

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.

Thanksgiving Day this year will be Oct. 19.

Beamsville High school has been destroyed by fire.

Gas in Hamilton has been reduced to 11 a thousand feet net.

Hardware manufacturers in Montreal are putting prices still higher.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Co. will increase its capital stock by \$1,000,000.

A. G. Ramsay, of Hamilton, president of the Canada Life, will retire on Dec. 31 next.

The Canadian exhibits for the Paris Fair will not be carried by a special Government boat.

The Bank of Hamilton will increase its capital stock from one and a half to two million dollars.

Assessors' returns give Ottawa a population of 37,002, an increase of 1,616 over last year.

A rumor that the three Winnipeg breweries and soda water works have been amalgamated is denied.

London Street Railway directors will increase the company's capital stock by \$50,000, making it \$400,000.

Ottawa Valley lumbermen are considering a uniform method of cutting lumber, to stop British complaints.

Lord Strathcona has given \$10,000 towards a new building in connection with the Montreal Maternity Hospital.

The Canada Atlantic Ry., has bought three more vessels for its trade between Parry Sound and the Upper Lakes.

News reaches Portage la Prairie that a Galician woman and four children were burned to death in a prairie fire near Dauphin.

Percy Gordon, a boy of 10, while hunting at Qu'Appelle, met with an accident, which necessitated the amputation of his right arm.

Canadian Pacific Ry. land sales in Manitoba in September were 25,550 acres for \$85,000, as compared with September, 1898, \$1,800 acres for \$57,016.

The Allan Line steamship Bavarian, now at Montreal, has been requisitioned by the Imperial Government for the conveyance of troops to South Africa.

It may be that Ottawa will lose the seat of the recently-created Papal delegate to Canada, and that Mgr. Falconio will be permanently installed in Montreal.

Customs Inspector, McMichael, as a result of his visit to Dawson, will probably institute radical changes in the service there. He says customs work is done well in Dawson.

Workmen have commenced building a branch line from the Kingston and Pembroke Railway main track to Caldwell's iron ore mines at Calabogie.

Speaking in Montreal, C. S. Phillips, a London publisher, said Canadian pulp is better than the Scandinavian product and is worth \$2.50 a ton more in England.

A Grand Trunk surveying party commenced this week to lay out the work for improving the grades and double-tracking on the Grand Trunk line from Hamilton to Niagara Falls.

People in villages along the line of the Toronto, Hamilton & Buffalo Railway want their mail handled over that line instead of by stages from the Grand Trunk Railway stations.

Commissioner Pratt says that the assessment of Ottawa will be affected to the extent of at least \$100,000 by the new Provincial law exempting electric plants and other financial corporations.

A striking evidence of the scarcity of workmen is a great placard which has been hung out in front of the Postoffice, Ottawa, by one of the lumber companies asking for 1,000 laborers and 300 shantymen.

The Hamilton customs returns for last month showed that duties to the amount of \$79,283.30 had been collected, this being an increase of \$21,891.94 over the corresponding month last year.

The Good Shepherd's Home at New Westminster, B. C., one of the largest Catholic institutions on the coast, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday. Eighty children and nuns escaped from the burning building.

Brantford's assessment has been advanced to \$7,099,578 as compared with \$6,541,965 last year, but the population is 17,314, compared with 18,669. The exemptions amount to \$1,177,800, as compared with \$1,828,650.

The contract has been let to Thomas Powers of Levis, by the Government for the extension of the Lorne graving dock at Levis from 415 to 600 feet, at an estimated cost of \$117,000. The dock will then be large enough for boats of over 580 feet.

Miss Maud Walbrook, the young lady who disappeared from the Red Deer Indian school, has been given up for lost. It is believed that she fell into the Red Deer River and was carried down the stream, which was a raging torrent at the time of the occurrence.

The London City Council unanimously passed Ald. Parnell's motion favoring compulsory arbitration of disputes between companies holding public franchises and their employees. It authorizes a petition to the Local Legislature, for legislation along the lines set forth, and instructs the City Clerk to write other corporations with a view to co-operation.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Sir Louis Davies is spending a few days with Lord Strathcona at Glencoe.

