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.

Parliament will meet on February 3rd.

The trolley system has been inaugurated on the Hamilton & Dundas Railway.

W. H. H. Graham, of Irvington, Ind., has been appointed United States Consul to Winnipeg.

Hon. Clifford Sifton has gone to Washington to see the United States Government on Yukon affairs.

It is expected that the Molsons Bank of Montreal, will extend its business by opening a branch at Vancouver, B. C.

Rev. Wm. MacGunig is suing the City of Montreal for $6,500 damages for delay in removing a smallpox patient from his hospital.

The new Baldwin locomotive recently purchased for the intercolonial railway has been brought back to Montreal, after a most satisfactory trial trip.

Policeman McLaughlin, of Ottawa, who shot and wounded an escaping thief, and who was charged with shooting with intent, has been acquitted.

The Dominion Government has decided to adopt the postal note system as it prevails in Great Britain for the transmission of currency through the mails.

Thomas Reynolds, an hostler employed at the Britannia Hotel, Hamilton, was found dead at the bottom of a ladder in the stable with his neck broken.

Mr. W. W. Ogilvie has sent a cheque for five hundred dollars to St. Boniface hospital, in addition to giving one thousand dollars to the Winnipeg General hospital.

A sale has just been negotiated of $120,000 worth of London's 3 1-2 per cent. sewerage debentures at 98.95. The Confederation Life Insurance Company is the purchaser.

The wardens of the Dominion penitentiaries have been called to meet in Ottawa early in January to discuss prison matters in order, if possible, to have uniformity in the treatment of convicts.

Owing to the demands of the Yukon district on the Mounted Police, it is likely that the Dominion Government will abandon its declared intention to reduce the force, and, instead, augment it considerably.

Mr. E. D. Smith, the Winona fruit grower, intends to build an addition to his big storehouse for cold storage purposes, and will spend $5,000 getting ready for the shipping of fruit to England next year on a large scale.

There is likely to be trouble between the Dominion Government and Newfoundland over the ownership of Labrador. Its shores have been annexed to Newfoundland for judicial reasons, and now the island would like to claim all.

Fire in the Watkins wing of the General hospital in Kingston, Ont., did damage on Friday to the extent of $10,000. About forty patients were removed on stretchers and in chairs, and up to a late hour last night did not appear to have suffered by their hasty removal. The loss is more than covered by insurance.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The estate of the late actor, William Terriss is estimated at between £40,000 and £50,000.

Lady Millais, widow of Sir John Millais, the late president of the Royal Academy, is dead.

An anti-sugar bounty league was formed in England last week, under the presidency of Lord Stanmore.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is seriously ill, and his condition is causing his friends much anxiety.

Jackson, the English Arctic explorer, has altered his proposed route in the Polar regions, so as not to clash with Lieut. Peary's course.

Owing to the objection of Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, the reduction in postage on letters from Canada to other parts of the British Empire has been postponed.

A Mrs. Jarvis and her nine children, the youngest a baby, were burned to death in a four-roomed cottage, occupied by the Jarvis and two other families in Dixie street, Bethnal Green, London.

UNITED STATES.

Seven lives were lost in the Chicago coliseum which was destroyed by fire on Friday.

The New York Sun says the United States pension rolls are "padded" beyond belief.

Charles A. Bolnay will be hanged at Bridgeport, Conn., April 14th, for the murder of Geo. M. Nichols.

The manufacturers of Fall River, Mass., have decided upon a reduction of wages, and the operatives appear to be in favor of opposition.

Evidence has been adduced to show that the gag, the whip, the dark cell and bread and water diet are in use in the Protestant Episcopal House of Mercy, for Girls, at Inwood, N.Y.

Representative Johnson, of North Dakota, says it cost the United States Government $224,514 to make an unsuccessful claim for damages before the Paris tribunal on the seal fisheries.

A despatch from Washington intimates that President McKinley will urge on Congress the early payment of the claims of the Canadian sealers awarded by the joint commission

Miss Leila Herbert, daughter of the ex-Secretary of the United States Navy, committed suicide at Washington by jumping head-foremost from the third storey window of her father's residence.

