

# 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 assessment returns of the city of Hamilton, show an increase of \$1,273,530.

Major General Gascoigne has returned to Ottawa from a prolonged stay in England.

Eigin Tufford was sentenced to penitentiary for two years at Hamilton for bigamy.

The design for a new postage stamp has been approved by the Postmaster-General.

George Lawrence, of Guelph, committed suicide by shooting himself with a revolver.

Lieut. G. P. Thorpe, of the Rifle Brigade, England, has been appointed an aide-de-camp to Lord Aberdeen.

The Olive Mine, near Mine Centre, has been sold by Winnipeg parties to an English syndicate for \$850,000.

The assessment of St. Catharines shows a gain of \$275,000 in property and 250 in population over last year.

All the recent reports from Dawson City show that provisions are nearly exhausted, and that famine is inevitable.

Four gates of lock No. 1 of the old Welland Canal were carried away on Saturday night by the steamer Lakeland.

The Monarch mine at Rat Portage has been sold by the Bullion Company for \$25,000. Toronto men are the purchasers.

The Selkirk leper, Gudmun Christenson, has been conveyed to Tracadie, N.B. No further cases, it is stated, exist in the province.

Captain Cooper, of the Royal Military College, Kingston, has, it is understood, been granted a commission in the Imperial East African service.

A cable despatch says ex-Chief Justice Hargry and Chief Justice Tait of Montreal have been gazed at Knights.

Mr. Leblanc, one of the license commissioners of Ottawa, dropped dead while at a meeting of the Reform Club in that city on Thursday night.

Reports have been received in St. John's, Nfld., that three schooners have been lost off the Labrador coast, and five men and one woman were drowned.

Mr. Charles R. Devlin, appointed some time ago by the Dominion Government Emigration Agent to Ireland, has sent his resignation to Ottawa.

Immigration Commissioner Pedley and James A. Smart, Deputy Minister of the Interior, have left on a tour of the western States to visit immigration agencies.

The official stenographers of the circuit courts in Montreal have gone out on strike. They refused to take twelve cents a hundred words and demanded twenty cents.

The Dominion Minister of Customs is satisfied with the first effort to collect revenue in the Yukon. Fifteen thousand dollars have been remitted by Collector Davis in less than a year.

A special from Winnipeg states that this year has witnessed a remarkable increase in the volume of traffic on the Canadian Pacific railway and also in the total sales of the land department.

Sir Louis Davies, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, has issued a circular to the lumbermen on the Ottawa river, notifying them that there will be no further postponement of the law forbidding the dumping of sawdust into the river.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company will build at once into Rossland, and will furnish the necessary capital to erect a smelter in the vicinity, so that the ores of that camp will be treated cheaper than they can be across the border.

Mr. George Hague, general manager of the Merchants' Bank of Canada, has just returned to Montreal from the North-West. He says, while the crop is not as heavy as last year, its extra quality and higher prices will make it twice as valuable.

Canadian artists are to be invited to submit proposals to the Government for a statue of the Queen and one of Mr. Alexander Mackenzie. Both are to be erected on Parliament hill, the amount to be expended on each being \$5,000 voted by Parliament last session.

It is reported that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company have offered to construct a bridge at Quebec to connect their system with the International Railway provided that the International Railway will give them a lease of their road.

Regarding the first trial shipment of Canadian fruit to England in cold storage, cabagegrain has been received in Ottawa, stating that the peaches, plums, and tomatoes arrived in good condition, but the peaches and grapes were too ripe, and did not arrive in good condition.

Michael Odris jumped out of a second-story window on St. Paul street, Montreal. People picked him up, and in answer to queries he said he was not hurt. Then he re-entered the building, and before the crowd had dispersed he came down a second time from a third story. He was picked up fearfully mangled, and died shortly afterwards.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

Mrs. Langtry announces that she has retired from the stage.

The Russian Czarina will visit the Queen, inconnu, about the middle of the present month.

It is expected that the Duke and Duchess of York will be sponsors for the baby Marlborough.

The Liberal candidate in East Denbighshire was returned on Thursday with an increased majority.

London Vanity Fair says that the speech of the American eagle is becoming so exasperating that British gunpowder may have to be used to silence it.

The British Liberals are vigorously attacking Lord Salisbury's foreign policy as weak and cowardly. Appearances indicate that the country is turning once more to the Liberal party.

Mrs. Ormiston Chant, the social reformer, announced during a lecture in Warwickshire that the Crown Princess of Greece, Princess Sophia of Prussia, had told her that the worst and most cruel foe of Greece was not the Sultan of Turkey, but her own brother, Emperor William of Germany.

