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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.

Dr. Peirson has been appointed Medical Health Officer in Brantford. Seventeen additional letter boxes will be erected in Hamilton.

Work on another new bridge at Niagara Falls will be begun immediately.

It has been decided to allow hotels in Guelph to sell liquor till 11 o'clock at night.

There was a white frost in Winnipeg Wednesday night, but no damage was done to the crops.

At Port Dalhousie a bonus of \$6,500 to the Toronto Rubber Shoe Company was carried on a popular vote.

Mr. R. F. Hollermann of Brantford, says there will be a partial failure of the honey crop this year.

The date of the autumn military camp at Kingston has been changed from September 14th to September 7th.

Mr. Fred C. Wade of Winnipeg has been appointed Registrar and Clerk of the Supreme Court for the Yukon district.

Ex-Mayor Drennan has been appointed City Clerk of Kingston, after a deadlock in the Council lasting several weeks.

The Ottawa city bakers have raised the price of bread one cent a loaf, so that the four-pound loaf now costs eleven cents.

Mrs. George Hudson and four children were burned to death in a fire that destroyed the family residence at Rapid City.

Mabel Pierce of Brockville will probably lose the sight of one eye as the result of an accident with a pair of heated curling tongs.

Mr. Robert Meighen, President of the business of the Woods Milling Company, estimates the wheat yield of Manitoba at 22,000,000 bushels.

Mr. W. Hale, of Hamilton, whose skull was fractured, spine injured and shoulder dislocated in a bicycle accident a couple of months ago, is recovering.

Winnipeg civic estimates for the current year amount to \$522,802, and in order to keep the tax rate down a number of civic officials have been dismissed.

The Midland Town Council has passed a resolution urging the Ontario Government to make a law that timber cut upon Crown lands shall be manufactured in the Province.

Mr. G. C. Cunningham has resigned the management of the Montreal Street Railway to take charge of the Birmingham Tramway Company, and Mr. F. W. Wanklyn of Toronto will succeed him.

The coroner's jury in the Orr murder case at Galt, Ont., on Friday found a verdict of wilful murder against James Allison, the hired boy. The jury awarded twelve for and three against the verdict.

Brockville Town Council is seeking by petition the co-operation of different municipalities throughout Ontario for legislation making it within their power to increase hard-labor punishment on roads.

Mr. A. W. Ross, ex-M.P. for Lisgar, referring to the mining boom, says the prospects for the future of British Columbia are excellent, and he expects it will at no distant day be the most important province of the Federation.

John Arnold was instantly killed, and his companion, the fourteen-year-old son of Mrs. Fred Fitzmartin, probably fatally injured while driving over a railway crossing near Napesee, their rig being struck by a train.

Mr. George Johnston, the Dominion Government statistician, has compiled figures which show the rapid rate at which the great lakes are being depleted of fish. The annual catch by Canada and the United States is seventy thousand tons.

It is probable that the new Government telegraph line to the Klondike will be completed entirely through Canadian territory. In this case the length of the line will be fifteen hundred miles, and the cost of construction about two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars.

Mr. Sifton, of the Department of the Interior, has decided to inspect the position of affairs on the Pacific coast in connection with the great rush which is being made to the Yukon. He will accompany Mr. Walsh and party as far as Tagish, and see them well started on their way to the interior.

A large quantity of dynamite and giant powder, stored at Reels' lime quarry, near Port Colborne, exploded, doing considerable damage. Fortunately it occurred at an early hour and no one was hurt. Mr. Foster's glass factory was wrecked by the ground. Mr. Helbo's limber was badly damaged and his barn burned. Buildings in surrounding towns shook as if they were about to fall, and much glass was broken.

GREAT BRITAIN.

A dozen cabs driven by electricity have been placed on the streets of London.

The prospect of settling the great engineering dispute in England appears to be as remote as ever.

The British Board of Trade report shows a considerable falling off in the number of bankruptcies last year.

The son of the late Sir John Millis the former president of the Royal Academy, will shortly publish the life of his father.

Sir Louis Davies, addressing the London Chamber of Commerce, uttered a warning against the indiscriminate rush to the Klondike gold fields.

The French Government is making overtures to the United States for a reciprocity treaty under the terms of the Dingley Tariff Act.

There is great excitement in Constantinople, and a general feeling prevails that the bomb outrages of Wednesday will be repeated.

The Amer of Afghanistan has issued a firm forbidding his subjects to join the rebels who are now up in arms against the Indian Government.

An alliance has been formed between Turkey and Bulgaria, and in the event of war the Sultan will place a hundred thousand men at the service of Prince Ferdinand.