The owners of the mines in the Cripple Creek mining camp made their employes the present of one full day's wages on Christmas day, which amounted in the aggregate to ten thousand dollars.

The jury in the trial of George A. Crme, of Elmira, N. Y., rendered a verdict of not guilty of murder, the defence being that the man died from the effects of the "x" rays used in searching for the bullet.

The long strike of the Indiana window glass factory hands closed on Christmas eve. The men gained their point of one cent after a four months' strike which cost them in lost wages more than five hundred thousand dollars.

Twenty persons were injured at a crossing of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad between Passaic and Delaware, N. J. They were in a stage, which was struck by a train. Those fatally injured are Wm. Crane, Wm. Moran and Charles Swenkie, all of Passaic.

Business has been reasonably good throughout the United States during the past week. According to the commercial reports of Messrs. Dun and Messrs. Bradstreet, the holiday trade has been everywhere unusually heavy; and the wholesale trades—which usually are slack just before Christmas—have been kept well employed to meet the requirements of a very large demand. For the time of year the call for various lines of products has been unprecedentedly large. Altogether the actual condition of trade, and its immediate outlook, is considered by many of the leading men of business to be most satisfactory. The business failures in the United States for the month have been less than half of the number which occurred in the corresponding week of last year.

GENERAL.

Banks in Bombay, and Bengal, India, have increased the rate of discount from 6 to 7 per cent.

There has been a renewal of conflicts between Mussulmans and Christians on the Island of Crete.

Princess Hohenlohe, wife of the German Imperial Chancellor, is dead. She was sixty-eight years of age.

Racial animosities in Austria have extended to the army, and there have been many serious fights in the barracks.

Sixteen persons were killed as a result of the fire-damp explosion in the Kaiserstuhl II. pit at Dortmund, Prussia.

Count Esterhazy, who is said to be the "real traitor," and not Dreyfus, has been committed for trial by court martial.

It is now supposed that a friendly understanding exists between England and Germany over the seizure of Kiao-Chau Bay.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has sent an address to the Government urging that the time has arrived to adopt the gold standard.

Serious strike disorders have occurred at Moreso, Spain, where a band of strikers attacked the non-strikers and many were wounded.

General Pando reports that the offer of autonomy to Cuba is rejected by the insurgents, and that the only way to finish the war is by war.

The dervishers have left Shendy and Metemmeh that are marching against the Anglo-Egyptian forces, with Berber as their objective point.

It is reported that seventeen British warships are at Corea to support the protest against the King handing over the government of the country to Russia.

The Spanish press is urging the Government to take action to resist the "intolerable encroachments of the United States in the internal politics of Spain."

At Regla, a suburb of Havana, there was a sensational bull fight, in which girl bull fighters from Spain entered the ring and killed the bulls like regular professionals.

France claims that her African expedition has been an entire success, that she has captured Domziber and Meshraerrak without firing a shot, and that she is now mistress of the Nile.

As a Greek gunboat was leaving the Gulf of Ambracia on Friday a shot was fired at her by the Turks at Fort Prevesa and Greece asks for an explanation of the unfriendly act.

The St. Petersburg Official Messenger formally announces the Czar's sanction of the appointment of Counsellor Martens, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Professor of international law in the University of St. Petersburg, as umpire in the Anglo-Venezuelan arbitration.

A despatch from Rome says it has just come to light that the Princess de Carini, who is separated from her husband, has been treated with great cruelty. She has been shut up by her trustee for the last five years and has only just succeeded in sending a letter to the police revealing her imprisonment.

THE OPERATIONS IN INDIA.

The Afridi and Orakzai Severely Punished by the British.

A despatch from Peshawur says:—"The British columns have returned from Khyber pass after punishing, with slight opposition, the Zakka-Khels in the Bazar valley. Military operations on the frontier are now concluded. Every Afridi and Orakzai valley has been visited.