## AWFUL PRAIRIE FIRES.

### TWO WOMEN AND FIVE CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH.

Terrible scenes of death and devastation in Manitoba—Charred Carcasses of Live Stock—Many Farmers Homeless—Thousands of Bushels of Wheat Destroyed—Winnipeg at One Time Threatened.

A despatch from Winnipeg says:—The prairie fires which raged all over the country on Saturday, being fanned and driven by a gale of wind, died out during the night, and Sunday morning's sun dawned upon a terrible scene of death and devastation. Farmers' houses, implements, crops, and live stock were everywhere in the track of the holocaust consumed, and many farmers lost their all.

A most lamentable story comes from Beausejour, forty miles east of this city, where two women and five children named Morski were burned to death. Fire came upon their house, which was in the woods, from different directions, simultaneously, and shut off all means of escape. Only a few charred remains were found in the morning.

There were many narrow escapes. Carcasses of cattle, horses, and sheep are lying all over the district, and a number of families of foreigners are homeless, and utterly destitute. At Bagot, seventy miles west, the Canadian Pacific railway station and seven cars, the Dominion Grain Company's elevator, with twenty thousand bushels of wheat, Lawrie's store, Higginbotham's, Links' and Buchanan's stables, a cold storage warehouse, Farmer Waldron's farm buildings and crops were totally destroyed, the little town being practically wiped out of existence.

At Stony mountain fire ran up to the Canadian Pacific railway platform, where by desperate efforts of the people its progress was stayed. Much hay and grain were consumed in this district.

In the Lake Francis district, north-west of the city, there was also extensive destruction of crops and hay. A young farmer named Markham was killed, and his property, including his hay and grain, was consumed in this district.

At Oakland, on the N.P.R., Portage branch, several hundred cords of wood and thousands of tons of hay were licked up. Just south-west of this city there is a large hay marsh and the fire was driven over this in a terrible manner, consuming everything in its course. Nearly every farmer lost his hay, and many also lost their grain and implements. There were large bands of horses and cattle pasturing on the marsh, and to-day the charred carcasses of the animals dot the ground every few paces. Jack rabbits and prairie chickens were also abundant for some hours, as it was feared the fire would come into the suburbs among the trees, where the most valuable residences are located. A timely change of wind averted this impending danger.

Appeals were made to all the churches on behalf of those rendered destitute on Sunday by the prairie fires.

## VILLAGES FIRE-SWEPT.

### CASSELMAN, SOUTH INDIAN AND CHENEY DESTROYED.

The Inhabitants Driven in Terror Before the Flames—Five Lives Lost.

The burned area on the line of the Canada Atlantic Railway from forest fires covers a distance of about 25 miles. Three villages—Casselman, South Indian and Cheney—have been swept. Four persons were burned to death. At South Indian there are only two or three houses standing of what was once a prosperous village. The saddest part of the day's work was the finding of the burned bodies of Mrs. Frank Leveille, her two children, aged eight months and eleven years, respectively, and also that of her sister, Miss Stiles, aged 30, who lived with her. Mrs. Leveille was a widow, her husband having died quite recently. Her dwelling was on the north side of the track, just opposite the Canada Atlantic station, and in a locality where the fire was last in reaching. Several of the men of the village, whose own homes were in ashes,

in her efforts to save her home. When the men saw her out of danger they left, after advising her to keep a good watch about the place to prevent any sparks from igniting it, and also to stay in the building, as there was little or no danger. On Wednesday morning at an early hour several of the villagers thought of her lonely position and went to see how she fared. The place was intact, but what was their surprise to find that there were no inmates. The only trace of them found was a nursing bottle, which was recognized as belonging to the widow. About 10 o'clock another searching party was formed. After going down the branch line to Rockland, a short distance on a hand-car, the party separated, one party going along the track and the other going through the bush. The four bodies of the unfortunates were found in the bush about one mile from South Indian, and were lying in a short distance of the home. The mother had the remains of her two children clasped tightly in her arms, burned into almost.

### HELPED THE POOR WIDOW

UNRECOGNIZABLE CINDERS.

A short piece away lay the body of her sister, not badly disfigured. Her hair and clothing had been burned off, but otherwise she was scarcely marked. Her fate is additionally sad owing to the fact that she would have been perfectly safe had they remained in their house. Her tragic death throws an additional gloom over the already sorrowful incidents.

The following remarkable account of the extraction of a needle from the body by means of a magnet.

