

# 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 Ascertained for Easy Reading.

### CANADA.

Commercial failures in Canada last week number 27 against 51 a year ago.

Sir Sanford Fleming has been re-elected Chancellor of Queen's University, Kingston.

The City Council of Victoria, B.C., is urging the Dominion Government to improve the harbor of that city.

Manitoba provincial elections will likely take place shortly after this month's session of the Legislature.

Jacquet LePage, of Ste. Barnabe, Rimouski county, has just had his 23rd child baptised. The father is 84 years old.

Sunday night's C.P.R. train for Toronto was detained in Hamilton for a time by a landslide near the city cemetery.

Gen. Gascoigne, Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Canada, is visiting Washington, accompanied by Mrs. Gascoigne.

The infant daughter of Thomas Bord, of Hartney, Man., died there on Friday from the effects of swallowing morphine pellets.

The Canadian Locomotive Works, Kingston, has closed a contract with the Minister of Railways for the construction of several engines for the Intercolonial Railway.

There are now only 723,068 bushels of wheat in elevators at Port Arthur and Fort William, where there were over 3,000,000 bushels a year ago.

General Manager Hays of the G.T.R. heads a syndicate applying to the Government at Ottawa, for the right to bridge the Detroit River between Windsor and Detroit.

C.P.R. land sales for February aggregate 21,000 acres, for which \$66,000 was realized, a sum three times as large as that received during the same month last year.

Mr. Mackintosh is still the Lieutenant-Governor of the Northwest Territories. He tendered his resignation, to take effect on January 1 last, but it has not yet been accepted.

The Minister of Public Works states that the liability incurred in connection with the improvement of Toronto harbor during the year ending January 1, 1898, was \$16,936.

Geological Survey reports show the production of coal for the year 1897 to have been \$7,336,000; gold, \$6,190,000; silver, \$3,322,000; nickel, \$1,400,000; lead, \$1,096,000; copper, \$1,501,000.

The Klondike rush is having a good effect on the customs receipts, and collections at Vancouver last month reached \$45,884, an increase of \$15,380, as compared with February, 1897.

Alfred Gareau, a lumberman has disappeared from one of the camps on the Upper Gatineau. He has not been seen since the big snow storm and it is feared he has perished. He belonged to the Lower Town, Ottawa.

Mr. G. C. Jones, Superintendent, and a number of Grand Trunk despatchers and other officials were transferred from London to St. Thomas on account of the Washburn securing running powers over the Air Line.

A plebiscite was taken in Vancouver upon the question whether a liquor license should be issued to the Music Hall. Eight hundred and eighty-one votes were polled against the proposal and only four hundred and five in favor of it.

Hon. P. O'Reilly has been retired from the position of Indian Reserve Commissioner at Victoria, B.C., and the office has been united with that of the Indian Superintendent. Mr. Vowell, Indian Superintendent, will henceforth hold both offices without increased remuneration.

Major-General Perry of the Yukon Mounted Police, who raised the British flag at Summit Lake, claimed as American territory, declared at Vancouver on Friday that the summits of the passes define the boundary line and that Summit Lake is on the Canadian side of the summit.

The commissioners appointed to inquire into the laborers' grievances on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway are at Wardner, B. C. They have found few causes for complaint, except that some of the employment agents misrepresented the cost of transportation, and there is an absence of medical attendance.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

The Marquis of Salisbury, who has been suffering from a slight attack of influenza, is now recovering.

The original of "Reuten Dale," one of the principal characters in Maria Corelli's book, "The Mighty Atom," has just died at Combe Martin, near Hiramcombe, Devon. He was sexton at the parish church, his real name being James Norman.

The question of Canada's new Governor-General is being discussed in official circles in London, and the Reformers are urging that the choice be made from the inner circle of young men without handles to their names. Hon. Mr. Curzon and Hon. Mr. Lowther are mentioned.

### UNITED STATES.

A number of United States Senators and Congressmen have gone to Cuba. Business failures in the United States last week number 243, against 262 a year ago.

More than 500 striking employes of the York Corporation, Hiddford, Me., have gone to Canada.

The Chicago Press Club has adopted

resolutions of sympathy for Emile Zola and M. Perreux.

The United States Government relief expedition to the Yukon has been abandoned as unnecessary.

