

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.

Hall & Co., bankers of Holland, Man., have assigned.

The Saw Bill mine, near Port Arthur, has closed down.

One dollar Dominion notes, raised to five, are in circulation at Winnipeg. Some London ladies intend urging the Aldermen to adopt the curfew by-law.

A number of aldermen, it is said, favor municipal control of the street railway.

The herd of Buffalo at Silver Heights will be shipped to Banff National Park about the end of April.

The centralization of Wabash railway freight crews in St. Thomas will increase the population of that city, 150.

Doyle, alias Sullivan, tried on a charge of murder at Nelson, B.C., has been found guilty and sentenced to be hanged.

While hunting near Hamilton James Findlay picked up a portion of a tooth of a mastodon weighing about five pounds.

The Yukon military expedition will be brigaded at Ottawa about the middle of April and sent forward from there after inspection.

The eight Italian laborers from Buffalo who were arrested for working on Sunday in Toronto, were fined in the Police Court on Tuesday.

A reduction of ten cents per thousand feet has been made in the price of gas at Hamilton, the nominal price being \$2, with a 30 per cent. discount.

The Toronto Board of Trade Council has appointed a special committee to consider and report on the question of an expert duty on nickel matte.

Sir Roderick W. Cameron, of West Alberta, has sent to the Ontario Department of Agriculture, asking for 2,500 young cattle, preferring Ontario stock.

City Engineer Barrow of Hamilton has demonstrated that coal can be used with success for the filtration of sewage, the coal not being injured in the process.

Montreal has asked the Government to establish an infantry school there. The Allan Line has given a contract for another steamship designed by the St. Lawrence route.

A deputation of the Railway Trackmen's Association waited on Superintendent Williams of the Canadian Pacific, at Toronto on Wednesday to ask for an increase in wages.

Police Inspector Tallott, of Bradford, Eng., has arrived at Halifax to take charge of Hall, the embezzler of that city, who was arrested two weeks ago on his arrival from England.

Prosecutions against smugglers are in active progress in Nova Scotia. A United States Consul-General has been dismissed by President McKinley in connection therewith.

It is reported at St. Catharines that John D. and James Neelon, sons of the late Capt. Neelon, have been offered \$50,000 for their shares in a Colorado gold mine.

The Presbyterian ladies of Toronto have agreed to support the movement to send nurses to the Klondike, and an appeal for that purpose will be made to every congregation in Canada.

An amendment prohibiting the employment of Chinese or Japanese labor has been inserted in the Mountain Tramway and Electric Company's bill by the British Columbia Legislature.

Mr. W. T. McCoun has been appointed horticulturist at the Ottawa Experimental Farm, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. John Craig, who left the Government service last autumn.

An order-in-Council has been passed, providing that those persons who obtain leases for dredging for minerals in the rivers in Manitoba and the Northwest must take out free miners' certificates the same as on the Yukon.

Mr. E. A. Macdonald is bringing suit against the directors of the Toronto Street Railway Company, charging them with having obtained their franchise by bribery and fraud, and asking on behalf of the city \$8,000,000 damages.

The next session of the Supreme Court will be held on the third of May next. In connection with the appeals to be heard during the term, notices have been posted to the effect that the last day for filing cases is April 12, the last day for filing printed factums 16th April, and the last day for inscribing appeals for hearing is April 18.

Dominion Analyst McFarlane has issued a bulletin giving the result of his official examination of condensed milk and fertilizers. The bulletin will give many cases in which condensed milk offered for sale was found to be prepared from skim milk instead of whole milk, with an addition of sugar to give it body and appearance. It is likely the department will take action against the parties offering this adulterated milk for sale.

GREAT BRITAIN.
Mr. James Payne, the English novelist, is dying.

The severe storms and cold weather continue in Great Britain.

Great Britain is not, it is reported, plotting for the absorption of Hawaii.

It is said in London that the Earl of Elgin is desirous of resigning the viceroyship of India.

England has sent the torpedo de-

stroyer Rocket to Halifax to join the North American squadron.

The British Government has decided to spend \$12,000,000 in buying sites and erecting buildings for the great public departments, including a new War Office.