"It now appears that the enemy's loss has been more severe than was at first believed, and out of all proportion to its possible fighting strength. Their trade with our centres for the necessaries of life has been closed, and their autumn tillage prevented. The complete submission of the Orakzais is now accomplished.

"Many hitherto unknown strategical frontier routes have been surveyed and mapped out. The vaunted prestige of the Afridis has been lowered; and their punishment has paved the way for the permanent settlement of the country. It is firmly believed that cut off from India, and threatened with a reinvasion of their country in the spring, they will now submit. It is also expected that the internal friction resulting from the operations will prove as severe a punishment as the operations themselves."

A CLOCK RUN BY THE WIND.

There is a clock in Brussels which has never been wound up by human hands. It is kept going by the wind.

ARE FACING STARVATION.

PROVISIONS ARE RUNNING SHORT IN DAWSON CITY.

Miners Refuse to Leave the City For Fort Yukon — A Proposal That All Food Should Be Equally Shared—Interference of the North-West Police.

A despatch from Skaguay, Alaska, says:—John Lindsay, of Olympia, Washington, who has just arrived from Dawson City, says there will surely be starvation there this winter. He examined into the food situation thoroughly, he says, and after satisfying himself there would be starvation, he sold his outfit, and, in company with Frank Ballaine, of Olympia; Tom Storey, of Victoria, B. C., and Bob Glynn, of Seattle, started out on foot, each man drawing a sled carrying about 140 pounds of provisions. Lindsay says the Dawson people believe there is no great amount of food at Fort Yukon as has been alleged. The river rose sufficiently and remained open long enough to enable the food to have been brought from Fort Yukon had there been any there.

The people of Dawson, believing there was not an ample food supply at Fort Yukon, refused to go there, preferring to remain at Dawson. Not more than 300 or 400 people took advantage of the transport company's offer, to take the people to Fort Yukon for nothing. When the miners at Dawson found no more provisions would reach the town by the river route they announced that a meeting would be held to take steps for apportioning the provisions in town. Those who had plenty must share with those who had none. Capt. Constantin, of the North-West Mounted Police, interfered, and told the miners that no such thing would be permitted. The meeting was not held.

Lindsay says the output of the miners will be greatly curtailed this winter, because of a scarcity of fuel and light. Coal oil sold for forty-five dollars a gallon, and candles are as high as one hundred and fifty dollars a box of one hundred. Even if men were able to work their claims they cannot get light to do so.

These statements are borne out by all returning Klondikers, quite a number of whom have reached here during the past week. Few of them had ever taken as gloomy a view of the situation as does Mr. Lindsay.

FIGHTING ON THE FRONTIER.

Some Very Sharp Criticism of the War Methods.

A despatch from Allahabad says:—The Pioneer publishes a scathing criticism of the recent fighting on the Indian frontier, and says the operations have ruined more than one reputation. The Pioneer asserts that the officers have disappointed expectations, and calls upon the Commander-in-Chief to weed out those who have signally failed to prove their fitness to command or perform staff duties. The paper asserts that the instances when the troops were well handled were few, while serious blunders were numerous and happy-go-lucky arrangements were the rule, resulting in a few hundred British troops and Sepoys, forming the rear guard, having again and again to fight most desperately to save their skins whole, while within two or three miles thousands of their comrades were doing absolutely nothing.

In conclusion, the Pioneer remarks: "The whole campaign shows carelessness and indifference for the safety of the rear guard and bad disposal of the fighting strength. While the fortified enclosures and homesteads of the Afridis have been destroyed, the latter have had their revenge in the actual conflicts. If the Afridis are to be coerced, more skill is requisite, and the staff must be weeded forthwith, irrespective of personal feelings.

MAGNETIC PHENOMENON.

Experiments in Central Russia Show That Sometimes the Needle Points East and West.