A special from Norfolk, Va., reports the loss of the powerful tug Underwriter of Boston, in a storm off Hatteras.

Lorenzo Barnes was hanged at East Cambridge, Mass., on Friday for the murder of John Dean, an aged farmer, on December 17.

The Gloucester fishing schooner with her crew has been given up for lost. She left Gloucester for Newfoundland on December 9 and was last reported on December 16.

Cyrus F. Breder, former cashier of the First National bank of Bethlehem, Pa., who pleaded guilty to the embezzlement of over \$20,000 from the bank, has been sentenced to seven years in prison.

Twelve Englishmen from London have arrived at New York en route to the Yukon, with 50 tons of supplies, including a large steel river boat, which can also be used as a sledge.

United States nail manufacturers have combined and formed the American Steel and Wire Company, with a capital of \$10,000,000, and headquarters at New York.

The remains of George W. Ferris, builder of the Ferris wheel at the Chicago World's Fair, are still held at the crematory in Pittsburg for the unpaid funeral expenses, contracted over a year ago.

Chris. Keenan and Frank Shane, night watchmen, employed by merchants of Menominee, Mich., fought a duel with revolvers there on Tuesday. Keenan was wounded in the wrist. Shane gave himself up to the officers.

A fire in a four-story tenement house, 171 Harrison avenue, Brooklyn, damaged property to the extent of \$30,000 and made seventy families temporarily homeless. Several smaller tenement houses were destroyed. A number of persons were slightly injured by falling walls.

The entire system of Government inspection of meat which has been established in the packing house of the United States has been declared to be unconstitutional, ineffective and void in an opinion handed down in the United States District Court, Kansas City, by Judge John Rogers.

### GENERAL.

The Czarina, ill at Vienna, is improving.

Spain has reduced the duties on wheat and flour.

The deadlock in the Newfoundland Parliament over railway legislation continues.

Emperor William has sent a message of congratulation to Prince Hohenzollern upon his diplomatic success in China.

The Carlists have issued a manifesto announcing their intention to take part in the coming elections in Spain.

The Prince of Wales, while on his way to the Riviera, called on President Faure at Paris, and the latter returned the Prince's visit.

In view of the warlike preparations being made by Chili the Argentine Government has decided to purchase three warships and arms for 150,000 men.

There is an appalling scarcity of food in many Provinces of Spain. The price of wheat is high, and bread riots are of daily occurrence at Salamanca, where it is feared that material law will be proclaimed.

The condition of the Crown Princess Stephanie, of Austria, grows worse. She is suffering from inflammation of the lungs, a result of an attack of influenza, and it is spreading to an extent which makes her condition critical.

Baron Von Gautsch, the Austrian Premier and Minister of the Interior, has reported to Emperor Francis Joseph that the Socialist movement among the Hungarian peasantry has so far abated that the danger may be considered past.

### MURDER AT SING SING.

Mrs. Braun Goes to See Her Husband, a Convict, and is Stabbed to Death in Sight of a Guard.

A despatch from New York says:—Adrian Braun, a convict in Sing Sing prison, murdered his wife, who was paying him a visit at the prison on Saturday afternoon. Braun is a German 35 years of age, and a cigar-maker. He was sentenced on August 31st of last year to serve a two-year sentence for assault in the second degree, and was received at Sing Sing on September 1st. He was convicted of having beaten his wife, but, notwithstanding this, Mrs. Braun forgave her husband and expressed great sorrow because of his imprisonment. Mrs. Braun decided to visit her husband Friday afternoon, and arrived at the prison at 3.20. When the two met they kissed each other and were very friendly. They sat for half an hour conversing only a few feet away from the desk of Detective Jackson, who was present. Finally Detective Jackson informed Braun that his time was up, but Braun pleaded for a little longer, saying, "Can't we have a few minutes more?" Because of the trouble Mrs. Braun had taken to pay her husband a visit the plea was granted. Suddenly Braun raised his arm and the detective saw the glitter of a long, thin knife. Braun brought it down with fearful force against the left side of his wife's neck. One cut severed the great blood-vessel, and almost instantly the woman was dead. Detective Jackson sprang upon Braun, but the convict had time to gash the woman's head several times more. Two other convicts who were in the corridor came to the detective's assistance and the murderer was subdued.