John Dillon, the Irish Nationalist member, has refused to speak at the laying of the foundation stone of a memorial to Parnell.

It is rumored that the owner of one of the big New York dailies is seriously considering entering the London field with a seven-day newspaper.

The miners through North Wales resumed work at an advance in wages of 2 1-2 per cent., and coal mine owners announced advances in the selling prices of coal of from 6 to 25 cents per ton.

Add Britain.

Rudyard Kipling has just become affiliated with the ancient Masonic lodge of Cannongate, Kilwinning. Kilwinning is the earliest known seat of Scottish Freemasonry. Sir Walter Scott was a member of this lodge, and Robert Burns its poet laureate.

UNITED STATES.

Key West, Fla., had 24 new cases of yellow fever and one death on Monday.

John Groulx, aeronaut, fell from his balloon on Tuesday at Chicago and is terribly injured.

A strike which would affect nearly 3,000 coal miners is pending in the Northern Illinois coal fields.

The strike at Cramp's shipyard, Philadelphia, for a nine-hour day is increasing. Over 900 men are out.

Des Moines, Iowa, has had a \$500,000 fire, the Masonic temple, the Murphy house and several factories going up.

At Salt Lake City, Chief Engineer O'Melveny of the Oregon short line was shot and killed by Ethan Mills, formerly Lieut.-Governor of Idaho.

Mrs. Margaret Babcock, her daughter, Mrs. Armo S. Fay, and the latter's six-year-old child were found dead in their beds asphyxiated by coal gas, at Rochester, N. Y., on Thursday morning.

The Municipal Pawnbrokers' Society opens at Chicago on Nov. 1, and will lend money at 1-1-2 per cent., a month, to the great loss of the high-priced pawnbrokers.

Mrs. Henrietta Heib, from Bremen, while on her way to visit her son, Michael Kunz, at Chippewa, Ont., fell from a train at Binghamton, N. Y., and was fatally hurt.

Marza Townsend, an aeronaut, went up in a balloon at a circus in Des Moines, Ia. The balloon was not high enough when the cannon was fired, and the parachute did not open. Townsend fell 1,000 feet, striking on his head, and breaking his neck.

Charles Lehban, aged 13, touched a lighted match to paper decorations on Carrie Cartwright's dress at Springfield, Ill., on Tuesday. The girl was burned to death. Her mother was seriously burned in trying to save her. Lehban is under arrest.

GENERAL.

The Nile is now at the lowest point on record.

Bubonic plague is being successfully treated by inoculation at Oporto.

As the result of Emperor William's advice, the University of Strasburg will receive a Catholic faculty, thus ending a long and bitter controversy.

The members of a club in Berlin, where large sums of money were won and lost, are on trial. Witnesses in the highest circles have fled the country.

It is estimated that the Indian Government must spend 1,500,000 rupees to relieve famine in the central provinces and that the local chiefs must expend at least one-third of this amount in addition.

It is said that Germany is about to hand over documents which will lead to the quashing of the Dreyfus verdict.

A syndicate in Montevideo has been discovered, which has been insuring the lives of poor people, and murdering them to get the policies.

The British ship Tekoa, from New Zealand to London, foundered off Cape Horn. Five of the crew were picked up, but the fate of the passengers is unknown.

During a British attack on the forces of Arab Mullah, who has been proclaimed Mahdi by the Mussulmans of the Hinterland, 27 natives were killed. Indian troops are being sent to the scene.

M. Mamontoff, the Russian railway king charged with embezzlement, has been allowed bail in the unprecedented sum of two million dollars. M. Tchokoloff, another prominent railway man, is charged with embezzlement.

A riot occurred at Wyngardnatie, Holland, arising from the strike of the corporation carriers. The police were called out and were received with shots from revolvers. The officers were obliged to charge the mob with drawn swords. Several police were wounded and many arrests were made.

NOVEL HORSE SHOES.