A receiving order in bankruptcy has been made against the Roberts Billiard Company. The liabilities are put at \$10,000. The partners are Roberts and Hogue. The former the English champion billiard player.

UNITED STATES.

The California orchards have been badly nipped by frost.

Two men who robbed a train near Goshen, Cal., secured not less than \$50,000.

The United States Cabinet is said to have determined that the present state of affairs in Cuba must end.

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, the well-known novelist, has instituted suit for divorce from her husband, Dr. Swan M. Burnett.

The reports from all over Indiana concerning the damage done by the floods will send the aggregate loss up into hundreds of thousands.

The Pacific Mill, at Tacoma, Wash., the largest shingle mill in the world, operated by Metcalfe & Ware, has been completely destroyed by fire.

Julius M. Price, artist, of the Illustrated London News, and Lionel Harris, of the London Financial News, are at New York en route to the Klondike.

William Olmstead, a farmer of Cass county, Michigan, has left a will bequeathing all his estate, valued at \$15,000 to the Barnum and Bailey circus.

A Southern Pacific passenger train was held up Tuesday night at Cross station, California, by two masked men, who blew the express car up with dynamite. They secured one mail pouch.

The Austrian Government will protest to Washington against the acquittal of Sheriff Martin, and the deputy sheriffs of Wilkesbarre, Pa., who were charged with shooting a number of striking miners, including Austro-Hungarians, at Lattimer on September 10 last.

Puget Sound merchants have stolen a march on Canadians in connection with the Yukon trade. Eight complete stocks for general supply stores have been landed at Wrangell for Cleonora and Teslin Lake, inquest to Yankee traders, who will establish themselves at these points.

The Philadelphia water works scandal was aired in court Wednesday. One alderman confessed to taking a bribe, another was accused of the same offense and two others with offering the bribes. The whole affair grows out of the ordinance offered in council to lease the City Water Works to the Schuylkill Valley Water Company.

Edward B. Coombs, a former coroner of Brooklyn, N. Y., was, on Monday, sentenced to one year and seven months imprisonment in the penitentiary, and also to pay a fine of \$1,000, for malfeasance in office during his term as coroner. There were 49 specific charges in the indictment of his having recorded bogus inquests to which he collected about \$2,200.

Floods are doing great damage in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania. Dayton, Ohio, is in great danger and the northern portion of the town is completely under water. Pittsburg, Pa., is a great sufferer, and fears are entertained that the flood will be as great as in 1884. Bridges are being carried away at many points in these States.

GENERAL.

Admiral Zopoff, aide-de-camp of the Czar, is dead.

Austria has decided to withdraw her troops and warships from Crete.

There were 1,259 deaths from the plague at Bombay during the past week.

The Panama Railway Company has offered its men an increase of wages and ended the strike.

A report that Japan has requested Russia to evacuate Port Arthur finds credence in the Japanese press.

On Monday 20 cadavers were discovered near a creek in the outskirts of Guamabacoa, a suburb of Havana.

Russia has withdrawn its demand of the Sultan of Turkey for the \$3,500,000 arrears of the Russo-Turkish war indemnity.

Ambona, a town on the island of Malacca, one of the Moluccas, was completely destroyed by an earthquake. Sixty persons were killed.

Radical Italian deputies demand that ex-Premier Crispi be tried on the charge of complicity in the Bank of Naples scandals.

Plague regulations have been ordered at Cairo against arrivals from Jiddah, where three deaths from the plague have occurred.

It is reported that the French expedition sent against Bossiris in Madagascar has met with a serious reverse, losing six officers and 100 men.

Cuban insurgents on Saturday night dynamited the iron railroad bridge near Madruga, Province of Matanzas, partly destroying the structure.

The Czar has authorized an increase of over \$2,000,000 yearly for six years, in addition to the present special grant of over \$60,000,000, for naval purposes.

A heavy southerly gale cleared the Newfoundland coast of ice on Sunday. This will allow the sealing steamers to prosecute that industry with some prospect of success.

The firing of a dynamite cartridge in the Hasard coal mines near Liege caused an explosion of coal gas. Twenty miners were killed.