Michael Angiolillo, the assassin of Senator Canovas de Castillo, was executed with England as the basis of operations.

Admiral Sir John Arbuthnot Fisher, Controller of the Admiralty, has been appointed to command the North America and West Indies station of the British fleet, to succeed Vice-Admiral Erskine.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice will proceed to Balmoral this week, where she will take up her project of providing pensions for widows who are seventy-five years of age and upwards.

Captain Bate has presented to the Duke of York a handsome volume of the Canadian Jubilee stamps, on behalf of the Post-Office Department of Canada. The Duke is an ardent philatelist, and expressed himself as delighted with the gift.

The firm stand taken by the Marquis of Salisbury in refusing to allow Turkey to retain Thessaly, and to the Greek indemnity is paid in embarrassing the powers. They are anxious on the one hand, for a settlement of the question, and, on the other, they do not relish the idea of yielding to the dictation of Great Britain.

UNITED STATES.

Pig iron has been raised at Cleveland from 9.85 to 9.95 per ton.

Secretary Sherman has sent a message of condolence to Spain.

A Spaniard named Roderigo gathered gold dust worth \$200 in two weeks in Pinellas county, Cal.

The Michigan Car Company, of Detroit, has received an order from the C. P. R. for 500 freight cars.

The King of Siam says the United States cannot be seen properly in less than six months, and he hopes to visit that country in 1899.

Seats on the New York Stock Exchange are now quoted at twenty thousand dollars, and those who think of selling are holding out for an advance.

Hail fell and did to the depth of three feet near Pueblo, Col., on Wednesday. Property of the Denver & Rio Grande Railway was badly damaged.

It is reported from San Diego, Cal., that the British flag may be hoisted over Clipperton Island, although it is supposed to belong to Mexico.

It is reported in New York that the business of the Steinway Piano Company, New York, has been sold to an English syndicate for six million dollars.

Schlatter, who is known as the divine healer, has married Mrs. Margaret Ferris, widow of the builder of the Chicago wheel. Her relatives were much opposed to the match.

The operators of the Pittsburg district coal mines have decided to obtain Pinkerton detectives to protect their non-union workmen, and a serious conflict is regarded as inevitable.

A coroner's jury at Chicago has returned a verdict of wilful murder in the case against James Frawley, the Chicago saloon keeper, formerly of Chicago wheel. Her relatives were much opposed to the match.

Justice Stephen J. Field, of the United States Supreme Court, has been having been appointed by President Lincoln in 1863. He is now eighty-one years of age, and has no intention of retiring.

FOUR CHILDREN DROWNED

TERIBLE TRAGEDY AT TORONTO ON SUNDAY.

Twenty Children on a Rickety Craft Were Precipitated Into the Water by Crowding - One Died - Heroic Rescue by Several Young Men and Boys.

A despatch from Toronto says:—Mr. Name's cut is a channel between the breakwater, which comes to an end at the foot of Cherry street in a narrow eastern, and the mainland. It is the long entrance to Ashbridge's bay, and has only lately been dredged. The city received permission from the Government some three or four years ago to make this cut in connection with the Ashbridge's bay reclamation scheme.

On Friday last a roughly-constructed float, twelve feet long and six in width was placed at this point to be used as a common ferry. It was drawn back and forth by means of chains attached to the banks, in the manner of the clumsy ferries which were universally used on rivers before the recent days of bridges.

Many children who bathe on the shore some distance further east, and the people who live on the breakwater, used this craft since Friday. There was no doubt whatever about its convenience, but scores of men who saw it made gloomy prophecies that on some occasion it would capsize and drown its passengers.

At a quarter to five o'clock on Sunday afternoon the fatality occurred.

THEIR LAST GAME.

It was a charming afternoon, and many children had crossed to the breakwater, which is a parklike spot, with many trees and much shrubbery; as pleasant a playground for children as there is in this vicinity. It is probable that the children whose lives were lost had their fill of genuine enjoyment, not dreaming that there was to be their last opportunity to play at the games which are so dear to the child's mind. They had made the trip across in safety, and they boarded the raft-like ferry without the shadow of a fear in order to recess. Besides the victims there were about fifteen other little ones of both sexes.

HOW IT OCCURRED.

All went well until they reached mid-channel, the children were laughing, and some of the small boys were playfully rocking the frail conveyance. This was, likely enough, the prime cause of the accident. Onlookers state that the men who were steering the rather violent, and the water washed up on the flooring. This terrified the young girls, and they crowded to the front of the ferry, and the ferret was pushed and a chorus of screams rent the air.

TO THE RESCUE.