In Iceland horses are shod with sheep's horns; in Soudan the horses are shod with socks made of camel's skin. A German not long ago invented a horseshoe of paper, prepared by saturating with oil, turpentine and other ingredients. Thin layers of such paper are glued to the hoof till the requisite thickness is attained; and the shoes thus made are durable and impenetrable by moisture.

AN OBSTACLE.

Count-What? You won't have me for a son-in-law because I have no debts? What do you mean by that? Capitalist—Very simple. If I don't have to pay your debts you won't have any respect for me as your father-in-law—and I don't want a son-in-law who's lacking in respect!

HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

CULTIVATE THE SOIL.

Fore the soil begins to bake, Cultivate! Stir it up for culture's sake, Cultivate!

Tillage hinders 'vaporation, Tillage works weed 'radication, Tillage helps food 'laboration, Cultivate!

If it rains and lays the dust, Cultivate!

If it pours and forms a crust, Cultivate!

Saves the moisture hygroscopic, Helps the microbes microscopic, Talk to neighbors on this topic, Cultivate!

If your head begins to swell, Cultivate!

Harrow, crush it, pound it well, Cultivate!

Cultivate a humble heart, Give 'Big I' a meaner part, Let the germ of culture start, Cultivate!

SEASONABLE SUGGESTIONS.

During the next few weeks there is a good deal of work of a miscellaneous character to be done on the farm. They were wise, our forefathers, who originated the homely saying that "a stitch in time saves nine," and this of all seasons, is the time when many of those stitches should be taken by the farmer. It is stated by good authority that fifty per cent. of the agricultural implements used in Canada—wagons, sleds, mowing machines, ploughs, etc.—are destroyed by exposure to the elements—that the farmers lose millions of dollars annually by their neglect to house those implements when not in use. A little thoughtfulness, a few hours' work now and then, and especially in the fall, would reduce this loss by at least ninety per cent. Let every farmer gather together all the tools for which he will have no further use until next spring and store them away under cover, just where he can place his hand upon them when wanted. If there is a leak in the roof of the barn, a board in the covering hanging by a nail, a window broken, a door or gate with a dislocated hinge, a defective plank in the floor of the stable, any uncertainty about the water supply, see that the needed repairs are made at once; nothing can be gained by delay, and it may be the occasion of much loss. The pigsty should be seen to and the poultry house, and if sheep are kept, comfortable quarters should be provided for them in the basement of the barn, if the barn has a basement; if not, a warm shed should be provided, not an open shed, but one with a window and a door that can be closed every night. All kinds of rubbish should be gathered up, not only about the house and barns, but in the fence corners and open fields, and burned, and an estimate of the number of fence rails that will be required in the spring should be made, so that they may be cut and hauled during the winter. Of course the winter's fuel is prepared and housed, but the supply for another year is to be chopped down so that when wanted it will be properly seasoned. There are some ditches to be dug, some drain pipes to be laid, some ploughing to be done during the next thirty days; there are boulders to dig out of the meadow and some brush to uproot; may be there are some fences and culverts to build; let all these things be attended to before the frost gets into the ground and the snow begins to fly. See to it that in the spring all the farm buildings, the fences, the fields, look better and are better than ever before. The farm should increase in productivity and attractiveness every year. When one drives by he should be impelled to say, "A gentleman, and no hayseed, lives there." We see such farms in every parish in the province, and the time is coming when we shall see no others. It is not by working day and night, by making a slave of himself that the farmer becomes "comfortable," but by doing his work just when it should be done and just as it ought to be done. The farmer who does this banishes discontent from his household and poverty from his door. His wife is proud to be a farmer's wife and his sons and daughters regard with pity the city laborer, and with scorn, the measurers of tape and molasses. We reiterate, there is considerable work to be done on the farm during the next few weeks. Let it be done and done thoroughly and no ghosts will haunt the winter fire side, and in the spring there will be no plough to dig out of a snow drift, no shovel or crowbar to hunt for in a ditch, nothing to divert the farmer from the proper employments of the season.

NERVES AND FOOD.