A despatch from Moscow says:—Experiments that have been made by Russian and French savants in conection with the remarkable deflection of the magnetic needle over an immense area in Central Russia have given curious results. The observations were confined to the strip of country between Moscow and Kharkov, a distance of about 850 miles. The needle showed the greatest aberrations in the Province of Kursk, where in the north it was deflected 20 degrees. One hundred and fifty miles southeastward the deflection exceeded 96 degrees, the needle pointing east and west instead of north and south. Engineers who are engaged building railroads in that part of the country are much interested in the experiments. They speculate as to how the magnetization will affect the durability of the rails. It is known that rails are usually more durable when laid north and south than in other directions, the greatest wear from magnetism being when they are laid due east and west.

SHOT DEAD BY POLICE.

Supremacy of the Law Asserted by Revolvers.

A despatch from Dubois, Pa., says:—Chief of Police Blair, and a dozen deputies made an effort on Thursday morning to capture Stephen Spellan, who brutally murdered Michael Rahar the previous night, and then barricaded himself in the house, and opened fire on the officers as soon as he saw them approaching, shooting Chief Blair. Later he wounded officers Casey, Butterborough and Almott. The remaining officers pressed forward and forced the door. As they entered Spellan fled, the officers following and firing their revolvers as they ran. Spellan, in desperation, halted and returned the fire. The officers fired another volley, and the murderer fell wounded with four bullets in his body. The wounded officers will recover.

ONE THING TO LIVE FOR.

The Sole Consideration That Keeps a Pessimist from Giving Up the Game.

"Yes," said a tall, sallow-faced, melancholy looking man, attired in a thin pair of trousers, a fall overcoat, a pair of dilapidated shoes, and a last year's derby hat. "I've never had anything but bad luck, I've worked hard all my life and only made a bare living. My health broke down years ago; most of my friends have died off or moved West. I've got literary and artistic tastes and can't gratify them. Everything I undertake to do is a failure, and I don't seem to be of any use in the world."

"Have you no friends with political influence enough to get some kind of an easy job for you?" inquired a well-dressed and prosperous-looking man.

"I've tried that," said the miserable man, shaking his head. Every time I get a position a political landslide comes along, and I get thrown out of the snap."

"Wly didn't you open an intelligence office or start a real estate agency?" asked a man in a fur cap and heavy ulster. "That sort of business doesn't require much capital."

"I've tried 'em both, my friends. Got burnt out in the first business and a partner ran off with the profits in the other. No use."

"Ever try canvassing?" inquired another sympathetic acquaintance.

"Yes, often. Had a good suit of clothes like yours ruined in that business by a vicious dog. Thrown down stairs once or twice. No use man—I'm not in it. Last week my pet parrot died, yesterday morning I lost a quarter, and to-day I've got an earache. That's the way it always goes. If it isn't one trouble it's another. There's only one thing that keeps me from committing suicide and ending the whole wretched business."

"What's that?"

"Curiosity to kno wwhat blamed misfortune is going to happen to me next."

CAN THIS BE TRUE?

Women Admire Men Only Who Can Boss Them.

In every woman there is a peculiar sentiment which she cannot analyze, yet which she must acknowledge exists. This sentiment, if defined, is nothing more nor less than her respect for the man who shows himself to be her master. She may sit up in feminine arrogance and declare that she won't stand this and she won't stand that; that she would just like to see any man tell her what she should or shouldn't do, but when the time comes for a clash of wills unless she finds herself decidedly and ignominously defeated she isn't satisfied.

Of course, there will be lots of women who read this, who will declare it to be rank heresy, but it isn't; it is the truth, and it is right that it should be so. In every union happiness exists only when the woman has reason to respect the man, and she can only possess such an attitude toward him when he has proved that he will be the dominating power. This is no plea for wife-beaters or other similarly brutal men who endeavor to prove their mental superiority by an exhibition of physical power. The strongest men, the athletes, the giant-framed compounds of might and muscle are proverbially the gentlest with women, yet their latent strength wins woman's admiration as much because of her own unacknowledged willingness to be the slave, while he is the master, as because of its absolute physical perfection. The more brain a woman has the happier she is to be made to feel her dependence on the strong arm and the masculine judgment of husband or lover. Just as soon as she stilts questions, makes plans for him, plays fast and loose with him and generally feels and conducts herself as though she were the mightier atom, then she has lost respect for him and happiness for herself. It is all very well to talk of woman's progress, her intellectual advancement, her equality with man and all the other ideas that our rich and rare civilization has engendered in affairs of intimate heart relationship the woman wants to acknowledge man as her master and isn't really happy when he is willing to be anything else.