"A young laundress thrust a brook needle into her right hand while washing clothes. The needle having disappeared in the flesh, the surgeon who was consulted several days after the accident refused to perform an operation, fearing lest he should be obliged to make a large number of incisions among the ligaments of articulation. Two months afterwards the girl lost the use of her right hand, and the least movement of the fingers caused her exquisite pain. Drs. Gorinowski and Gerstin then determined to extract the needle with the aid of a magnet, drawing it into a fleshy region where an incision could be made without danger. To cause this movement they chose a very feeble electro-magnet. But a difficulty arose: the needle having entered point first it would have to be drawn out backward. The first trial lasted two hours, with appreciable result. Before the third trial the girl said that she felt a pricking in the palm of the hand near the place where the magnet had been applied and where the needle ought to appear. At the ninth sitting, finally, the needle appeared beneath the skin, and came out whole, broken end first. It fixed itself to the pole of the electro-magnet and the young laundress was cured. The result—the drawing of a needle through the flesh—is very remarkable. In 20 hours after the first trial the needle was extracted from the inside of the hand after lying there more than two months."

## BETTER NEWS FROM INDIA.

### SIR WILLIAM LOCKHART IS NOW IN CONTROL.

Advancing in Three Columns From Peshawar—Pro-British Proclamation by the Ameer.

A despatch from London says,—The news from the Indian frontier is favorable. Sir William Lockhart's forces will commence the advance on Tirah, the summer headquarters of the Afghans, and the Orazais, from Peshawar, on Friday next, moving in three columns. Sir William Lockhart and Major-General Lord Methuen have already arrived at Kohat.

The Mullahs of Tirah, on hearing of the advance contemplated, began their preparations to oppose it, but it is now also reported that they are prepared to offer terms on behalf of the Afghans, the Mohmunda, and the Malakand tribesmen.

The Ameer of Afghanistan has published at Cabul his reply to the petition against the British. He reminds them that they have never before complained of British conduct, but, on the contrary, acquiesced fully in the Afghan alliance with England. He quotes from the Koran on the sacred duty of fulfilling agreements, which he says, the British have kept faithfully, and, in conclusion, he declines to assist them out of their troubles, which they have brought upon themselves, adding, "to do so would bring ignominy upon myself and my people."

The Ameer has also issued through the Afghans a long proclamation, dated August 13th, and entitled "A clear declaration and warning to all Afghans." This is much to the same effect as the reply to the petition of the Afghans. It clears England of any disloyal intention toward Afghanistan, justifies the alliance as a "protection against foreign invasion and taunts the tribesmen with relying at the instigation of a fakir of unknown parentage, after accepting British subsidies, and with pretending to raise a standard while all Mohammedans, and all the Afghans, are taking sides with the English. Finally, warning his hands of their affairs, the Ameer addresses the tribesmen as follows:—"The British Government, if I were to do such a foolish thing I am sure you would assume the position of simple spectators. I am not such a fool, as to annoy and offend others for your sake."

## SOME LATE CABLE NEWS.

### THE QUEEN'S OPINION OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Republic Lacks the Element of Stability—Closing the Indian Buffer Fund—Decline in British Exports.

A despatch from London says:—A despatch from Washington quotes Attorney-General McKenna as saying that he has received no inquiries through the United States Counsel-Gen. or others in London in regard to the purchase of the Union Pacific road. The following message has been received in reply to an inquiry of the Consul-General, called to Attorney-General McKenna:—"To the Consul-General of the United States, London.—The road has not been sold to the Schiff syndicate. It will be sold to the highest bidder on November 1. (McKenna.) It is learned that there have been several attempts to organize a syndicate here for the purchase of the Union Pacific railroad, but not one of them thus far has secured important financial backing.

Vanity Fair says:—"The Queen was very much grieved at the attitude of the United States eighteen months ago, and it is an open secret that her Majesty, who has made a close study of the American people, holds almost pessimistic views in regard to the stability and future of the Republic. The Queen's long conversation with the Canadian Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, when that statesman was in England, would make most interesting reading.

At the final meeting of the committee of the India famine fund of the Mansion House, the Lord Mayor, Sir George Fausch Phillips, announced that the total subscriptions amounted to £549,340, adding that out of every pound 18s. 11-2d. had been remitted to India demonstrating that the expansion of contributing the fund had been most minute.

Lord George Hamilton, Secretary of State for India, said that the most serious famine of the century in India was disappearing, but still a million and a half of persons are receiving relief. The total of the subscriptions from Great Britain, the United States, the British colonies and India, concluded amounted to nearly £1,300,000, and the total cost of the famine was more than £1,000,000.

The Lord Mayor, in replying to the address of thanks of the Secretary of State for India, referred gratefully to the efforts of Mrs. Hauser, of Chicago, as having been the initiator of the plan for sending large quantities of clothing to the sufferers in India from the famine and plague, adding that the clothing so collected was distributed with remarkable success.