In a moment the still water of the channel was torn and beat into foam by many struggling limbs of the children, only a few of whom were seen. If sufficient assistance had been given at hand it might have been possible to save the helpless little ones. But onlookers were few, and the few who were present refused to render aid. There were three young men who are well known in the East-end, and they acted with a promptness and heroism which were in the highest degree. Two of these men had been sailing about the harbor, and were approaching the shore at a point not more than 100 yards from the ferry. The nose of their catboat had just touched the bank when the startled cries reached their ears. They turned in their places and saw the float overturned and the children struggling in the muddy water. Instantly and with gasps of astonishment, they leaped to their feet from the shore, and made all haste to the rescue. They were almost immediately on the spot, and dived at once from their craft.

TOO LATE.

But although they were quick they arrived too late to render aid to four promising lives. Four bright-eyed and merry-looking boys had ceased their struggling and sunk to the bottom. Four homes in the East-end are filled with the withering sorrow and heart-breaking grief that follow such a disaster, and it will be long before the wells of salt and bitter tears, which have been set running by Sunday's fatality are dry.

MARTIN LUTHER'S BODY.

It has recently been ascertained that the body of Martin Luther, contrary to general belief, was removed from the palace church at Wittenberg, where it lies seven or eight feet below the floor of the nave, in a coffin of wood lined with tin. Close by is the coffin of Luther's friend and associate, Melancthon.

ANTWERP'S HORSE BUTCHERING.

Statistics show that in Antwerp alone nearly 4,000 horses were slaughtered last year for human consumption, and the number of shops dealing exclusively in horseflesh in the Belgian ports exceeds 30.

PACKAGES BY POST.

Packages weighing up to 22 pounds and measuring not more than five feet cube are now transported by the French postoffice for 37 cents to any part of France.

PRECIPITATE HASTE.

Light out down there yelled the old gentlemen from the top of the stairs. The young man below did not catch the rising infection, and lit without taking hat or stick.

SWEPT OVER THE FALLS

THE HORRIBLE FATE OF THREE MEN IN A BOAT.

They Were Attempting to Cross the River Above the Falls - Terrible Struggle to Reach the Canadian Shore Witnessed by Several People - Their Boat Spent in the Rapids.

A despatch from Niagara Falls, Ont., says:—Three men in a green colored boat, marked No. 8, lost their lives on Sunday afternoon in attempting to cross the river above the falls, about 5 o'clock. Several people in the upper, or south, end of Cedar island, about a mile above the Horse-shoe Falls, noticed three men struggling for dear life to pull towards the Canadian shore, but swiftly and surely the strong current gradually swept them towards the cascades above the falls.

When they were first noticed they were about 200 yards from shore, and looked as though they might possibly beat the strong current. Two of them faced each other, pulling on the same oars, while the third had a piece of an oar and seemed to be making good use of it in the stern of the boat. But the all-powerful current mastered the trio, and they were swept over the first cascade, their frail boat, completely up-ended, spilling the unfortunate men into the rushing current, and their boat soon came to the surface with the end stove in.

The three men disappeared in the rapids, but in a few moments were again seen struggling in the water attempting to swim, but were

SWEPT OVER THE FALLS.

like chips of wood in a few minutes. Their boat came ashore a few yards above the falls, where it was secured.

Several people witnessed the struggling men, but were unable to render them any assistance.

The three men that went over the falls were strangers who were camping out near La Salle, N.Y., and had the boat No. 8 hired by the week from the La Salle boat-house. The boat carried a sail and was being used as such this afternoon. It is supposed that the men were strangers, lost control of the boat, there being a stiff north-west wind blowing this afternoon, and fooled the men in their meagre idea of the lay of the river and cascades. Conductor Nelles, of the Niagara Falls Park and River railway, noticed the boat in full sail in the river on his trip to Chippewa, about three-quarters of an hour before the accident. On his return trip he reached the scene in time to see the boat capsize, and the men's struggles in the river.

Mr. Lauzon, of Chippewa, an old boatman and an athlete of the park, saw the men in their predicament trying to reach the shore with their sails down and yelled to them what to do. They seemed to notice what he said, and turned the nose of the boat over the first cascade and rode it all right. The stout man of the three, who wore full whiskers jumped out of the boat at this point and attempted to swim ashore. He made

A GALLANT EFFORT.

and at one time was not over 30 feet from shore, when a large swell threw him further out in the river, and he was carried over the falls. The other two clung to the boat, one of them a bare head, the other man was wearing a hat, and the boat went broadside over the second cascade, striking on her side, leaving a big hole in her hull stern, throwing the men into the rapids. They both struggled hard when coming to the top, but without avail.

