

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.

Cornwall's new hospital was formally opened on Wednesday.

Brantford is to have a free postal delivery in a few days.

Fire has destroyed one of the C. P. R. steamers on Kootenay Lake.

Burglars stole 12,000 cigars from Clarke's Mountain Hotel on Wednesday night.

William Moore was found dead in his bed at his home in Welland on Tuesday.

The C. P. R.'s half yearly dividend to be paid in February may reach 2-1/2 per cent.

Hamilton fishermen have been granted the privilege of spearing fish in the bay this winter.

The Hamilton Acetylene Gas Machine Company has been incorporated, with a capital of \$45,000.

John Hall, private banker of Holland near Winnipeg, has assigned, with liabilities at \$32,000.

Frank Ross, an Italian was sentenced to seven months imprisonment for forgery at Cornwall on Wednesday.

Mr. James Ward a Saltfleet farmer, was thrown from his wagon on Sunday, near his farm gate and killed.

It is reported at Halifax that a new company is about establishing a line of steamers between that port and Liverpool.

Bishop DuMoulin has been advised by his physician to refrain from preaching for a time, owing to the condition of his health.

H. H. Harding, the American forger, arrested at Regina, consents to be taken back. He said he had \$81, but police found upon him \$8,000.

Chas. Moore, a Westminister farmer, has been sent for trial on the charge of setting fire to a vacant building, owned by M. Nemo.

The cable reports of the seizure of Rai Naa Island by the French and the requisition of the C.P.R. steamers by the British Admiralty are denied.

Gideon Deguire and Joseph LaLonde have been committed for trial at Montreal on the charge of murdering an Italian in a fight at Coteau du Lac.

Robert McGee, of Guelph township, who was recently released from Toronto asylum, has again been arrested as he has been annoying the neighbors.

Police Magistrate Jelfs of Hamilton has taken proceedings against The Herald and Mrs. John Billings for criticizing his decision in a case of cruelty to animals.

John Gaynor has been given one month's imprisonment and fined \$50, at Carberry, Man., on a charge of sandbagging and robbing himself with intent to defraud his creditors.

Number of models have been received at the Public Works Department, Ottawa, for statues to Queen Victoria and the late Alexander Mackenzie on Parliament square.

Judgment has been given at Hamilton dismissing the Canada Life's appeal against income assessment on its policy-holders' profits; also reducing the assessment of the Street Railway and Gas Companies.

A number of boot and shoe merchants of Hamilton have been summoned to answer charges of violating a city by-law by keeping their places of business open after 7 o'clock in the evening during Christmas week.

John Scott of Owen Sound, is suing a number of citizens for damages for malicious libel in burning his effigy. The defendants had been celebrating the acquittal of a bank clerk whom Mr. Scott unsuccessfully charged with forgery.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Fire in Norfolk, Eng., on Monday caused \$500,000 damage. Thirteen buildings were destroyed.

Lord Salisbury has written to United States Ambassador Hay in response to America's latest proposals that Great Britain should enter into an agreement with the United States, Russia and Japan to stop sealing, declining to enter into such an agreement.

UNITED STATES.

The Merchants' and Trades' Bank of Brunswick, Ga., has closed its doors.

Col. W. D. Hagar, one of the managers of the Birming show, is dead at Wauseon, Ohio.

Rev. William Corby, head of the Order of Holy Cross in America, is dead at South Bend, Ind.

Stenographers employed by the defense in the Lutger murder trial at Chicago have gone on strike.

The will of Charles Condit, of New York, leaves \$1,500,000 to charitable institutions and foreign missions.

It is reported at Washington that great distress exists in Cuba, and the American Department of State is taking steps to distribute relief as it is subscribed in the United States.

Under the new act of the United States Congress sealings and articles made therefrom are not allowed to enter the country unless taken at the Pribiloff Islands.

Gustav Thelan, president of the Stock Exchange Bank at El Reno, Okla., and two of the directors have been arrested charged with receiving deposits when the bank was insolvent.

It is reported that H. M. Kersey, of New York, American agent of the White Star Line, has resigned to join

a syndicate of American and British capitalists in a Klondike scheme.

The United States Government's suits against the Armoura of Chicago, for \$1,700,000 in damages for violations of the dairy laws in distributing oleo margarine throughout various States, will be dropped.