A.—I'm thinking of dabbling a little in stocks. What's a good thing to put your money in? B.—Your inside pocket.

## WILL IT YET END IN WAR?

### THE FRENCH AND BRITISH MAY FIGHT OVER SOKOTO.

Is the Old Feud Growing Out of West African Rivalry Soon to Reach a Crisis?

Is it true that two French expeditions have advanced toward Sokoto, in Western Africa, and have thereby aroused the wrath of patriotic Englishmen, who claim that the British alone possess any jurisdiction over the Sokoto territory? M. Hanotiaux says that he has no knowledge of any such proceeding, and he even insists that the story cannot be true, for the reason that there are no French troops in that region.

The report, if true, is interesting, not only because it is a signal evidence of that persistent and far reaching policy pursued by the French since they first set foot on the dark continent, but also because it may be the prelude to a new and sensational Franco-British feud.

The story as it reaches us by cable is simple enough. The French, we are told, advanced toward Sokoto and met with no check until the Sultan of that country sent them word that they must halt within forty miles of the capital. The Sultan presumably relies on receiving assistance from the Royal Niger Company, of Great Britain, in case it should be necessary for him to use force against the French. On the other hand, some well informed persons in London think that the Sultan is not as sincere in his warlike intentions as he would have the British believe.

However this may be, the Royal Niger Company will certainly not countenance this alleged aggressive act on the part of the French. In Madagascar and other places, the French have had their own way, and to the average Englishman it is only too clear that they are now preparing to play the same game in West Africa. If so, they may find more obstacles in their path than they now look for.

### AN OLD QUARREL.

After all, this is but the latest stage in a quarrel which is now nearly thirty years old. There were frontier difficulties between France and Great Britain as far back as 1868. In 1870 negotiations were opened for the settlement of the respective frontiers of the two countries in Western Africa on the basis of a mutual exchange of territories, the principal being that French influence and authority should be confined to the north of a certain line, while Great Britain should have a free hand south of the same line. As a result four agreements were made within the next ten years.

One of these dealt partially with Sierra Leone; the second with various disputed points in Gambia, Sierra Leone, the gold coast and Legos; the third with the Niger region, and the fourth with the interior, frontier of Sierra Leone. By the third agreement the Kingdom of Sokoto was assigned to the British, and by the fourth the Hinterland was assigned to the French.

In spite of these agreements, however, there has been constant friction between the two countries, mainly owing to the inability of the Boundary Commissioners to agree on many disputed points, and to the absence of any boundary line to the southwest of Say. Serious trouble came in the autumn of 1894. The French, apparently intent on establishing a great African empire, extending from Algeria to the basins of the Congo and the Upper Nile, had despatched Comandant Decocour to Nikki, the capital of Borgu, with instructions to negotiate a treaty. The Royal Niger Company, however, was not to be fooled in this way. Promptly it instructed Captain Lugard to go to Nikki with all speed and to negotiate a treaty with its ruler. He did so and carried off his treaty three weeks before M. Decocour arrived there.

### A SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENT.

That Sokoto is within the British sphere of influence seems fully proved. The first treaty of the Royal Niger Company was dated at Wurru June 1, 1895, and was confirmed by a second treaty, dated April 15, 1899. This second treaty was again confirmed by a third treaty, which was negotiated on June 26, 1894, with Abdu, the successor of Umoru. The sixth clause of this treaty reads as follows:—"I recognize that the company receives its power from the Queen of Great Britain, and that they are Her Majesty's representatives to me. I will not recognize any other white action, because the company is my help."

If these treaties are not sufficient proof, study the following passage from a letter which the Grand Vizier of Sokoto wrote to the company in April, 1894, a few months before the last treaty was signed:—"We saw your paper with the messenger. We saw and we understood it. They say in it that we have made a treaty with Montell, a Frenchman. On account of that we write you this letter to tell you that we have made a treaty with you. All that Montell may have said was a lie. We will make no treaty with any one coming from your parts. We will make no treaty with any other from the white men's country except with the Royal Niger Company. They are the friends of the treaty."

These words sound very plausible, but

there is other evidence to show that the Sultan of Sokoto is rather an accomplished Talleyrand in his way. Consider his position a moment. He holds toward the Mohammedan States of Nigeria the position held in the last century by the Great Mogul toward the Mohammedan States of India. Naturally, therefore, when the British chastised his rebellious vassals in the Nupi campaign of last year, he felt somewhat humiliated at the knowledge that he was more or less dependent on a foreign Power.