A despatch to the Daily Mail from Cape Town, says that Dr. Jameson, the hero of the Transvaal raid, will seek a seat in the Cape Assembly at the next general election. The chief plank in his platform will be "Federation for South Africa."

The morning papers comment upon the continued decline in British exports. The Board of Trade reports for September show a seven and a half per cent. decline, as compared with the corresponding month of last year. It is admitted that this is mainly due to the Dingley Lane clause of the Times says:—"Whatever its ultimate effect, it is clear that the immediate result of protection in America is to close the American markets very largely to British exports. As we are well made up our minds to this fact and seek an opening for our goods elsewhere."

## POPULATION OF IRELAND.

### Emigration Breeding—Report of the Registrar-General.

The report of the registrar general, of Ireland, for the year 1896 has been issued as a blue book. It states that the marriage rate for that part of the United Kingdom, although not high, in 1896 was considerably in excess of the decennial average, and was the highest for any year since 1871. The rate was somewhat above the average, and was the highest for any year since 1884, while on the other hand the death rate was much below the average, and lowest for any year since 1871. The excess of births over deaths was 31,941. As the loss by emigration amounted to 38,995, there was a net decrease of 6,054 in the population during the year. But against the decrease there is a set-off in immigration, of which no official record has been obtained. The estimated population in the middle of the year was 4,599,374. The rate of emigration last year per 1,000 of the estimated population was 8.6, the lowest point being reached last year. The emigration which took place in 1896 comprised 3,812 from the province of Leinster, 15,485 from Munster, 7,431 from Ulster, and 12,231 from Connaught. Of the total emigrants from Ireland last year 6.98 per cent. were under fifteen years of age, 83.7 per cent. between fifteen and thirty-five years old, 9.4 per cent. were thirty-five and upward, and in ten instances the ages were not specified. The great bulk, therefore, were in the prime of life.

### SIX GIRLS BURNED TO DEATH.

Destruction of the Girls' Cottage of the South Dakota Industrial School.

A despatch from Plankinton, S. D., says:—"The girls' cottage at the State Industrial School, burned at midnight on Wednesday. Tillie Hooper, in charge of the sewing department; Nellie Johnston, aged 13, of Grafton, N. D.; Mabel Fisher, aged 9, of Sioux Falls; Eva Warner, aged 16, of Watertown; and Christina Bergman, aged 11, of Yankton, perished in their night clothes. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it was probably caused by a lamp exploding. Loss, \$25,000."

## THE ENGINEERING STRIKE.

### Fast Approaching a Close—Funds Running Very Low—Men are Anxious to Return to Work.

A despatch from London says:—The engineering dispute is believed to be really nearing its end. The union has paid out more than a year's subscriptions in strike pay. It also realized on a considerable amount of invested funds and some of the employers are bankrupt.

Several firms in London which have tried the eight-hour day have reverted to nine hours, finding that the eight-hour day did not result even in an eighth of the work done in the nine-hour day.

Stagnation in the allied trades is now beginning to affect 200,000 men. The union desires a conference with the employers and is even disposed to promise not to interfere with the management of the workshops if they will consent to the question of hours. The employers say they do not wish a conference, but a settlement is likely, as the men are anxious to return to work. Negotiations are daily being diverted abroad.

The President of the Board of Trade has been consulted by the leaders of both sides, and there is now a fair prospect of a speedy conference of employers and federated trades, and a compromise on the basis of fifty-one working hours weekly.

## LANCERS ATTACKED.

### The Afghans Surprise the British Commanders—Fight in the Villages.

A despatch from Peshawar says:—The Afghans attacked a patrol of British lancers, near Fort Bara, on Friday morning. It was an unpleasant surprise to the British commanders to find that the enemy had ventured so close to Peshawar. Fort Bara is only a few miles distant from here.

A despatch from Simla says:—The Ameer of Afghanistan has ordered the arrest of any Afghani Jirgahs appearing at Cabul.

The troops under General Jeffreys had some severe fighting at the Villages of Agrah and Gat. The insurgent tribesmen occupied positions behind rocks and a hot engagement at close quarters was fought before the British were destroyed. Lieutenant Colonel O'Brien and Lieutenant Brown-Clayton were killed. Lieut. Peacock was severely wounded; three British soldiers were killed and fifteen were wounded; seven native soldiers were killed and 23 wounded.

In consequence of their failure to accept the terms of the British commanders, the punishment of the Mohmunda was resumed on Wednesday. Twelve of their villages were destroyed and their fortified towers were blown up without opposition.