USE OF AMMONIA.

Care Should Be Taken To Leave No Surface Traces.

The wide use of ammonia to assist in all household cleaning demands that the maids of the household should be instructed in the necessity of removing its traces from many surfaces on which it has been employed. Nothing is more injurious to paint and varnish than ammonia, and if it is used to remove some especially stubborn spot the surface should be quickly wiped over with a clean cloth wet in clean water. For linoleum, ammonia is equally bad unless it is quickly rinsed. It is this little knowledge of her cleaning drugs which makes them so dangerous in the hands of the average housemaid. One who used a cloth dipped in crude oil to wipe over the surface of a stained floor saw no reason why the same could not be applied to the highly polished surface of an old mahogany table. The result, naturally, was disastrous to its finish, and recourse to the services of a cabinet maker was necessary.

WHAT PAPA THOUGHT.

Marie—I told papa, Willie, dear, that I thought you were just too lovely for any use.

Willie—And what did he say, darling?

Marie—He said he feared as much. Now what could be have meant by that, Willie, dear?

BRAINS AND CLIMATE.

The weight of a man's brain has nothing to do with his mental power. It is a question of climate, not of intellect. The colder the climate the greater the size of the brain.

THE STRIKING ENGINEERS.

THE SECOND BALLOT ON THE EMPLOYERS' PROPOSALS.

Prolongation of the Strike — A General Lock-Out Probable — Pessimistic View of English Trade—A Devastating Industrial War.

A despatch from London says:—The striking engineers in their second ballot upon the proposals of the employers, are again rejecting the propositions made by the masters in the conference. The leaders of the strikers insured this result by combining two questions in the ballots. These questions were: "Are you in favor of the prospoals of the masters in regard to their management of workshops?" and "Are you in favor of a working week of fifty-one hours?"

Naturally all the men support the latter question, against which the employers have all along contended, and upon which they are still unyielding in their opposition. The masters declare that they never offered such a compromise, and they are now formulating plans for a wide extension of their proposed lockpout.

A London despatch to the New York Tribune says:—"Lord Londonderry at Newcastle has taken a pessimistic view of the condition of trade, supporting it by statistics showing the decline of exports and the increased competition from the United States, Germany, and Belgium, especially in machinery, and deploring the losses caused by the engineering strike. This view is generally shared by merchants and manufacturers, for the shipping trade is almost the only one which has had a prosperous year, and this exception was due to the immense shipments of wheat from America. Yet, though times are growing worse, the conflict between the engineers and the employers threatens to become even more deadly. The trades unions are rejecting the employers' ultimatum, and the lookout notices will probably be renewed early in the new year. The Engineers' Society has already received and expended half a million dollars from other trades unions apart from depleting its own resources, and this devastating industrial war will go on."

THE FLEET AT PORT HAMILTON.

Japanese Cruisers Side by Side With the English Vessels.

A special despatch from Shanghai says the British fleet has anchored at Port Hamilton. Port Hamilton, according to the maps is a small island, south of Corea, and not far from Quelpaert island.

THE BRITISH FLEET.