### A WILY POTENTATE.

Three courses were open to him. He could either make friends with the rebel Rabeah and bid defiance to Great Britain and France alike, or he could listen to the advances of France and obtain through French influence a supply of arms and ammunition, which would enable him to rally the subsidiary Nigerian states in a revolt against England, or finally, he could reaffirm the peaceful relations which had previously existed between him and the Royal Niger Company.

At first his policy was that of stubborn resistance. After some correspondence of an unsatisfactory nature with the company he declared that he could not sanction the British policy during the late revolt, and he declined to receive the annual instalment of the subsidy of £3,000 which the company had by treaty agreed to pay him. At the same time he sent messages to the chiefs of the subsidiary states, calling upon them to throw off the company's rule.

Most of these chiefs were at loggerheads with the Sultan, and they at once forwarded his messages to the company. Of the others some might have been dangerous had the Sultan taken the field, but such a thought never seems to have entered his head. Anyhow, it soon became apparent that there was no danger of a revolt. The Sultan himself saw, after a few months, that the British were too strongly entrenched to be lightly disturbed, and he again announced his intention of adhering firmly to the British alliance. At the same time he stated that he had refused overtures made to him by the French, and that he would never again attempt to stir up Mohammedan fanaticism against the British.

The question now is, Has the Sultan, after all these specious promises, allied himself with the French, or is he favoring their aggressive policy in the hope that he may thereby be enabled to free himself and his country from British domination?

### ITALY'S JUBILEE.

King Humbert Reviews the Troops and Then Makes a Speech to the Assembled Officials.

A despatch from Rome, says:—The jubilee anniversary of the Italian constitution was celebrated on Friday with general rejoicings. The city was filled with visitors, who thronged the handsomely decorated streets. At 8 o'clock the great bell at the Capitol signalled the opening of the fetes, and an hour later King Humbert on horseback, accompanied by the Count of Turin and the foreign military attaches and the Minister of War, attended by a brilliant suite, rode to the San Marco esplanade, where he reviewed 8,000 troops of the garrison. The Queen viewed the march past of the troops, and their Majesties met with an enthusiastic reception from the crowds present. King Humbert made a speech from the throne to the Senators, Deputies and Mayors in the capital, during which his Majesty said:—"From the summit of the hill, consecrated by immortal glory, my first thought ascends to my magnanimous ancestor, Victor Emmanuel, father of his country, for his labors achieved in the national resurrection. Our faith in resuscitated Italy led us to Rome, and will guide us to still loftier destinies. I salute those generous men who consecrated their lives to the fatherland. I wished you to meet here, at the Capitol, from which you can admire the magnificence of the Eternal City, which has spread its light throughout the entire world. Let us continue to look to God, who willed the unity of Italy in order that the fatherland might be great and prosperous." King Humbert concluded, saying:—"As at the dawn of our resurrection all classes of citizens were welded together to secure the country's freedom, so to-day they are united and mutually aiding one another. The indissoluble union of my house with the destinies of the people, based on concord of ideas and strengthened by past misfortunes and glories, will be the most secure bulwark of the Italian fatherland." These concluding allusions to the dynasty were greeted with prolonged cheering and shouts of "Long live the King." The scene was most imposing. The great hall of the Capitol was splendidly decorated, and all the Ministers, leading authorities and diplomats were present. A reception followed the King's speech. His Majesty met with the most enthusiastic greetings from the people while on his way from the Quirinal to the Capitol through the troop-lined streets.

### PLAYING WITH A FUSE.

Incautious Sailors Imperil a British Cruiser—Fire in the Shell-Room.

A despatch from Portsmouth, says:—The British first-class armored cruiser *Austrasia*, twelve guns, 5,600 tons, had a narrow escape on Wednesday. Two seamen were playing with a fuse in the shell-room, when they set fire to some stores. The flames were extinguished by the prompt flooding of the apartment.

Ziggaby—There goes a fellow who whistles at danger. Perksby—Ah, he must be a brave fellow! Who is he? Ziggaby—A locomotive driver.