Their names are Frank Weber, of Buffalo; Warren Bush of Chicago; and Charles Glasser of Chicago. Bush and Glasser were employes of the United States Express Company, of Chicago, and were on a vacation. Weber is a widower and two children. Nothing has been seen of the bodies, and it is hardly likely that they will be recovered.

THE RUSH AT VICTORIA.

Hundreds of inexperienced men waiting a chance to go North.

A private letter from Victoria, B.C., gives the following picture of the crowd that is gathered at that place, and the difficulties they will have to encounter:—

"There are 300 men here who think they are going to the Klondike but nine-tenths of them won't get any further than Dyea. In fact, it will be impossible for them to get to the mines. They have no idea of what they have got to do. After they get across the divide, for which purpose they have got a lot of old horses that won't pack ten pounds, they will have to go into the woods to whipsaw their lumber, and then build boats. Most of them do not know how to drive a nail, let alone build a boat.

"Very few Victorians are going—at least not until spring. They are nearer at hand, and understand the situation. The Canadian Pacific Navigation Company loaded up the Islander to-day, and to-night are loading the Tees, and the two boats leave in the morning. In a couple of weeks there will be some good stories when the poor 'suckers' commence to return and tell of the hardships. It is the story of Cassiar and Cariboo over again. There are very few who will make fortunes and the remainder will return broken in purse and spirits.

"The Canadian Navigation Company will clear \$10,000 on the trips of the Islander and the Tees, and the Canadian Government is getting its share of the revenue by charging duty on outfits brought from the States."

LARGEST TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

The largest telegraph office in the world is in the general postoffice building, London. There are over 3,000 operators, 1,000 of whom are women. The electric batteries in connection with the telephone and telegraph are supplied by 30,000 cells.

BRITAIN'S FINANCES.

The expenses of Great Britain are now about £160,000,000 yearly, or nearly £230 per capita, but even this does not represent an inflow of a little over £3 into the British treasury, thus leaving an annual surplus of about £4,000,000.

CONDITION OF THE CROPS.

AUGUST REPORT ISSUED BY THE ONTARIO GOVERNMENT.

Interesting Figures Showing Acreage Under Crop and Yield Anticipated of Various Cereals and Fruit.

The following is the statement of acreage of crops in Ontario for 1897, prepared by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, and the estimates of yields based on the reports of the regular correspondents of the department, under date of August 9th.

It will be seen from the tables that the yields of the present year on the whole promise to exceed those of 1896, and also to exceed the average of the fifteen years, 1882-1896.

The amount of fall wheat ploughed up this year was 55,000 acres; or 30,000 less than in 1896. Three-fourths of the ploughed-up area was east of Toronto. With an increased area of 73,000 acres, the promise at present is nearly ten million bushels greater than was reported a year ago.

The high average of 25.5 bushels per acre is estimated. Over 80 per cent of the fall wheat is grown west and north-west of Toronto, and the reports of conditions are in the main very favorable. The comment, "Best crops for many years," is quite common. There is some complaint of too much rain at harvest time; but on the whole the crop was harvested in good condition. The fall wheat, therefore, shows, as compared with August, 1896, an increased acreage, an increased yield per acre, and an increased value per bushel in the market. Spring wheat has taken a move up again, both in acreage and promised yield.

The acreage and yield of barley are both somewhat below the previous year. For several years the area sown to oats has been increasing. Over 7,000 acres were again added this year, and the yield promised is 4,000,000 bushels greater than the enormous yield of 1896. In 1896 the figures for the crop is estimated at 67,000,000 bushels, against an average of 63,000,000 for the years 1882-96. The yield of rye and beans are above the average.

As nearly two and a half million acres are given over to hay, the value of this crop generally exceeds the value of any single grain crop. The average yields for six years have been as follows:—0.94 tons per acre in 1891; 1.74 tons in 1892; 1.79 in 1893; 1.39 in 1894; 0.73 in 1895; and 0.93 in 1896. There were three poor years in the fifteen years, 1882-96, was 1.85 tons. This year the yield was 1.63 tons. Though in some eastern sections the yield was light, on the whole the hay crop of Ontario has been heavy.

There is a little more of the average, the total being 3,811,519 tons, as against 2,260,240 tons in 1896. The acreage of corn has been increased year by year, as follows:—181,683 acres in 1892; 217,291 acres in 1893; 227,348 in 1894; 302,929 in 1895; 496,629 in 1896. It has now increased to 544,035 in 1897. The 1897 acreage, therefore, is more than that of 1892.

Buckwheat and mangels show an increase in area, potatoes a decrease, while carrots and turnips are about the same as in 1896, though both are being raised in smaller quantities.

