

THE HOME HELPERS.

Her Majesty endorses Lady Aberdeen's Scheme.

Lady Aberdeen has communicated to the Queen, through the usual channels, the outline of the scheme. She proposes to commemorate the diamond jubilee by the organization of the Victorian Order of Home Helpers. In reply she has received a cable message which is an endorsation of the proposal to commemorate the occasion by acts of mercy. The message received by her Excellency from Sir Arthur Bigge, private secretary to her Majesty, is as follows:—"In reply to your telegram, the Queen has refrained from expressing approval of any particular scheme for commemorating the diamond jubilee, though, of course, any project for the relief of the sufferings of the sick in Canada will be assured of her Majesty's sincere sympathy. Bigge."

THE DARING OF A YOUTH

SEBASTIAN CABOT, DISCOVERER OF THE AMERICAN MAINLAND.

Story of His Many Adventures—Sailed Over Unknown Seas in Charge of a Big Flotilla When Twenty Years Old—Honored By His King and Country.

Four hundred years ago on the 24th of June next the foot of civilized man was first set on the American continent. Sebastian Cabot is entitled to the credit of finding the mainland, and, as he was an Englishman, his native country can to some degree divide the honors of discovery with Spain.

Sebastian Cabot was born at Bristol, the son of John Cabot, a Venetian merchant, dwelling in that city either in 1476 or 1477, and was a traveller from a very early age. When he was two or three years old he was taken by the merchant-adventurer, his father, on a difficult and perlious voyage to Venice.

While he was still a mere boy he was fired by the first and second voyages of Columbus, which excited the whole world of that day. The youth, possessed of wealth, seamanship and enthusiasm, beseiged the court of his King, Henry VII., to authorize an expedition of discovery. Despite his youth, his many advantages caused Sebastian to be

GIVEN A CHANCE,

and a patent was made out in the name of his father, John, himself and his brothers, Lewis and Sancius, with the date of the 5th of March, 1496.

It authorized them, their heirs or deputies, to "sail to all parts, countries and seas, under our banners and ensigns, with five ships, upon their own proper costs and charges, to seek out, discover and find whatsoever isles, countries, regions or provinces of the heathen and infidels which before this time have been unknown to all Christians."

They were authorized to take possession of all countries found, to subdue, occupy and exercise jurisdiction in the name of the King of England. The privilege of exclusive resort and traffic was secured to them, and the usual one-fifth of the profits was to go to the crown.

Early in the following year five ships set sail from Bristol. The navigator who was directing this enterprise was at this time only twenty or twenty-one years of age. He was in sole command in the ship Matthew, of 200 tons. An attempt has been made of late years to show that his father, John Cabot, accompanied the expedition, and was entitled to much of the credit. But the old and accepted versions of the time do not mention John Cabot except as Sebastian's father, and give the youth

ALL THE GLORY.

The navigator sailed almost due west, following the parallel and on June 24, sighted the New World. The best account of this great event is given in a marginal note to Cabot's map of 1544 in which the coast line discovered by him is traced.

"In the year of our Lord 1497 Sebastian Cabot, a Venetian, discovered that country which no one before their time had ventured to approach—on June 24 at 5 o'clock in the morning. He called the land 'terra firmum visa,' new-found land, because, as I conjecture, this is the place that first met his eye in looking from sea."

The land was the coast of Nova Scotia, around Cape Breton. Cabot sailed along the coast a distance of at least three hundred leagues.

He did not appreciate the value of his discovery, as he thought that he was on the shores of China. His heirs thought so little of the rights of sovereignty and possession that they had obtained that they actually lost their patent.

Cabot's discover in this part of the world were in his own day completely overshadowed by his exploits as a navigator in search of the Northwest passage and by his fame as an admiral in the service of Spain. He received a gift of £10 from the King for discovering America, a sum equal to about $700 or $800 to-day, and was afterwards pensioned, and in 1549 made Grand Pilot of England. He died in London in 1557.

CATTLE QUARANTINE.

Its Abrogation a Benefit to the United States.

A despatch from Buffalo says:—The cattle-dealers of Buffalo and vicinity are jubilant over the abrogation of the quarantine of Canadian cattle, which went into effect February 1st. The Act passed by Congress a year ago requiring all importations of cattle to be held in quarantine 90 days proved detrimental to the live stock interests of Buffalo. Canadian consignments became very few. A member of the firm of Waltz, Hughes, Swope, and Bensted, said:—"Last Monday we received 40 cars of horned cattle from Canada, the largest shipment that has been received here under the new law. The major part of this shipment was for stocking purposes, and 20 carloads have been shipped as far West as Wilmington, Ohio, something never before heard of. All this goes to show that the live stock market of the United States is at present very low. American breeders have told me that if they could secure cattle they could fatten them with but little expense, as they now have on hand hundreds of bushels of corn going to waste for the want of cattle to feed.

"At the East Buffalo yards business is brisk, as buyers are coming here from all parts of the country, and the new regulations will not only prove a benefit to the shippers and consignees, but to the consumers as well."

SEA BOTTOM PHOTOGRAPHED.

M. Bontau, the discoverer of a method of photographing the sea bottom, has succeeded in taking several photographs of the vegetation that grows on the rocks by means of a water-tight camera and flashlight. Dressed as a diver, he takes with him to the bottom of the sea a barrel containing oxygen. A puff of gas from the barrel carries magnesium powder into the flames of a spirit-lamp, standing under a bell jar on the upper end of the barrel. Another puff actuates the pneumatic shutter of the camera at the same time. He has found his method very useful in exploring coral reefs.

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