

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 Arranged for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Mayor Bingham, of Ottawa has given his February salary to charities.

Seventy-three private bills are entered for the coming session of Parliament.

There is a good demand for farm laborers and domestic help in Manitoba.

Ottawa proposes to spend \$150,000 in improving its fire system and water-works.

A find of petroleum is reported on the farm of Mr. John Rasbery, West Flamboro'.

The annual report of the C. P. R. for the year 1896 shows net earnings of \$8,167,581.

Fire in the Hannah Street Methodist Church at Hamilton damaged the Sunday School room considerably.

Mr. W. C. Macdonald of Montreal has made another gift to McGill University amounting to over \$500,000.

The Brookville Town Council is considering the advisability of passing a by-law imposing a tax upon bicycles.

Captain Provost of the Montreal fire brigade, has decided to accept the offer to become chief of Ottawa fire brigade.

Mr. Geo. H. Orr, of Toronto has been elected President of the Canadian Wheelmen's Association without opposition.

The Kingston cotton mill, which has closed down temporarily, will, after next week, only run three days a week.

The C.P.R. have sent a party of surveyors out to southern British Columbia to survey a railway in the mining country.

The Montreal Street Railway earnings for February were \$89,951, an increase of \$2,557 over the same month of last year.

Mr. Wm. Seager, a resident of London, was probably fatally injured by falling from a train at Brokenhead station, Man.

Mr. Joseph Martin, ex-M.P., of Winnipeg confirms the statement that he has been appointed special counsel for the C.P.R.

Mr. Laurier sat for his portrait in Montreal. When completed it will be presented to the Premier by his Montreal friends.

A Fish and Game Protective Association has been organized in Woodstock to see that the game laws are enforced and to stock certain districts with quail.

Mr. James Henworth of Roseland is to be given the Royal Humane Society's medal for heroic conduct in saving the lives of two of his mates at the bottom of a shaft.

A delegation from the parishes along the south shore of the St. Lawrence waited on the Ministry at Ottawa to urge the extension of the Intercolonial Railway to Montreal.

Two people, one aged 70 and the other 72, were married in Ottawa on Wednesday. Their parish priest refused to marry them, but they secured the approval of the Archbishop.

On Thursday afternoon three small boys fell through the ice at Chatham, when four men went to their rescue and also fell in. It was with great difficulty that all seven were finally rescued.

The Hamilton chief of police intends making a test case to see whether the lottery under the management of the Promotive and Amusement Co. of Montreal comes under the criminal code.

The local branch of the National Council of Women has petitioned the London City Council to impose restrictions on the sale of cigarettes, and it is probable that the petition will be granted.

Mr. Torrance, the Canadian agent of the Dominion steamship line, has been instructed from English headquarters to withdraw any offers made to the Government in connection with the fast service.

An agreement has been reached by a joint committee of the Chatham City Council and Mr. L. J. Myers, agent of the Electric Light and Power Co., to build the City and Suburban Electric Railway, and to construct and maintain an electric lighting plant.

The Government has been asked by residents of Ottawa and sections of Russell and Carleton counties to spend about \$35,000 in lowering the bottom of the Rideau river near the outlet, and placing their court to let off the water from the Rideau lake early in the spring by means of the Rideau canal to prevent the spring floods.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The Prince of Wales is enjoying a holiday in the Riviera.

Atlantic steamers arriving in the Clyde report extremely tempestuous weather the last few days.

Sir Donald Smith Canadian High Commissioner in England has sailed for Canada to consult with the Government regarding immigration matters.

Lieutenant-Governor Kirkpatrick will leave the hospital in London this week and proceed to Brighton for four or five weeks prior to returning to Canada.

Miss Emily Soldene, the celebrated burlesque actress, has published a book telling of the escapades of the gilded youth of London thirty years ago, when she was a reigning favourite.

It was stated in the Imperial Parliament that the proposal to create regimental districts in the colonies had been referred to the Dominion of Canada for an opinion thereon.

Since the abandonment of the English Channel tunnel scheme the shaft at Dover has been used as a coal mine. It was suddenly flooded and eight of the men working in the mine were drowned.

The syndicate appointed by Cambridge University to consider the question of granting degrees to women recommends that the degree of B.A. be conferred by diploma upon those who have already passed or hereafter passing the final tripos.

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ABOUT CANADA'S MINES.

