

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 meeting of Parliament will not take place until March 25.

The Western Fair Board of London report a most prosperous year. Driver Hooper of "A" Battery, Kingston, has fallen heir to \$50,000.

Manitoba College students have contributed \$92.05 to the India relief fund. Mr. T. Button of the Matthews House, Stratford, had \$350 stolen from his cash register.

The London City Council voted the sum of \$500 to the relief of the India famine sufferers.

The Bell Telephone Company is asking the Government for permission to increase their rates.

The Kingston Elevator Company, with a capital of \$150,000, has been formed at Kingston.

Four hundred Welsh families from Buenos Ayres are expected to settle in Manitoba in the spring.

A disease has broken out amongst the sheep of South Township that baffles the veterinary surgeons.

Coal has been discovered on the shores of the Petewawa, on the Upper Ottawa, and it is said to be in paying quantities.

A small army of men are employed by the Public Works Department in clearing away the debris of the recent fire.

A report is current in London that the military authorities at Ottawa have decided to disband the Seventh Battalion.

Mr. Joseph Bourque of Hull, has received the contract for the new temporary roof on the burned Parliament block.

The Manitoba Dairy Association report that \$127,264 worth of butter and \$62,000 worth of cheese were exported last year.

An illicit still was seized on Wm. McIlroy's farm in Collingwood Township. McIlroy was fined \$100 and costs for the offence.

Mr. Walter Vaughan of the law department of the Canadian Pacific Railway has been appointed Bursar of McGill University.

The Government has decided to abolish the office of Deputy Commissioner of Patents, made vacant by the death of Richard Pope.

The Caledonian Society of Ottawa proposes to organize a company of militia, which it hopes in time will be recognized by the militia authorities.

Michael Brennan, the life prisoner from Barris at the Kingston Penitentiary, has been taken to the hospital and placed at hard labor.

So many robberies have taken place in Montreal lately that a special guard has been placed on the banks and brokers' offices by the police.

Steps are being taken in Montreal to prepare a testamentary law. Mr. James A. Sadlier, the well-known Irish author, at an early date.

It is rumored at Winnipeg that the Dominion Government will hand over to the Manitoba Government all the remaining Crown lands in the Province.

A deputation from the Ottawa City Council visited Montreal and inspected their fire appliances. It is probable that Ottawa will get a water-tower.

Manager Thompson of the Ontario Mining Company announces at Winnipeg that all their elevators will be closed owing to uncertainty regarding the tariff changes.

Special precautions are being taken on the Pacific Coast by the quarantine authorities to prevent the entrance of any of the deadly pestilences now raging in the Orient.

The shareholders of the Bank of Nova Scotia have authorized the directors to increase the capital of the bank from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000 whenever they deem it expedient.

Commutation of the death sentence passed on Sullivan, of Moncton, N. B. for the murder of Mrs. Dutcher, has been asked, and a petition with 2,000 signatures forwarded to Ottawa.

Veterinary Surgeon Morgan has discovered the disease known as the "sheep scab" in two flocks of sheep, one at Harrisfield, the other at Batavia. The Department of Agriculture has been notified.

Acting on the advice of his physicians, Dr. Borden, Minister of Militia, will go south for two or three weeks to give himself time to recover from the catching-up of the fever in the recent railway accident.

Captain H. L. Covett, of Savanne, Ont., died on Thursday. He was formerly commander of the steamer Chicora when she was rammed on Saturday at Charleston during the American war.

The Hammond murder trial at Bracebridge came to a conclusion on Friday night at eleven o'clock, when the jury announced, after being out for five hours, that they could not agree on a verdict. They were discharged.

An agitation is in foot in Montreal to provide better facilities for crossing the St. Lawrence, either by building a new bridge or by improving the present Victoria bridge. Government aid is wanted for either project.

The fruit growers of Ontario are threatened with a new pest, a small insect called the San Jose Scale or Bark Louse. This insect has lately spread throughout the nurseries and orchards of Ohio and New York, doing great damage.

Sir William Van Horne, president, and Mr. Shaughnessy, vice-president, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, waited on the Minister of Railways on Saturday and opposed the application which the Victoria, Vancouver, and Eastern Railway is making to the Government for assistance to build its lines from the coast into the mining regions of East Kootenay.

At the annual convention of the Grand Council A.O.U.W., great changes were effected in the constitution of the order, namely, the separation of the Grand Council of Canada from the Supreme Council in the United States, the removal of the headquarters from St. Thomas to Toronto, and the adoption of a graded rate of assessment.

GREAT BRITAIN.
Great Britain has agreed to the ratification of the Paris convention of 1883. Mr. S. F. Glass' pottery at Pottersburg, East London, was destroyed by fire.

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THE FIELD OF COMMERCE.

Some Items of Interest to the Busy Business Man.

Money on call is easy at 4-1/2 to 5 per cent. in Toronto, and firmer in London at 1-1/2 to 2 per cent.