GENERAL.

The plague has broken out again in the district of Bombay.

Port au Prince, Hayti, has been partly destroyed by fire. Over 800 houses were burned.

The estate of Dr. Thomas W. Evans, the American dentist, at Paris, France, amounts to four million dollars. His brother, who gets ten thousand dollars, will protest the will.

The representatives of the powers have refused to permit the Turkish Government to replace 4,500 time-expired troops on the Island of Crete.

Sir Henry Havelock-Allan, commander of the Royal Irish Regiment in the frontier of India, is reported missing. His horse was found strangled and shot.

The Italian Minister of Finance recommends his Government to establish a bank in New York, to protect his countrymen from being robbed by absconding bankers.

Four of the deputies and others accused of participating in the Panama canal infriugess have been acquitted at Paris and four found guilty. They have not yet been sentenced.

CLOSE AND MEAN.

Being the Story of a Man Who Had His Own Way of Teaching Economy

The patient was doing even better than could be expected, and as the physician noted his pulse, and the clearness of his eye he shoved his chair back with a satisfied expression, and began to talk about something cheerful.

"It's a funny world we live in, when we aren't sick," he said with a smile, at the patient, "and I had a touch of it on my way here. I have a patient at a house where I had one last winter, and I stopped in to see how he was getting along. He is a lad of 17, not very bright, and still quite shrewd as persons of his mental caliber often are, and the man with whom he lives, who is his step-uncle, I believe, is about the closest and meanest old fellow I ever heard of. One day last winter, and it was a cold day, too, I happened to be passing back of the house where he lived, going to see a poor woman in the alley, when I noticed this boy standing in the yard blue with cold. He was stamping his feet and blowing on his fingers, but there was small comfort in that, and I called to him through the alley gate. "What are you doing out here?" I asked.

"I'm economizing," he shivered and smiled as though there was a joke in his mind somewhere.

"What do you mean?"

"Well, I built up a good big fire in the house when Uncle John was away, and when he came back and saw how much coal I had burnt up he got mad and sent me out here to economize for an hour or two. He said he guessed I'd learn how to be more careful of my heat if I got a real good chill clean through."

"Of course," concluded the physician, "I put an end to that sort of economizing in very short order, but I didn't do it soon enough, for the boy was taken down a day or so later and he was sick in bed for three weeks."

SWINDLED THE JEWS.

A German with a Genius for Operation Does Sharp Work in England.

A fraud resembling somewhat the gold brick swindle perpetrated on certain Calgary gentlemen has just been practiced on the pawnbrokers of London, Manchester, Liverpool, Bristol and the large cities of England. The presiding demon in the case was a German with a genius for observation. He had noticed that in testing watches the pawnbrokers used their acid only on the stem. So he set to work and had some thousands of watches constructed with gold stems, but otherwise valueless. These he palmed off on the unsuspecting Isaacs and Jacobs and Israels in the second-hand jewellery trade with enormous profits. The prophets in fact, fell into his hands, and they are not likely to forget it. The London detectives are now on the German's tracks.

THE RUSTING OF PAINTED IRON.

It is known that iron, even when carefully covered with a coating of paint, still shows a tendency to rust. This has usually been attributed to minute cracks in the paint caused by the action of cold and heat under whose influence the iron and paint do not expand and contract equally. But experiments in Germany have led to the conclusion that there is another cause at work, namely, that paint when swollen by moisture is pervious to both water and gases. Under such circumstances oxidation can take place beneath it. Paint that contains the largest possible quantity of oil is the best for protecting iron.

EAGLE WEARS A VEIL.

The eagle is able to look at the sun without blinking by means of a thin, semitransparent veil, which the bird can draw instantaneously over its eye. It does not obstruct the sight

THE HUDSON BAY COMPANY

THE BEGINNING OF TRADE IN THE FAR NORTH.

Conflicts With the North West Company. End of the Struggle and Amalgamation. Present Status of the Company.

The Hudson Bay Company first came into existence about 1620, though it did not receive royal incorporation under the name it has since been known by till 1670. In that year Prince Rupert, the cousin of the King of England, Charles II., together with certain specified associates, was granted a charter investing the "Hudson Bay Company" with the absolute proprietorship, subordinate sovereignty, and exclusive traffic of an undefined country which, under the name of Rupert's Land, comprised all the vast region that poured its waters into Hudson Bay on the straits leading thereto.