REPORTS OF EXPLORERS ON THE GOLD FIELDS.

Opinions of Geologists—Notable Progress in the Development of Mining—Output to be Increased.

The annual report of Mr. Dawson, the director of the Geological Survey, which is just issued from the press, is particularly interesting this year, as giving the opinion of the department and its geologists upon the mining activity of the past season in Ontario and British Columbia. Mr. Dawson has summarized the reports of his staff, and presents them to the public in condensed shape. Speaking generally on the mining boom, the chief of the survey makes the following observations:—"During the past year very notable progress has been made in the development of the mineral resources of Canada, both in the way of actual work and in attracting the attention and interest of capital. British Columbia has begun to evidence its value as a permanent producer of the precious metals in a manner long foreseen by those who have paid attention to its geological structure and position. In Ontario, wherever the Huronian system is developed and has been examined, valuable mines, more particularly those of gold, are being discovered and opened up. In Nova Scotia renewed interest has been shown in gold mining, and, with improved machinery and methods, the output is likely soon to be greatly increased. Other mineral industries throughout the country, whether already established or in course of development, share in a general appreciation."

THE KOOTENAY DISTRICT.

The details of the investigations of the department during the past year are given in the reports of the explorers. Mr. R. G. McConnell, who had charge of the work in Kootenay district, says:—"Mining has made satisfactory advances on all sides in West Kootenay during the past season. Prospectors, the pioneers of the industry, swarmed over the country, making numberless locations everywhere. A fair percentage of the prospects of previous years, on which development work has been done, promise to become mines, and the older mines show no signs of deterioration as developed. Several new camps, notably Waterloo, Champion Creek, the North Fork of the Salmon, and the Springer Creek district, have come into prominence, while the older ones have developed into recognized mining centres. The output of ore has largely increased, and the capacity of the smelters has been more than doubled in order to meet the demand. Favourable reports from competent men have been received in regard to a number of outlying districts which have not yet been examined, and it is altogether probable that with the advent of easy communication the successes of Trail creek and the Slooan will be repeated in East Kootenay, Boundary Creek, the Lardo, the Big Bend, and other places. Capital has flowed freely into the district during the season but it is to be feared that an undue proportion of it has found its way into the pockets of speculators rather than into legitimate mining. In Roseland and vicinity, although there has been a good deal of scarcely warranted speculation, much conscientious development and prospecting work is being carried on, the result of which in large part will not be known for some time yet, as the hard eruptive rocks of the district necessarily make mining a slow and expensive proposition. A large percentage of the Roseland ores as a rule are of high grade, and a large proportion of those in sight cannot be profitably worked under present conditions. The cost of freight and treatment is given at \$10 to \$14 per ton. If the cost of mining, a variable factor, is added to this, it will be evident that ores carrying less than \$15 per ton can only be worked at present at a slender profit, if at all. In order to utilize this material, reductions in both freight and smelting charges are imperative, and will doubtless be made as the treatment of the ore becomes better understood and competing lines of communication are opened up. Should the railway now projected through the Crow's Nest pass be built and the mines connected with the extensive coal fields known to exist in the Rocky mountain range, fuel, the principle item in the expense of smelting, could be obtained at a much lower figure than at present, and the smelting charges reduced in proportion. A large percentage of the ores are too low grade to be worked under any circumstances, but it is believed that with smelters built on the spot, cheap fuel, and improved processes, those with a valuation of \$8 and upwards will eventually be profitably treated."

ONTARIO'S GOLD FIELDS.

Regarding the gold fields of Ontario some interesting information is given by Mr. W. McKeen. He says:—"While in the Lake-of-the-Woods, the Regina and Sultana mines were visited. The vein in the case of the former of these traverses by an intrusive area of granite, alternate hornblende granite, and a Keewatin diabase, the line of contact between the two cutting the drifts in the spot, cheap fuel, and improved processes, those with a valuation of \$8 and upwards will eventually be profitably treated."

STABBING AFFRAY.

Three American Toughs Brutally Assault an Italian at Niagara Falls, Ont.