The Japanese parliamentary election returns show that the two parties will have about equal strength and that some fifty neutrals will probably hold the balance of power.

The Newfoundland Government has introduced a pension bill retiring Chief Justice Sir Frederick Carter, of the Supreme Court of the colony, now in his 80th year, with a salary of \$8,000.

The bill to incorporate the Customs duties on pigs and pork products was adopted by the French Senate on Tuesday. In reply to a statement that the United States might retaliate the Premier said that the United States would make a bad mistake in resorting to reprisals, since the United States was the first to protect herself with high duties.

SOUGHT SHELTER, MET DEATH.

Mistaken for a Burglar and Shot Down on the Threshold.

A despatch from Brockville, Ont., says:—A spring bed agent named J. M. Scribner, of Bolsover, Eldon township, County of Victoria, was shot dead on Tuesday night a few miles from the village of North Augusta. The particulars are about as follows:—

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

About 11 o'clock the family of Alex. Pear, who reside on what is known as the Station road, between Bellamy's station and North Augusta, were awakened by a noise at the front door as if some one was trying to effect entrance. There were kicks on the door, and finally, when the family came thoroughly aroused, one of the sons, William Pear, went down to answer, but the kicking continued, and then Pear, taking down a rifle, called out that unless the party outside gave his name he (Pear) would shoot.

FIRED THROUGH THE DOOR.

There was still no answer, when upon Pear fired the heavy rifle through the door, and awaited developments. Nothing was heard further, and he thinking, no doubt, that the prowler had been frightened away, retired to bed. Upon getting up after daylight broke next morning, some of the members of the family opened the door and were horrified to find the body of a man lying across the threshold. The bullet fired by young Pear had ploughed its way clear through the body of the stranger, and his death must have been instantaneous. Investigation soon revealed the fact that the dead man was J. M. Scribner, who had been in this neighborhood for some weeks pushing the sale of a spring bed, the patents for which he controlled.

UNABLE TO HEAR.

It is now supposed that he was looking for a job for the night, and being quite deaf, was unable to hear when asked his name and business by young Pear. The Pears had been bothered more or less for some time by tramps and burglars, and this had caused them to be very wary about admitting strangers to their home at night.

The family were horror-stricken over the occurrence, and at once notified the authorities of what had taken place. Coroner Vaux had been notified, and after concluding the inquest on the late William Field, at Fairfield, will proceed to North Augusta, accompanied by Chief Rose, where an enquiry will be made into the tragic occurrence. The dead man spent four weeks in Brockville, leaving here two weeks ago. He was about 55 years old. He is understood to have been a widower, but beyond this little is known here of his family or antecedents.

MISSION TROUBLES IN CHINA.

The Militia Refuse to Allow the Execution of a Murderer.

A despatch from Shanghai says:—Further telegrams from Chung-Kung-Fu regarding the sacking of the Methodist medical mission in the Kiang Peh country show that the Chinese militia is now there in large force, and refuses to allow the execution of the death sentence passed upon the murderer of the student killed by the rioters, who destroyed the mission. The foreign Consuls have demanded that the militia disperse the militia, execute the murderer, arrest the leaders of the rioters, pay 500 taels for the property destroyed, allow the mission to re-occupy its premises, and engage to protect the members of the mission.

SPEAKS FOR PEACE.

The Prince of Wales Says Navies and Armies Should Not be Needed Much Longer.

A despatch from Cannes, France, says:—The Prince of Wales made a speech on Tuesday night at the Golf Club dinner, the political importance of which can hardly be overestimated. Referring to England and France, he said he still trusted that their relations would be more and more friendly, and, referring to international relations, he said we should not need navies or armies much longer, but that we should have universal peace. The speech was greeted with uproarious applause, as was also that of the Duke of Cambridge, who also spoke, and that of the Grand Duke Michael.

ANTI-SEMITISM.

Hebrew and Christian Boys Fight in London, and One Death Has Resulted.