The company promptly went to work to establish itself solidly and securely in its territories. Substantial forts and trading posts were built on the Rupert and Nelson Rivers, and a Governor was sent out from England to take charge of them. In these operations the company was greatly assisted by adventurers from New York and Massachusetts, who were already well acquainted with all the details of the fur trade. A very profitable trade was soon established, and within the first twelve years three other fortified posts were established, and the scope of the company's operations correspondingly extended.

All this while Canada, or at least that portion of it now, approximately, comprised of the present Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, was in the possession of France, and the jealousy of the French traders was naturally aroused by the lucrative traffic being done by an English company in the north. England claimed the Hudson Bay district by right of discovery and possession, but in 1632 the French Governor of Canada, Le Barre, countermanded an expedition fitted out by La Chesnaye against the Hudson Bay Company posts. This expedition captured and burned Fort Nelson, established rival trading posts at different points, and almost wholly ruined the Hudson Bay Company's business for that season. In the following year, however, the French were driven out of the bay and the company's forts made stronger than ever.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUED.

But the struggle continued on the sea, and under the pretext that the company was unlawfully trading in Hudson Bay, Le Barre caused the seizure of one of its ships, laden with a cargo of valuable furs, while on its way homeward through the straits. The vessel was brought as a prize to Quebec, where the crew was kept prisoners for eleven months and afterwards sent as slaves to Martinique, in the West Indies, so as to prevent the news being carried to England. The mate of the vessel, however, managed to escape, reached England, and acquainted the officers of the company with the loss of the vessel.

Le Barre's recall did not end the company's misfortunes at this period. De Bonnaville, his successor in the Government of Quebec, revived the supposed French claims on Hudson Bay, and sent a strong naval force into its waters, which, after a good deal of hard fighting, captured three of the company's forts, three of its ships, and a large quantity of provisions, stores, and merchandise. Fifty non-combatants—men, women and children—were sent to sea in a small vessel, to get to England or elsewhere as best they could, and the remainder were detained as prisoners.

Such were some of the early troubles of the Hudson Bay Company of which history tells. Of their struggles with the Indians and against the hardships of a pioneer life in a land so far removed from the outside world we have as yet no written account.

FIGHT WITH THE NORTH-WEST COMPANY.

One of the most interesting epochs in the history of the Hudson Bay Company was its fight for supremacy with the "Northwest Company," a fight which developed into an open warfare as barbarous as any ever waged by hostile savage tribes. The Northwest Company was formed in 1783, by Benjamin and Joseph Frohisher and Simon McTavish, all Scotchmen, at its head. It re-established the old lines of travel by way of the Ottawa river to Mackinaw, and thence by Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods to Lake Winnipeg, and at once commenced to reap a rich harvest of furs. In 1787 the Northwest Company had in its employ 60 clerks, 81 interpreters, 1230 canoe men, and 40 guides.

The principal post of the Northwest Company was at Fort William, on Lake Superior, and from that point all its active operations were directed. There all its grand business parliaments were held; and on occasions of special importance as many as 1200 persons connected with the company, composed of its principal chiefs, its clerks, its factors, and others who also shared in its profits, as well as its mere servants, the voyagers, trappers and canoe men, have assembled to hold high council and to determine on future operations. The heads of this company travelled upward from Montreal in feudal state, attended by a retinue of boatmen and servants.

From Fort William the operations of the company spread out like a fan over

all the North-West. In 1789 one of its agents, Alexander Mackenzie, afterwards knighted for his discoveries, travelled down the noble river that now bears his name, from its source, in Great Slave Lake, to the Arctic Sea; and four years afterward was the first white man to cross the Rocky Mountains and Cascade Range to the Pacific Ocean.

The rivalry between the Hudson Bay Company and the North-West Company was, as may be imagined, exceedingly keen, but so long as the rivalry consisted simply in exertions to obtain the largest quantity of furs, only benefit to the country at large resulted. Unfortunately, the struggle soon assumed a far graver aspect.

A COLONY IS FORMED.