It is the nervous cow that gives the greatest amount of good milk, says C. W. Jones. One inclined to go to fat makes an excellent beef cow, but a relatively poor milk cow. As the nervous cow is apt to be smaller in proportion than a large, fat, beef making cow, the idea gains some headway that she requires less food. Indeed, there is a tendency in some quarters to reason that a cow needs food in proportion to her size—that is, a large cow requires more than a small one. This is an

error of a most pronounced order. It is nervous energy that absorbs and uses up food, and it requires more to feed such a nature than it does one of a phlegmatic disposition. If anything the opposite to what is true in general practice should be observed. More rich and highly concentrated food should be given to the smaller milker than to the large beef maker. The good milker, if her digestion is good, can change more of her food into milk than another animal can convert into beef or fat. A good deal of this food that is given to the milker is converted directly into milk and is thus more profitable than when fed to the beef cattle.

The nervous animal's mechanism is more easily deranged than that of the heavy, beef making animal. A plow horse can stand more abuse than the high strung race horse. Many dairymen do not appreciate this thoroughly either in their feeding or caring for good milk cows. As the whole value of the animal's products depends very closely upon the condition of her digestion a study should be made constantly of the cow's health. In a normal condition she can take a great amount of food and convert it directly into milk. This food should be given with the best possible caution, so that it will not injure the health of the animal. Give all to the cow that she will eat up clean is a good rule to go by, but if her appetite declines there is something wrong with her digestion that needs instant attention. Very frequently this cause is so simple that one overlooks it. In a nervous cow, a sudden fright, undue excitement or running in a field or anything that will upset the nerves may cause the flow of milk to stop temporarily and upset her digestion so that the full quantity of milk will not be given for weeks. It is to be gently against such slight accidents that the dairyman must exercise his supervision and authority. His cows are high strung milking machines that easily give out under abuse or misuse.

GOOD TIMES FOR FACTORY GIRLS.

An Ontario Government Official Says That They Are Good Wage-Earners.

Girls are steadily supplanting men in a very great number of the factories of Ontario; there is almost no branch of work in which they are not now engaged; they are in many instances making from ten to twelve dollars a week; they do not find the slightest difficulty in securing situations, and their work is now done in such a pleasant environment that the number of girls and young women working in factories is steadily increasing, while the number of domestics in the province is just as steadily decreasing, so says Miss Carlyle, of the Ontario Factory Inspector's Office.

Miss Carlyle has just returned to Toronto from a tour of inspection in Hamilton, Dundas, Merriton and other western places. In every factory she visited she says the hands were working night and day, to keep up with the orders coming in. At the Merriton cotton mills there were already employed a very large number of girls, but the company would be glad to take on many more.

AVERAGE WAGES.

In the mills the average wages of the factory girls were about eight dollars per week, but many of the most skilful loom girls got as high as \$10.50 per week. The conditions, too, under which they worked were much better than they were a few years ago. Factories are now kept bright and clean, and as a result girls prefer working in factories to going into service as domestics. In consequence the demand for domestics is becoming more and more pressing in the province.

BETTER THAN MEN.

As a rule, girls are gladly taken on by the factory managers, for they say that in many lines of work, especially in the cigar, cotton and woolen mills, the girls do better work than the men. However, they are not restricted to any special class of work. In the Peterboro' Electric Works over 60 girls are employed, while in the Smart Agricultural Implement Works in Brockville a large force of girls are employed operating the large machines. The manager of the latter factory says that since he has employed girls he has noticed a decided improvement in the general moral tone of his employees. His testimony is also borne out by other employers throughout the province.

The only disadvantage under which the girls labor, says Miss Carlyle, is that they cannot stand the wear and tear of constant daily work as well as men. In many cases after a few years their nervous system breaks down and they are henceforth neither fit for good wives nor for good employees. However, be that as it may, the girls of the province are at present infringing very largely on the domain of the male workers, and are in many instances drawing just as high salaries.

IVORY IN SIBERIA.

With the threatened exhaustion of ivory in Africa, a supply is opening up in Siberia. Tons of fine ivory are found of the mammoth, elephas primigenius. Hundreds of frozen carcasses are found crowded and jammed in

IN MERRY OLD ENGLAND.