## NEWS FROM THE KLONDIKE

### FOUND DEAD WITH \$160,000 IN GOLD ON THEIR BODIES.

Turning Klondikers Laden With Fortune, Frozen to Death—The Horrors of Skaguay—Fifteen Dead Men Daily.

3rd edition.

A despatch from Victoria, B.C., says:—It is said by passengers on the steamer *Islander*, just arrived here from Alaska, that several days ago two Canadian Mounted Police came into Skaguay with two sleds in tow, over which were strapped two dead men. The attention of the Mounted Police at Tagish was attracted by the dismal howls of a dog. After a short search they found the bodies of two men. They had been frozen to death. It is said they were returning Klondikers, and had in their possession \$160,000 in paper and gold dust. Their names are not known.

### FLAG AT SUMMIT LAKE.

Passengers on the *Islander* confirm the report that the Canadian flag has been raised at Summit Lake; also, that the Canadians will establish a Customs house at Crater Lake. Martial law has been declared at Skaguay, and the United States troops who went up on the Queen are enforcing law.

The attempt to float the steamer *Corona* has so far been a failure. Captain Goodall, who has been conducting the wrecking operations, has gone with divers to make an examination of the Cottage City.

### TERRIBLE PLAGUE.

The death rate at Skaguay averages 15 daily, one of the latest victims being the postmaster. It is also stated by passengers on the steamer *Islander* that the Dyea trail is strewn with dead mules.

Capt. O'Brien, of the steamer *Rosalie*, reports that there are about 12,000 people in Skaguay and camped along the White trail for a distance of six miles from the town. Many are going over the passes, but a far greater number are arriving daily. En route down the *Rosalie* passed twenty-nine vessels bound for Skaguay and Dyea. There is little or no abatement of the epidemic of spinal meningitis at Skaguay.

### TROUBLE FEARED.

A despatch from Seattle, Wash., says:—Five steamers arrived from Alaska on Thursday, the *Utopia*, *Hueneme*, *Del Norte*, *Protection* and *Queen*. The *Queen* brought the latest news, having left Skaguay last Sunday. The most important news was a confirmation of previous reports that a Canadian official had raised the British flag on what is regarded as American soil, and trouble at Skaguay with longshoremen, who objected to Indians unloading freight from steamers. The presence of United States troops alone prevented serious trouble. A compromise was made with the white men to perform the work at 50 cents per hour. It is feared that serious trouble will grow out of the Canadians attempting to collect duty on the summit of the White Pass and Chitcot Pass, and the Americans will resist the payment on what they consider American ground. Last summer, the boundary line was at Lake Bennett, then at Lindermann, and now at the summit of the mountains, which is only twelve miles from salt water.

Two days before the *Queen* left Skaguay the wind, which had blown from the north constantly for seven weeks, shifted to and began to blow from the south-west, causing a general thaw to set in. The change in the weather caused hundreds of people who had been detained by the severe cold to start over these trails from both Skaguay and Dyea, and when the steamers left a general exodus from both towns was taking place. Both trails are reported in excellent condition.

On the trip down the *Queen* passed the Cottage City a short distance south of Wrangel Narrows. The latter ship evidently had trouble, as her bow was smashed in and covered with canvas to keep out the water.

### ATTACKED BY HIGHWAYMEN.

Mr. Allison and Reeve Brown Brutally Assaulted Near Chatham.

A despatch from Chatham says:—Richard Allison, a respectable farmer residing on the fourth concession of Harwich, was driving along the town line between Harwich and Howard when he was attacked by four men, who pulled him out of his rig and beat him and kicked him almost into insensibility. The assault took place near Langford's farm between Kent Bridge and the river road. While Allison was being kicked and pounded, Reeve Brown drove along, and the men made off. Mr. Allison and Reeve Brown drove along the road a short distance when they were both attacked, two men tackling each. Mr. Brown was pulled out in the road and mercilessly belabored, his assailants yelling, "Kill the dead." The noise of an approaching team scared the four scoundrels and they disappeared into the woods near by. Friday morning Allison came into the city and laid an information against three men, and a fourth person unknown, charging them with the assault. The case was placed in High Constable Coogan's hands and he effected the arrest of the accused. Both victims of the outrage suffered severe injury, but are glad they escaped with their lives. They declare that the actions of the attacking party made them think that it was their intention to kill them outright.