In 1810 Thomas Douglas, fifth Earl of Selkirk, a philanthropist, who felt deep compassion for the poverty of his countrymen, established, with the aid of the Hudson Bay Company, in which he was himself largely interested, a colony of Scotch cottagers in the North-West-Territories. Ten million acres of land in the neighborhood of the Red River were set aside by the company for the cottagers and all the expenses connected with the settlement were borne by Selkirk. Kildonan was the name given to the village built for the new settlers, and on its site the present City of Winnipeg now stands. Fort Douglas was built to give it protection, and armed with a few light guns.

The new colony was planted in a district which the officials of the North-West Company considered as particularly valuable, and, notwithstanding that the colonists were their own countrymen, they at once prepared to break the colony up. The Indians were repeatedly urged to assault it, but without success. The red men were more compassionate to the poor settlers than were their own brethren. Then the Governor of the new colony, Miles Macdonell, was arrested on a trumped up charge of having taken a quantity of provisions belonging to the North-West Company, and sent to Montreal for trial.

The infant colony was subjected to the most wanton outrages on the part of the North-West Company's officials and Metis, or half-breeds, whom they instigated to attack the new-comers. The latter were openly fired upon and shot down, houses were broken open and pillaged, the workmen in the fields made prisoners, and their horses and cattle stolen. Finally, the colonists were ordered to abandon their homes or remain there at the peril of their lives. Many fled, and those who remained, to the number of 134, were taken prisoners by clerks and retainers of the North-West Company, who afterwards burned down every building in the settlement.

Meanwhile, Selkirk, apprised of the hostility of the North-West Company toward his colony, had proceeded to Canada, and, aided by the Hudson Bay officials, a nucleus of a new Kildonan was collected. Fort Gibraltar, a North-West Company's post, near Kildonan, was captured by surprise and three field pieces and several stand of arms brought back to the new Fort Douglas.

THE RIVALS AT WAR.

This action was the signal for a direct and bitter war between the two rival trading companies. While descending the Qu'Appelle River with a boatload of furs and supplies, the servants of the Hudson Bay Company were suddenly attacked and made prisoners. A Hudson Bay Company post was also captured and destroyed, and preparations were made for another attack on the Red River settlement. A force of Metis and Canadians, under Cuthbert Grant, a Scotchman, suddenly made its appearance before Fort Douglas and demanded its surrender. Governor Semple, with twenty-seven men, left the fort to protect the outlying settlers, and was at once attacked by Grant and his party.

The action which ensued resulted in the slaughter of Semple and twenty of his men, several of whom were scalped and otherwise disfigured.

No quarter was given, and the wounded, among whom was Semple, were all, with the exception of two men, murdered. The surrender of the fort was demanded, with the threat that its feeble remaining garrison would be massacred if any resistance were made. For the second time, the unhappy settlers had to accept the inevitable, and abandon the humble homes they had made for themselves in the wilderness with so much toil and privation.

Selkirk, on learning the fate of his colonists, engaged the services of 100 soldiers of two Swiss regiments recently disbanded in Canada, and adding to the force from the Hudson Bay Company employes, proceeded to the Red River settlement, where he made prisoners of several North-West Company officials and sent them to Toronto for trial. Despite his efforts to secure their conviction, however, the latter were set free. But although the ruthless slayers of Semple and his Scotch cottagers escaped punishment in the courts of Upper Canada, a higher court decreed that they should not go unpunished even in this world, for it is recorded in Ross's "History of the Red River settlement," that twenty-six of their number met violent deaths, and "the damning taint of their foul crime," says McMullen in his history of Canada, "clung to the North-West Company until it wholly disappeared from public view, and clings to its memories still."

THE FORTUNE OF THE COTTERS.

Although the Red River settlement was re-established for the third time by Selkirk, ill fortune still pursued the poor cottagers. Late on an afternoon in the last week of July, 1818, the sun was suddenly obscured by a vast cloud of grasshoppers, which fell noiselessly upon the earth like a shower of snow; and in a single moment almost every thing green had disappeared.

The strife between the Hudson Bay Company and the North-West Company was finally put an end to by the English Government. An amalgamation was enforced between the two, under the name of the older corporation, and the separate existence of the

North-West Company.