The British fleet now stationed in Chinese waters, under the command of Admiral Sir Alexander Buller and Rear-Admiral Oliver, embraces the following vessels—First-class battleship Centurion, flagship, 14 guns, tonnage, 10,500, first-class cruisers, second flagship, Grafton, 12 guns, 7,350 tons; Immortalite, 12 guns, 5,630 tons; Narcissus, 12 guns, 5,600 tons; Undaunted, 12 guns, 5,630 tons; first-class gunboats—Pearlock, 6 guns, 755 tons; Plover 6 guns, 755 tons; Pigmy, 6 guns, 755 tons; Rattler 6 guns, 715 tons; Redbreast, 6 guns, 895 tons; Red Pole, 6 guns, 895 tons; second-class cruisers—Aeolus, 8 guns, 3,660 tons; Rainbow, 8 guns, 3,600 tons; Pique 8 guns, 3,600 tons; third-class cruisers—Archer, 6 guns, 1,770 tons; Porpoise, 6 guns, 1,770 tons; second-class gunboats—Firebrand, 4 guns, 445 tons; Linnet, 2 guns, 756 tons, Spartan, 8 guns, 3,600 tons; Swift, 6 guns, 756 tons; sloops—Laphne, 8 guns 1,140 tons; Wild Swan, 8 guns, 1,530 tons; torpedo destroyers—Handy, 6 guns, 260 tons; Hart, 6 guns, 260 tons; despatch boat—Alacrity, 4 guns, 1,790 tons; and the store boat Humber, of 1,640 tons.

THE JAPANESE FLEET.

A special despatch from Shanghai, dated to-day, Tuesday, says:—"It is reported that a Japanese fleet of more than twenty warships is waiting near Goto island, outside Nagasaki, fully equipped for war, and only awaiting instructions. This includes the Yashima and the Fuji, two of the finest vessels in the Japanese navy; and the Chen-Yuen, that was captured from China. The Japanese fleet, it is understood, is acting in close touch with the British squadron, under Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Buller, Commander-in-Chief of the China station.

"Japan will certainly oppose a permanent occupation of Port Arthur. The sudden dissolution of the Japanese Diet was owing to the war spirit. It is expected that the Japanese fleet will attempt to prevent the landing of reinforcements from Odessa for the protection of the Russian trans-Asiatic railway in Manchuria."

WOMANLY MANNERS.

If manners make the man, so also do manners make the woman, and a woman without manners is but a usurper of the throne of true womanhood; it therefore behooves every mother who would have her children loving and beloved, to tend and gently train the little ones to forget self if they would have others respect it, for this is the soil in which every good seed will strike root, whether it be those of good manners or good humor, which will flower and bear fruit of future happiness, both toward themselves and their children.

COLDLY CRITICAL.

What a lot of cheap skates, groaned the ice pond, as the boys in the neighborhood made their first appearance for the season on its glittering surface.

AN EARNEST BIDDER.

Daughter, do you think young Tompkins, means business?

Of course, papa; I have just received his sealed proposal.

OUR FOREIGN BUSINESS.

TRADE RETURNS FOR THE LAST FIVE MONTHS.

A Very Large Increase—Exports of Minerals a Big Feature.

The aggregate foreign trade of Canada for the five months of the current fiscal year, ending November 30, shows an enormous increase, being in excess over the same period of last year of over $23,000,000. The duty collected on the imports shows a gratifying increase in amount. The following is a statement of the exports compared with the same five months of 1896. Only the produce of Canada is given:

	1896.	1897.
Minerals.	$4,038,604	$6,248,428
Fish.	6,260,503	6,298,233
Forest	17,409,271	17,793,291
produce.	21,595,491	25,874,997
Animals and their ducts.	7,280,602	14,290,988
Manufactures.	4,639,777	4,331,768
Miscellaneous.	93,969	59,102
Totals.	$60,739,277	$74,896,807
Coin and bullion.	229,390	486,032
Grand Total	$60,968,667	$75,382,839

This shows an increase for the five months in the exports of domestic products and merchandise of $14,414,172. In addition there was exported of goods not the produce of Canada, exclusive of coin and bullion, $5,028,266 in 1896, which had increased in 1897 to $8,199,564, showing an increase under this head of nearly $3,000,000. The foreign coin and bullion exported during the five months was, in 1896 $2,945,426, and in 1897 $55,890. The exports aggregate for the five months as follows:—1896, $68,942,359; 1897, $83,638,283; increase, $14,695,924.