Heavy rains and heavy showers of rain have done considerable damage to spring grain crops, and in many sections barley reported to be colored. In a portion of the province the rain of July, heavy rains have occurred since August ninth, it is well to note that the reports as to quality of spring grain crops are generally good.

To offset the damage to grain crops, however, we have the favorable effect upon corn, root crops, and pastures. The universal report is good pasture, and cattle appear to be in first-class condition. Cheese factories have been generously supplied with milk, and dairy prospects generally were favorable.

The supply of apples will be far below the average, as might be expected after the immense yield of last year. In a few instances large yields are spoken for, but a considerable number of correspondents report the opposite, and too frequently mention is made of scab. Of the standard winter varieties the Northern spy has done best. Peas are colored and in a portion of the province, but mention is made here and there of the blight. Plums suffered considerably from curculio and rot, but many speak favorably of the season. Apples have been reported for careful and intelligent growers. Peaches are yielding heavily in Lincoln, although there has been a tendency to rot among some early varieties. In Essex and other orange producing counties the fruit has done very poorly. On account of the ravages of black knot comparatively few cherry trees have been left in the province, but as a rule these have been spared. Several correspondents complain of the non-enforcement of the law governing black-knot in plum and cherry orchards. Grapes promise a fair to good yield, although in some sections the vines may have to be modified. In some sections of the province small fruits were abundant, raspberries especially giving a magnificent yield.

LIFE OF A LOCOMOTIVE.

What a Recent Investigation in Germany Revealed.

The life of a locomotive is not as long as is generally supposed. Investigations in this direction recently made in Germany show that the average locomotive has to be withdrawn from service after travelling about 500,000 miles. This does not include the time the locomotive is under her own steam without pulling a train. During the period a locomotive is in service a number of parts have to be repaired or renewed. For instance, the boiler and fire box have to be renewed three times, the tires of the wheels five or six times, the driving cranks from three to five times. After a half million miles of active service the average locomotive is no more worth repairing and is entirely withdrawn.

LARGEST WINGED INSECT.

The largest winged insect in the world is the Atlas moth of Central Brazil. Its wings extend 14 inches from tip to tip.

MURDERED IN THE VAULT

CASHIER OF A MICHIGAN BANK KILLED BY ROBBERS.

Elmer E. Struble of the Farmers' Bank in Shepherd, Mich., Goes to the Bank at 4 A. M. and Meets His Death After a Struggle - No Clue to the Identity of the Murderers.

Elmer E. Struble, cashier of the Farmers' Bank, at Shepherd, Michigan, was killed on Saturday morning by robbers. The deed shows either careful planning, with inside knowledge of the cashier's movements, or a rare amount of good luck for the robbers. Mr. Struble was cashier of the bank for many years. The bank is in the rear of Nathaniel W. Struble's hardware store. It was necessary for Cashier Struble to visit Mount Pleasant, the country seat, Saturday morning, and he made no secret of his intention, as he supposed to return here for the time for opening the bank. He left his home about 4 o'clock, intending to stop at the bank, get some papers which he needed in connection with his visit to Mount Pleasant, and then continue his journey.

Mr. Struble must have been unmolested until he opened the vault. The vault doors were opened, and had not been found, and Mr. Struble's body must have been found lying face down in the vault. Appearances indicate that he made a fierce struggle before being overpowered, as his clothing was much disarranged. Nothing was known of the crime until shortly after 7 o'clock, when one of the clerks in the hardware store opened the door. Noticing the unusual conditions in the bank, he went there and found Mr. Struble still breathing, but unconscious. It was found that he had been shot four times, once in the arm, once in the back, and twice in the head. The bullet wounds were all of the same calibre, and were probably fired from the same weapon.

The theory of the prosecuting attorney and Sheriff is that the robbers must have learned of Struble's intention and forced their way into the bank, where they awaited his coming. At first it was supposed that Struble might have committed suicide, as the Farmers' Bank was more or less hampered by the suspension of the People's Bank at Mount Pleasant a few days ago. This suspicion is apparently without foundation, as everything about the office shows a fierce fight, all the furniture being wrecked. The Sheriff believes that the job was done by persons whom Struble recognized, and they shot him to protect themselves.

J. F. Ryan, of Mount Pleasant, the owner of the bank, refuses to give even an estimate of the amount of money taken, although it is reported that the sum is large. There is absolutely no clue to the identity of the robbers. The whole town is working on the case, but no being traced at all. Struble died until 11 o'clock, but did not regain consciousness.

A GREAT MYSTERY.

What Became of the Cat and Whence Came the Roast of Beef?

This is a story of what happened less than a year ago in a suburb of a great city and in the city itself. A family living in the suburb