THE DOINGS OF THE ENGLISH PEOPLE REPORTED BY MAIL.

Record of Events Taking Place in the Land of the Rose—Interesting Occurrences.

The ages of the four generations of the Royal Family in the direct line of succession are:—The Queen, 80; Prince of Wales, 57; Duke of York, 34; Prince Edward of York, 5.

Colonel Brookeshurst, commanding the Royal Horse Guards, has been selected to fill the vacancy on the staff of the Queen's Equerries, caused by the tragic death of the Earl of Stafford.

A pair of shoe buckles, with gold borders, and a left hand glove worn by Nelson, have been sold in London for 26 and 28 guineas respectively, and a portrait of Napoleon, in miniature, fetched 20 guineas.

At a meeting the other day in London the Earl of Dummore declared that he had been cured of deafness through Christian Science, which he declared was the "second coming of Christ" to heal the sick and conquer death.

Eleven vessels are constantly kept in service by the British Government making charts of the sea and recording shoals, rocks and similar submarine perils to navigation. Last year they charted 10,000 square miles in various parts of the world.

The governor of Wandsworth prison, where about 14,000 prisoners are received every year, states in regard to these that "while it is the exception for any one of them to tell us he has never been to Sunday school, it is nearly always the case that we find he has never since leaving Sunday school attended any place of worship, and never said a prayer." These figures seem to show that the missing link, so far at least as concerns vast numbers of scholars, has not been found between the school and the church.

Some of the savages at the Earl's Court Exhibition have fallen out. They have received injuries incapacitating them from taking any part in the performance, and one became so violent that he had to be shut up in an empty animal's den. The managers of Savage South Africa find another difficulty in drunkenness; the Cape boys and Hottentots have come into contact with white men, and it has been found impossible to keep them sober. Consequently, the managers have resolved to send them all back to Africa.

A curious natural phenomenon was witnessed at Dulwich the other evening. There was an unusually brilliant sunset, the sky in the west was a blaze of crimson, gold and purple, and from the very centre there shot up a long straight beam of light. Near the base a thin fleecy cloud crossed it transversely, of the same brilliant golden hue as the upright beam. The effect was of a flaming sword or inverted cross, in the midst of the sunset, and the phenomenon, which was the subject of much comment, lasted forty minutes before it faded away.

A number of steeplejacks had a tragic experience the other day at Bridge Mills, Tintwistle, near Manchester. The main building of the mill was recently destroyed by fire, the damage amounting to £50,000. While the men were engaged on the fifth storey demolishing the old walls several tons of stonework fell in, crashing through what remained of the wooden floors. Three steeplejacks were carried down with the falling debris. One, named Eli Jones, of Rochdale, was killed instantly, while two others, James Denton and Richard Holt, received shocking injuries. Three workmen narrowly escaped being crushed.

SUBSTITUTE FOR THE GUILLOTINE

France Proposes to Use Electricity by a New Method.

If importance is to be attached to a recent letter from Paris, the French Government is considering the advisability of discontinuing the use of the guillotine for the execution of criminals and the adoption in its stead of a method in which needles charged with high-tension currents are shot into the brain, causing instant death. According to the accounts given, the head of the criminal, as he sits firmly strapped in the execution chair, is to be enclosed in a helmet similar to that of a diver. Opposite to the temples of the wearer are two holes, through which the needles, duly connected with the source of electric current employed, pass. As the executioner touches a button, and so turns on the current, the two needles leap from their sockets and are forced through the temples into the brain of the criminal. With them they carry powerful alternating currents, which rupture and destroy the brain cells with such rapidity that one convulsive movement of the victim is the only sign that life is extinct. Whether such a mode of execution, if seriously proposed, is more merciful than the electrical methods adopted in this country will be doubted by many.

WOULD BE HIGH-PRICED.

She—What a lot of things, they're inventing now; chainless wheels and horseless carriages, and all those things. He—I wish someone would invent endless vacations.