The imports for the five months compared with 1896, exclusive of coin and bullion, were as follows:—

	1896.	1897.
Dutiable	$27,546,000	$29,221,000
Free	18,870,000	22,376,000
Total	$46,416,000	$51,597,000

Increase for five months, 1897, $4,335,000. The import of coin and bullion for the two periods was $4,332,000 for 1896 and $2,078,000 for 1897. The duty collected on the dutiable imports amounted for the five months to $8,594,000 compared with $8,210,000 for 1896, or an increase for the five months of 1897 of $384,000.

FEATURES OF THE RETURNS.

The aggregate trade of total exports and imports entered for consumption was for the five months of 1896 $192,085,000, and for the five months in 1897 it was $134,694,000, showing an increase in the aggregate trade of Canada for the first five months of the present fiscal year of $22,609,000. The total increase of the twelve months of the last fiscal year in the aggregate trade was about $20,000,000, so that the increase for less than one-half of the current year is greater than for the whole of last year. A noticeable feature of these returns is that the exports of agricultural produce, domestic, have doubled in the five months of the current year, a fact partly attributable no doubt to the high price of wheat. Another noticeable feature is that notwithstanding the glutting of the American market with lumber prior to last August, the exports of the products of the forest from Canada kept well up, and in fact show an increase of $400,000. The increase of $2,000,000 in the exports of minerals is substantial testimony to the development of the mineral resources of British Columbia. The imports for November also show an increase of over $200,000 and the exports of $3,200,000, or an increase of nearly three and a half millions in the month. The duty collected for November was $10,000 in excess of the amount in November, 1896. The average rate of duty on dutiable goods is 29 per cent.

FIRES IN DAWSON CITY.

Two Serious Conflagrations — Much Destruction of Property.

According to news received at San Francisco from Dawson City under date of November 25th the Klondyke mining camp has twice been in danger of destruction by fire. On November 22nd, two front street log houses were destroyed by fire. One of them was used as a lodging-house on one floor and a church on the other. The lodgings contained food and outfits for ten men and nothing was saved. Steps have been taken to relieve the destitute. The fire was caused by the overturning of a lighted candle. A fire from a similar cause broke out on November 25th and the Opera house and two saloons were burned to the ground. The snow on the roofs saved the rest of the front street from destruction. A large quantity of provisions and liquors valued at $10,000, was destroyed. On November 10th the Yukon froze over, and since then about 3,000 persons have started out over the ice between Dawson and Selkirk.

ABERDEEN'S SUCCESSOR.

Marquis of Hertford Mentioned as the Next Governor General.

A despatch from London says:—It is rumored that the Marquis of Hertford will succeed the Earl of Aberdeen as Governor-General of Canada.

Hugh de Grey Seymour, sixth Marquis of Hertford, was born in 1843, and married a daughter of the first Viscount Bridport. The marquis was formerly a captain in the Grenadier Guards, was member of Parliament in 1869 for County Antrim, and in 1874 he was member of Parliament for South Warwickshire. He is deputy lieutenant for Warwickshire, was comptroller of her Majesty's household in 1879, and is a conservative in politics.

SOME CAUSES OF SUDDEN DEATH.

About One-Half the Total Number of Cases Due to Heart Disease.

Roughly speaking, about one-half of the total number of cases of sudden death from natural causes in adults is, more or less, due to heart disease, which has existed for some time, and in which no further change is in progress at the time of death—such as valvular disease, angina, fatty heart, and sclerosis of the cardiac muscle from chronic myocarditis. In many cases concurrent lung or kidney diseases complicates the statistics, such cases frequently being tabulated as death solely due to heart disease. Spontaneous rupture of the heart, mostly in men, may exceptionally occur; the left ventricle, often toward the front, is almost invariably the feat of the rupture. It is to be remembered that in traumic rupture of the heart the right side, usually the auricle, suffers more frequently than the left in the proportion of about as seventy to fifty-four. Apoplexy and other cognate brain lesions rank second as natural causes of sudden death. It is to be noted that miliary aneurisms of the vessels of the brain, although most common in persons past middle life, occasionally occur in young people, even in children, and by bursting cause death from apoplexy.