## TUMBLING IN A HEAP.

### Sudden Collapse of a Big Summer Hotel in Michigan—Two Men Killed and Ten Badly Injured.

A despatch from Charlevoix, Mich., says:—"The big hotel at Lindsay Park, which was to have been the largest summer hotel at the Northern Michigan resorts, collapsed on Wednesday and is a total wreck. It was all enclosed and roofed, but the lower stories, it is asserted, were not properly braced, and the fierce gale striking on the 4th floor of sidewalk caused the most exposed end to waver, and, gathering momentum as it fell, the huge mass tumbled with a crash which was heard for a mile. Forty workmen were buried in the mass of broken timber and splintered boards. In a short time the injured were taken out. Pierce Kendall, all of Charlevoix, and Guy Hamilton of Grand Rapids were killed. Ten others were badly injured.

### FORCE OF HABIT.

Miss Brown-Mallet, during the croquet game.—Your wife is out, is she not, Mr. Pittbury?

Mr. Pittbury, the druggist, absent mindedly.—Yes, but I can recommend something equally as good—or—that is, yes, I believe so.

## TYPHOID IN KENT.

### Outbreak at Maidstone Assuming Alarming Proportions.

A despatch from London says:—The prevalence of typhoid fever at Maidstone, Kent, is increasing, and trade is absolutely at a standstill. There are now 1,172 cases of the disease, and there have been 46 deaths, six of which occurred last night. The surface impurities of the water supply, due to the drainage from a hop-picking encampment, have not abated, but in addition to the many doctors and nurses who have arrived from other places to care for the sick, a large number of volunteer nurses have been advertised for. Some of the residents have become panic-stricken at the alarming state of affairs and the continual tolling of the church bells denoting the burial of the dead, and many are leaving their homes.

Negligence is the rust of the soul, that corrodes through all his best resolves.—Feldman.

The new Naval bill will demand an expenditure of \$10,000,000 marks, to be spread over seven years. It is expected the bill will be rejected, and that a crisis will be the result.

## ONE OF NA...

The first glimpse from the sitting came plowing up the drive, every

I turned to my room with me, those Dago or A said, "I don't. They are getting sane."

We had been deal for the life, with a faculty that we are of them, and cause of my alone.

Mother looked "He doesn't look of his class, does there is no use of. But if you stand, try to."

I went into the suggestion. By the opposite the kitchen looking this way a door.

After a few seconds around the house, if he was trying. Presently there was upon the door. I felt to keep one eye and the other upon there was no chance.

But as it swung in color waited to me, stepped back. I am movement as an. Anyway became in his bundles upon down upon a chair's room.

I looked at his mother who Mary's came in and found stood up.

"Boy, Ma'am! Sell he said, with a grin.

My gaze traveled and rested upon him at him could not be must. He was before, somewhat stopped. By the color of bleaching and dirty, and he sloped back at an angle, ended in a pair of which was covered in sizes and colors and a corduroy trousers, with dirt and wear, which rested upon the too large for him and depressions in them, ed, which made them runners. He seemed representative of his most repulsive to me, never stopped at our thought that I had not stood him before, for an imbecile smile, for "Boy, Ma'am! Sell I shook my head and paid no attention and had a smile as he said. Soon the old cloth coat and he had opened with two shelves in for there were in articles used in sewing, Mrs. Harpins, and com in the greatest confusion contained his "Needles, pins, Ma'am! Sell I shook my head."

"Table linen, Ma'am! he said his grin, but when I shook my head, he was still wrapped up more emphatically, "anything to-day?"

I would not buy, as compared with the last year, the box again. After I looked he took his eyes from his face with a faint smile, and as he around the room. All figure straightened a into the kitchen, which was still wrapped in a glance in the same way, which the cause might, a sitting-room and seen from his position, back at him very much, surely, could not have do with it.

"Now my boy, I lay, I often heard of folks who imagined things, and I mentally analyzed them. By getting his mind off of I shook my head and boots. They were on of doors. As soon as meaning he was down, ing one leg across the gan to tug at his belt, one was off, the other of he stood up before of gentleman's nose. It never dreamed of for fifth.

"Now my boy!" he said and before I could call had shambled through sat down at the piano, loved him, for I felt a at the thought of I shaking in contact with white keys of my keyboard. Just then he was upon the keyboard, and chords rose I felt a touch. That first touch, master's hand.

Those notes changed, and runs which sounding of a pair of doves, he pressed the keys as friend, just long ago, if the greeting was over talk. A few modulation key, and he burst into key of joy.

Up to that time I had three sensations; first, an amazement; then, first, then I was dead to and the technicalities of I only felt it. During study I have often let just one musician who forget everything except me. But that afternoon