A despatch from Niagara Falls, Ont., says:—"A desperate stabbing and assault affair took place near the Collegiate Institute about three o'clock on Tuesday afternoon. Three toughs named John A. Hayes, John McCarthy and George Specht came over from the American side in an intoxicated condition. They met an Italian named Rocco and a boy peddling fruit, and grabbing the boy they threw him into the ditch, and set on to the Italian. He fled, followed by the trio, and while setting over a fence fell. They jumped on him, and Specht struck him on the head with a rock, inflicting a terrible wound. While kicking him, Rocco drew a knife and stabbed Specht in the back. At this time some people interfered, and possibly saved Rocco's life, as the toughs were evidently bent on murdering him.

Chief Young and Officer Mains arrested the trio at the bridge before they returned to the American side of the River. Hayes and McCarthy are railroad men, while Specht is employed as a butcher. Rocco's wounds were dressed by Dr. Keilman, and Specht's stab is not very serious.

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THE FIELD OF COMMERCE.

Some Items of Interest to the Busy Business Man.

The net gold in the United States treasury is \$148,661,000.

Grand Trunk Railway first preference stock is selling in London at 84.

The earnings of the Toronto Railway Co. for February were \$69,744, a decrease of \$3,231.

The Commercial Cable Company has declared the usual quarterly dividend of 1-3-4 per cent.

Stocks of wheat at Fort William and Port Arthur are 2,740,627 bushels, as against 3,212,430 bushels a year ago.

Stocks of wheat at Toronto are 203,688 bushels, as against 217,776 bushels a week ago, and 29,466 bushels a year ago.

The net earnings of Canadian Pacific for January were \$373,343 a decrease of \$122,607 as compared with the corresponding month of last year.

The world's shipments of wheat last week were only 2,636,000 bushels, the smallest recorded. During the corresponding week of last year they were 5,437,000 bushels.

United States securities, including stocks and bonds, are higher owing to the republican press put it.

The Russian fall official report gives the total wheat crop \$87,640,000 bushels, and the year before 464,304,000 bushels, and this year before 464,304,000 bushels. Despatches from Azov state that the growing crops are seriously damaged.

We learn that the New Brunswick Legislature now in session, propose to introduce a Bill imposing an annual tax of \$20 or \$30 on commercial travellers exempting travelers domiciled in New Brunswick or representing New Brunswick houses.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada is 43,797,000 bushels, a decrease of 1,418,000 bushels from the amount afloat in Europe is 22,880,000 bushels, a decrease of 1,700,000 for the week. The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada is 43,797,000 bushels, a decrease of 1,418,000 bushels from the amount afloat in Europe is 22,880,000 bushels, a decrease of 1,700,000 for the week. The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada is 43,797,000 bushels, a decrease of 1,418,000 bushels from the amount afloat in Europe is 22,880,000 bushels, a decrease of 1,700,000 for the week.

The bulls on wheat claim that for twenty years previous to January 1, 1897, the supplies for Europe averaged nearly 9,000,000 bushels a week, for the eight weeks intervening, supplies have averaged less than 5,000,000 and last week ran as low as 3,265,000 bushels. The bull theory is that the excessive supply of two months ago has been eaten into, and that inside of the next few months imports must begin to replenish for the months which must intervene before the new crop.

General Montreal trade advices indicate that there is practically no change in the business situation, and that there has as yet been little increase in the distribution of merchandise countrywards, while general conditions continue to rule slow. In groceries, except for some fair seasonal business in fish, canned goods, etc., the demand is a "hand to mouth" character. Sugar holds the little slight advance, but the little improvement in enquiry, noted last week, has not been maintained. City retail business in dry goods remains dull, and country orders are characterized by their general moderation, though fairly numerous. There is evident depression among the manufacturers of domestic fabrics, deal-ers in raw wool reporting very light business, and there has been talk of some curtailment in the production of cottons. Boot and shoe men show fair activity, but manufacturers and dealers in spring footwear, and there is a little more enquiry for leather, in which line values are very firmly held, owing to the general strength of the hide market locally and abroad. Metals and hardware are inactive, and the booking of spring import orders is being delayed by tariff uncertainties. Some fair early spring deliveries are being made of paints, glass, etc. The money market presents no new features, call money being readily available at 4 per cent, in stocks there has been some access of strength within the last day or two.

Business in wholesale circles at Toronto this week, was fair. The volume of trade is not large, but is encouraging to dealers generally. The outlook will improve after this week. The failures are likely to show a considerable decrease. Some fair early spring deliveries are being made of paints, glass, etc. The money market presents no new features, call money being readily available at 4 per cent, in stocks there has been some access of strength within the last day or two.

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