As a result of the amalgamation the stock of the Hudson Bay Company once rose to a premium, and was freed from a disastrous depression, and became exceedingly lucrative.

Once more the Hudson Bay Company became supreme in the lone north, and all the vast domains of the Canadian North-West, with the exception of the Assiniboia district, where a form of popular government was introduced, continued under the despotic, although paternal, rule of the company's officials. The company's pretensions to a monopoly from the Atlantic to the Pacific had been indorsed by the Imperial Government, and the company speedily set its face against immigration as being injurious to its own special interests. But little news of the North-West was allowed to reach the public ear, being forwarded to the officials in London, and there filed carefully away. The people of the North-West lived by the Hudson Bay Company, and that company was King.

The transfer of the colony in the Red River district to Canada in 1870, and its rapid settlement following the reports of the wonderful fertility of its soil, greatly reduced the prestige of the Hudson Bay Company in the immediate neighborhood of the present city of Winnipeg, but in the still vast tracts to the northward and east and west from ocean to ocean, the Hudson Bay Company is powerful. The head offices of the Company are still in London, and in Canada its representatives may be found in every large city of the Dominion. In its employ there are no fewer than 5,000 persons, while those who are less immediately dependent upon it, but whose business dealings are almost exclusively with this company, number many thousands more.

CARE OF THE PIANO.

It is hardly an exaggeration to say that in every house there is a pianoforte, and it is not extravagant to say that only one person in five hundred can take the proper care of this instrument.

It should be placed in a dry room, quite away from possible drafts and not too near a fire. Heat not only tends to warp and crack the case, which, being highly inflammable, is apt to ignite, but any increase or decrease of temperature affects the strings and brings them out of tune, exactly as does excessive dryness or excessive moisture.

Pianofortes should never be kept open, either for dust is just as injurious as dampness, and, in fact, the air is always an enemy to the great mass of strings, the nerves of the instrument.

An upright pianoforte sounds better if placed about two inches from the wall, and sometimes it is an improvement if it is allowed to rest upon glass blocks.

A grand piano should stand with its curved side to the room, and its plain side next the wall. Nothing should be placed on the pianoforte.

No musical people ever put vases and ornaments and books upon this shrine of music, for they rattle, absorb the sound, deaden the tone, and worry the performer. The case and the key-board should be kept free from dust: To make the polish shine, rub the wood with an old soft silk handkerchief, and to clean a pianoforte use warm water, soap, and a flannel rag. Wet the latter, rub it on the soap, and apply it to the pianoforte, a small portion of the surface at a time. Wet a second piece of flannel and wipe off the soap thoroughly, and with a piece of chamois skin rub the place perfectly dry. Wipe the keys off with a damp cloth, followed quickly with a dry one, and if the ivory has become yellow with age or usage, this may be whitened by a good rubbing with fine sandpaper or moist powdered pumice stone.

Persons who grumble at the expense of a pianoforte ought to know that the instrument is a most complicated piece of workmanship. A grand pianoforte, which appears to be a solid mass, is composed of tiny strips of wood laid together—sometimes twenty layers—like a jelly cake, glued together and then veneered. The wood has to be carefully selected and seasoned for many months and every part is finished separately, numbered, and then put together. When the materials are at hand, six months are occupied to make a good instrument. The softly padded hammers of felt generally come from Paris, and are, with all the rest of the mechanism, very expensive. Another fact which adds to the costliness is that no machinery is employed in a piano factory, for everything must be done by a skilled eye, a trained mind and careful fingers. The few hints given above will contribute greatly toward keeping this representative of labor and money in good condition.

LIMBLESS FROM BIRTH.

A strange sight was witnessed yesterday in the Southwestern Police Court, London, Eng. An elderly man, armless and legless was carried into the witness box by a policeman, who held him as though he were a baby, while he made an application to the Magistrate for an extension of time under an ejectment order from the Court. Mr. Marston asked him how he came to be so afflicted, to which the helpless man replied that he was born so. He got his living by making beaded ornaments with his mouth. His Worship allowed him a few additional days to find fresh accommodations.

TESTING STEEL BULLETS.

A new method of testing steel bullets has been devised in Germany. The balls are dropped from a fixed height on to a glass plate set at an angle. If properly tempered they rebound into one receptacle; if they are too soft they drop into another.