CHRONIC ALCOHOLISM,

a potent factor among the causes of sudden death, is frequently associated with rapidly terminating heart and brain disease.

Asphyxia, a not unfrequent cause, may be due to oedema of the glottis, membranous deposits in the trachea, pressure of a neoplasm on the trachea, spasm of the vocal-chords, pulmonary embolism, air embolism, rupture of a vessel or of an aneurism into the air passages, asthma, whooping cough, pneumonia and neamo thorax, pleuritic effusion and epilepsy. The rupture of a gastric or of an intestinal ulcer, of an aneurism, of a varicose vein, of the surroundings of an ectopic gestation, the formation of a peri-uterine haemotocele, may severely prove quickly fatal. Nephritis, uraemia and apoplexy, diabetes, exophthalmic goitre, and Addison's disease may also terminate with unexpected rapidity. Hemorrhage into the pancreas occasionally causes sudden death, apparently from the impression produced on the contiguous nerve centers. It is most common in males over 40 years of age who may up to the occurrence of the hemorrhage to all appearances be in perfect health. Obesity, the habitual use of alcohol, and the presence of heart disease appear in many of the cases to be predisposing cause. Koetschau, however, observed hemorrhage into the pancreas in a woman—an alcoholic—in her 24th year. Occasionally it occurs in spare people who are free from obvious disease and who are abstemious as regards alcohol. The sufferer may die within half an hour after the occurrence of the hemorrhage or he may survive for twenty-four or even thirty-six hours. Draper records five cases between the ages of 26 and 35 years, of which three were men and two women. Fitz tabulated sixteen cases, of which eleven were males between 31 and 79 years of age, and five were females between 26 and 47 years.

SUDDEN DEATH

has in instances followed spontaneous rupture of an enlarged spleen, the result of tropical malarial influences, the individual immediately before rupture being to all intents and purposes quite well. Pellereaux gives the history of thirteen cases of rupture of the enlarged spleen; in five the rupture was spontaneous, and in the remainder it was due to apparently inadequate causes, such as a simple fall in the street. It is to be borne in mind that when the spleen is thus enlarged a mere pat with the palm of the hand may determine rupture and consequent speedy death, which, in the absence of knowledge of the experience of others, might readily be assumed to be the result of criminal violence.

It is to be remembered that some of the above-named diseases may exist without giving rise to any symptoms until the final moment arrives; this applies with special force to diseases which have a prolonged course, during which, as a rule, symptoms indicative of disease declare themselves. Such a disease is gastric ulcer. I have seen more than one case in which, until the fatal rupture occurred absolutely no symptoms were experienced, not even such as might have been attributed to simple dyspepsia; in one such instance a second ulcer was present in the walls of the stomach in addition to the one that ruptured and caused death, and yet until perforation occurred the patient never felt any adnormal sensation whatever.

FAMILY LIKENESS.

Mrs. De Firm—I tremble to think of our daughter marrying that young man. Why, he orders his mother and sisters around as if they were slaves.

Mr. De Firm—Don't worry, my dear, He won't order our daughter around more than once. She takes after you.

ROLLING IN WEALTH.

Miss Suburb—Ma, are the Stuckups rich?

Mrs. Suburb—I guess so. They rented their house for three summers right along, and got the money.

A NICE NEIGHBORHOOD.

Deacon Ebony—I heah you hab moved, Brudder Black. Has you got inter a select neighborhood?

Brudder Black—I hab, fer a fac', deacon. Nebber saw sich a selection of chickens in mah life.

A TOUGH SUIT.

Smartfellow, anxious to poke fun at an old maid,—Let me see. It's a long time since we last met, is it not, Miss Antique?

Miss Antique—A very long time.

Miss Antique—A very long time. How well that suit of clothes has hung together.