The world's shipments of wheat were smaller than usual last week, the total being only 4,680,000 bushels.

The imports of raw sugar into the United States last year increased \$23,000,000 as against \$20,000,000 in 1900.

The earnings of the Grand Trunk Railway for the week ended February 7, were \$304,344, an increase of \$18,424 over the corresponding week of last year.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada is now only 46,638,000 bushels, a decrease of 1,227,000 bushels for the week.

The population of the world, according to an estimate made by the Royal Geographical Society in 1891, is very unevenly divided, whether considered with regard to the number of inhabitants to the square mile, or to their geographical distribution over the earth.

Europe has 3,555,000 square miles, and 380,200,000 inhabitants, or 106.9 to the square mile, being the most densely settled portion of the earth's surface.

Asia comes second with 14,710,000 square miles and a population of 850,000,000, or 57.7 inhabitants per square mile.

North America third, with 6,446,000 square miles, and a population of 89,250,000, or 13.8 per square mile.

Africa fourth, 11,514,000 square miles, population 127,000,000, or 11 persons to the square mile.

South America, with 6,837,000 square miles and 36,420,000 inhabitants, or 5.3 per square mile.

Australia, 3,288,000 square miles, 1,000,000 inhabitants, or 1.4 per square mile, and the polar region, with 4,888,000 square miles, a population of 500,000, or 7 inhabitants per square mile.

John Bartholomew, the statistician, of Edinburgh, from data very carefully collected, estimates that the Mongolian race is the most numerous, numbering 630,000,000; the Indo-Germanic comes next, with 445,000,000; the negro and Bantu races number 150,000,000; the Semitic or Hamitic race, inhabiting the southwestern part of Asia, the peninsula of Arabia, and North Africa, numbers 65,000,000; the Malay and Polynesian races, number 35,000,000; the Indians of the Americas, 15,000,000; and the tented tribes of South Africa 150,000.

FAMINE-STRIKEN INDIA.
Great Mortality in Bombay—Awful Scenes in the Famine Districts.

6,853 cases have been reported in Bombay, and 5,447 deaths from that cause have been reported. In Bombay Presidency, 9,011 cases and 8,000 deaths from the plague have occurred.

The special representative of the Associated Press who is visiting the famine-stricken districts of India has inspected the central native States and Bundelkhand district.

People from the former have been flocking into British territory for the past month, and hundreds of starving persons are meeting the trains and begging as their only chance of subsistence.

The villages are turning the refugees away and many are dying on the rails. Walking from one station to another, the correspondents found five dead bodies lying on the tracks in the Bundelkhand, and left to forage for themselves.

The Rajahs were the last in starting relief works, and then the mischief was already done.

The mortality is awful at Banda, the blackest spot of the Bundelkhand province, where, out of a population of 700,000, 200,000 are dying, and the number is expected to reach 300,000.

BENIN CITY CAPTURED.
Complete Success of the British Expedition.

A despatch from Brass, Niger Coast Protectorate, says:—The expedition which was formed to punish Druamini, King of Benin, for the murder of the members of a peaceable British expedition which was attempting to reach Benin City, has been entirely successful.

The expedition has captured Benin City, and the King is a fugitive. He fled northward, but a part of the expedition is in pursuit of him, and it is expected he will be taken prisoner.

When the expedition entered the town it was found that it well deserved its name of "City of Blood." Many victims of the Ju Ju, or fetish priests, were found crucified, having been sacrificed to the gods of the town.

The houses and their compounds were reeking with the blood of those who had recently been beheaded in the religious ceremonies. In the fighting that took place before the town was captured seventeen European and 23 native members of the expedition were killed or wounded.

No trace was found of Mr. Campbell, a Consular official who was captured by the Beninites at the time of the massacre. It is supposed that he was killed by his captors shortly after he was made a prisoner.

UNDER ANÆSTHETICS.
Death of a Man at Brantford in a Surgery.

A despatch from Brantford, Ont., says:—On Saturday afternoon William Travis, an employe of the Brantford Carriage Company, died in Dr. Chaitin's surgery, Market street, while under an æsthetic which was administered by Dr. Lamont, preparatory to an operation for the removal of the index finger by Dr. Chaitin.

Dr. D. Marquis, and Dr. D. A. Digby, of the five medical men to restore animation were unsuccessful. It was afterwards stated that deceased was in the habit of years past of taking laudanum, a fact which he concealed from the doctor, and which no doubt caused the unusual accident.

The medical men, against the wish of the friends of the deceased, have insisted that an inquest be held, and have laid the matter before the coroner.

A CATASTROPHE.

How the Old Man Was Let Off at the Wrong Station.

The train was roaring along about forty miles an hour, and the conductor was busily punching tickets full of holes, when a little thin old man who sat in one of the corner seats plucked his sleeve.

"Mister Conductor, you be sure and let me off at Speers Station. You see, this is the first time I ever rode on steam cars, and I don't know anything 'bout them. You won't forget it, eh?"

"All right, sir;