The spirit of anti-Semitism would seem to have crossed over from Paris to the East end of London, and the cockney equivalent of 'conspiracy' echoes through the purlieus of Spitalfield. A little Christian boy of the name of Jones came home from school on Thursday last crying and complaining that a Jewish boy had been beating him on the head with a stone. The boy died yesterday from the effects of his hurts, and the rector of Spitalfield testified at the coroner's inquest that fights between Jewish and Christian schoolboys had grown to an extent that was absolutely dangerous.

THE REPORT MADE PUBLIC

BATTLESHIP MAINE WAS BLOWN UP FROM THE EXTERIOR.

Spain Refuses to Accept the Finding—Testimony Goes to Show That the Cause Was a Submarine Mine—Court Unable to Fix the Responsibility for the Explosion, Exact Character of Which Cannot be Determined.

A despatch from Washington says:—Friday was one of the most eventful days the national capital has seen since the close of the civil war. It was a day of profoundly important action, of the deepest anxiety, coupled with naval and military activity, one step following another in rapid succession. Representative men of the Administration, public men in all branches of official and Congressional life, no less than the public in general, shared in the tension to which the situation has been wrought. There was no effort among the highest officials, indeed

THIS ARTICLE REMOVED

AN EXTERIOR EXPLOSION:

These results, briefly stated, are that the loss of the Maine was due to an explosion from the outside, the court being unable to fix the responsibility for the explosion. The court does not express an opinion as to the character of the explosion, but the testimony goes to show that it was a powerful submarine mine, the exact character of which is not determined by the testimony, though the belief was expressed that it was a floating submarine mine. There were two explosions, the court finds; the first was from the outside, and that set off one of the smaller magazines.

It was this result, expressed in detail, and with the precision of a court deeply conscious of its responsibility, together with the evidence on which it was based, that occupied the attention of the Cabinet throughout its extended sessions of the morning and afternoon. All other and lesser subjects gave way to this foremost question. There was no change in the plan of making the report public and transmitting it to Congress early next week, accompanied by a brief message from the President.

INTERCEPT THE FLOTILLA.
While interest was thus centred at the White House, the Navy and War Departments were hurrying forward their work of preparations. The advance of the Spanish torpedo flotilla continued to receive the closest attention of naval officers, and, while so far as could be ascertained no definite line of action was determined upon, the need of intercepting this fleet was urged by the highest naval authorities. From the standpoint of the Spanish Government this movement was not a menace, having been decided upon many weeks ago. On the contrary, the Spanish Government holds that the extensive armament of the Dry Tortugas is a more direct hostile act against Spain than any movement of the flotilla. Instead of stopping the flotilla, the present attitude of Spain tends toward re-enforcing it with other Spanish vessels, not as a menace, but from what the Spanish Government existing condition of affairs, feels is a requirement called for by the

SPANISH DEFENCES.
Hardly less suggestive than the approach of the torpedo flotilla was the information received by the highest military authorities that the Spanish Government had hurried to completion extensive fortifications on the island of Porto Rico, lying just off Cuba, and the only Spanish possession in this hemisphere other than Cuba. The exact character of these new defences has been made known here, and they are being given weight with the military authorities as showing the disposition of Spain.

THE FLYING SQUADRON.
The orders issued by the Navy Department during the day covered every branch of naval armament. The 'flying squadron' was definitely established, with Commodore W. S. Schley in command. He will hoist his commodore's flag on the flagship Brooklyn next Monday. The squadron is to consist of five ships. Those of the squadron will be the crack armoured cruiser Brooklyn, the battleships Massachusetts and Texas, and the cruisers Columbia and Minneapolis. Other ships which are now or hereafter at Hampton roads, will not be of the flying squadron, but will belong to the North Atlantic station, under Captain Sampson. The flying squadron is to be a small, compact fleet of the best ships in the navy for quick service at any point along the Atlantic.

At the same time the North Atlantic station under Captain Sampson is to be further augmented. The cruiser Cincinnati, which left Port Antonio three days ago under sealed orders, is

to report at Key West and become a part of Capt. Sampson's fleet. The gunboat, Wilmington, also en route from Port Antonio, will likewise report to Captain Sampson at Key West, as well as the gunboat Vicksburg, now at Hampton roads.

'SHOOTING IN KLONDIKE.

Shot His Partner in a Quarrel Over Division of Outfit.

A despatch from Dyea, Alaska, via Seattle, Wash., says:—Three men have been arrested for the shooting of Sam Roberts, a gambler, whose real name is believed to be Sam Ross. A half hour after the shooting a man named Corbett went to a physician to have a bullet extracted from his shoulder. He was arrested.

Another man, who gave the name of Kelly went to the marshal and said he shot Corbett. He was also put in gaol.

There was another shooting affray at Sheep Camp Monday morning. Two partners on the trail quarrelled, and determined to divide their outfit. In the division they quarrelled again, and Gottlieb Schneider, of Brooklyn, shot Francis Clements, of Hillsboro, Ore., through the body. Clements will probably die. Schneider is in gaol.

DEATH ON THE ICE FLOES

TERRIBLE DISASTER IN A SNOW-STORM OFF NEWFOUNDLAND.

The Dead Number Forty-Eight—Sixty Others so Badly Frost-Bitten That Amputation Will be Necessary.

A despatch from St. John's, Nfld., says:—The steamer Greenland, returning from the seal fishery, put into Bay de Verde on Saturday night and reported a terrible disaster. On Wednesday last, when among the ice floes, while her crew was travelling about the floes in search of seals, a great storm arose accompanied by a blinding snow, which drifted rapidly, and a severe frost.

48 MEN PERISHED.

The members of the crew who were on the ice could not regain the vessel, and were exposed to the terrible weather throughout the night and all of the next day. Forty-eight men perished, and between fifty and sixty were so badly frost-bitten that the amputation of one or more of their limbs will have to be undergone by all of them. On Friday the Greenland succeeded in recovering the bodies of 25 of the victims, but the remaining 23 were buried beneath the snow drifts.

SURVIVORS SUFFERING.

All of the frost-bitten men now aboard the steamer are suffering terribly, having been without proper medical attendance. From the circumstances of the disaster, it is feared that other steamers have suffered in a similar manner.

THE OWNER'S STATEMENT.

Walter Baine Grieve, owner of the Greenland, gives out the following statement concerning the disaster:—"My opinion is that the Greenland met with the misfortune on Monday. On Sunday night a heavy gale raged all along the Atlantic seaboard of the island, and reached the northern latitude, where the Greenland was cruising Monday forenoon. Being frozen solidly in the floe, she sent her crew out on the ice, perhaps 10 or 20 miles, in search of seals. The crews are usually divided into three watches or companies. Her whole crew being 210, she would have sixty men in each watch, thirty remaining aboard the officers, engineers, stewards, and deck hands. Each watch carries a bag of bread and a kettle for boiling tea. When the storm arose, the men, scattered over the floe in parties of two or three, probably tried to make for the ship. My belief is that the first watch which started worked farthest away from the ship, and is the watch which lost the most men. Only the master of the watch would have a compass. The crew were unable to find him any more than the ship with snowdrifts blinding their sight during the night, and feared to move about, because a false step might send them through fissures in the ice into the ocean, probably drowning them. The men, fearing to move, lay beneath the shelter of ice hammocks, where many were overcome by intense cold and perished. Others were smothered to death beneath snowdrifts, being unable to maintain sufficient vital energy to struggle for life.

"The weakest went to the wall during the night, which was terribly trying upon human beings on an ice floe, the cold chilled one through and through. I believe the storm continued Tuesday, because we had it here, and the steamer could not reach the men either. During this evening and night others perished, hunger being added to the cold. On Wednesday when the steamer was able to start to pick up the remnant of the men, few of these were able to help themselves. Another night would have caused the death of probably all on the floe."

HER CLOTHING CAUGHT FIRE.

Mrs. Stewart Farnell Burned to Death at Her Home.

A despatch from Sebastopol, says:—As a result of the discovery of serious and wholesale bribery and corruption one hundred dockyard officials and officers of the Russian Black sea fleet have been arrested. Admiral Kornilov, commander of the fleet, has been dismissed. Five officers have committed suicide since their arrest.