

THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL.

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, etc. All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

CANADA.

Capt. Hudgins of Deseronto dropped dead on Friday, while working at his yacht.

Quebec is crowded with tourists, the season being the most successful for several years past.

Driver Sweet, of "A" Battery, Kingston, has been sentenced to 45 days' imprisonment for desertion.

The Manitoba wheat crop is estimated at 25,000,000 bushels, and that of the Territories at 7,000,000 bushels.

Mrs. Amy Blizard, of McDonald's Point, Queen's County, N.B., celebrated her 106th birthday on Tuesday.

The 5th Royal Scots, of Montreal, are applying to the Militia Department for power to add two companies to the regiment.

The Dominion Trades Congress meeting, to be held at Winnipeg next month will assemble on the 16th inst., instead of the 13th.

It is rumored that the R. & O. N. Company will build a large hotel at Kingston, to cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000.

The estimated yield of fall wheat for the Province of Ontario for 1898 is 25,305,890 bushels, as against 23,988,051 bushels last year.

A petition is in circulation in Woodstock praying the Government to institute an audit and inspection of the town books.

Director Saunders of experimental farms, reports from Agassiz, B. C., that crops throughout British Columbia are good.

Capt. Leslie, of "A" battery, will be temporary A. D. C. to Major-General Hutton, until the permanent officer arrives from Scotland.

The revenue of the Interior Department from the Yukon during the fiscal year just closed amounts altogether to \$442,200, exclusive of the royalties.

George and Alfred Nicholson have been committed for trial on the charge of setting fire to Bickle & Healey's brewery on the night of August 7th at Cobourg.

A company to be called the Canadian Meat Company is being formed by Toronto and Chicago capitalists, to operate a meat packing industry near Toronto.

Returns compiled by Mr. George Johnson show that there are in Canada 559 creameries, 2,556 cheese factories and 203 factories producing both butter and cheese.

Arrangements have been completed for the visit to Quebec, on October 3, 4 and 5, of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston, 300 strong, with band and arms.

Mr. James Hutcheson, City Engineer of Quebec, fell a distance of 50 feet in the old rolling mills on Friday. He struck on his back, and it is hoped his injuries are not serious.

The aldermen of Winnipeg have decided to take a trip to the coast in the old rolling mills on Friday. He struck on his back, and it is hoped his injuries are not serious.

The Foreign Missions Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada is to consider the position of their missionaries in China in the event of war between Russia and Great Britain.

Canadian fire waste to the end of July this year was \$3,517,020, with an insurance loss of \$2,250,000, against \$4,267,520 fire waste and \$2,917,960 insurance loss during the same period last year.

The Yukon will have no say in the approaching plebiscite. There is no recognized municipal organization anywhere in that country, and no voters' lists, and the population of aliens is overwhelming.

Mr. D.M. Rennie, Canadian commercial agent in the Argentine Republic, reports that during the months of June and July 48 cargoes of lumber arrived there from Canada, of which 11 were white pine.

A communication has been received from the British Government asking if the Canadian Government are prepared to carry out the arrangement made some time ago for an exchange of military units.

The Attorney-General of Quebec has decided that as a surveyor is not paid his salary at so much per day, but so much for the work he performs, his salary cannot be seized. The only salaries which are liable to seizure, according to the Attorney-General, are the salaries of permanent and supernumerary employees.

The British flag ship Renown, with Admiral Sir John Fisher on board, will sail from Halifax on September 6 for Quebec. During the visit of the big battleship to that city a number of her officers and crew will give several public performances of a nautical opera entitled "H.M.S. Olbacore," which was given a successful production in Halifax last week.

GREAT BRITAIN.

It has been arranged that the new imperial penny postage shall apply to mail via New York.

The Registrar-General's return at London, Eng., shows that the population of the United Kingdom is 40,183,927.

According to a report from Glasgow, the past half-year has been the most prosperous in the history of Scotch railways.

The Lord Mayor of London, the Hon. Horatio David Davies, has postponed his projected American tour indefinitely on account of his wife's illness.

Severe storms are reported in England, the low-lying districts are flooded and crops are extensively damaged. The Carmarthenshire district of Wales was swept by a tornado.

The Kynoch Company, of Birmingham, Eng., is reported to have received an order for ten million military cartridges, to be promptly delivered to the United States Government.

M. de Staal, the Russian Ambassador to Great Britain, according to a special despatch from St. Petersburg, will soon retire from London, and be succeeded by the Count Cassini, Russian Ambassador to the United States.

Rosenthal, the pianist, has been commanded by the Queen to play at a state concert at Buckingham Palace early in October. He will appear in the Crystal Palace opening concert, and immediately after will leave for the United States to resume his tour, which was interrupted two years ago by sudden illness.

High officials at the British Foreign Office declare that the story based upon a despatch from Aden, Arabia, to the St. Petersburg Viadomost to the effect that Great Britain has recently assumed a protectorate over the whole of South Arabia, is nonsensical, as Great Britain has for many years exercised a protectorate over the tribes around Aden, and there has been no change in the situation for the last two decades.

UNITED STATES.

Mrs. Mary Conrad, an aged lady, residing at Reading, Pa., died from the bite of a mosquito.

United States Ambassador Hay has accepted the office of Secretary of State in Mr. McKinley's Cabinet.

The father of James Corbett, the pugilist, shot and killed his wife at San Francisco on Monday, and then took his own life with the same weapon.

Rev. Samuel Breakwell, a leader in business and religious circles in Highwood, near Chicago, was stabbed to death by Carl Pethke, a tailor, on Monday.

Additional details relative to the terrible cloudburst in Hawkins County, Tennessee, last Friday, are that thirty-two persons became victims of this downpour from the skies.

On a wager, Miles McDonnell, a teamster of St. Louis, Mo., dived from the top rail of Fads bridge into the Mississippi River, and came out uninjured. The distance from the rail to the water is 115 feet, and the water is about 25 feet deep.

Five negroes were killed by a sheriff's posse, who raided a gambling den at Bay Boro Ga., on Saturday night. There were one hundred negroes in the place, and when the sheriff entered the firing commenced. The sheriff was badly wounded.

A di-astrous fire occurred at Fresno, Cal., on Saturday night. It swept the Southern Pacific reservation from Mariposa street to Mono street, a distance of three blocks, and in a little more than an hour \$500,000 worth of property went up in smoke.

A tornado struck twelve miles north-west of Canby, Minn., Monday night, and killed seven people, destroyed many buildings and did great damage to the crops. The entire family of Joseph Hutchinson, including his wife and four children, were killed, also Peter Juglin. The storm also swept through North Dakota and at Mertz Siding eight people were killed.

The west-bound train on the Santa-Fe Pacific was held up by four masked robbers at Grants, fifty miles west of Albuquerque, N.M., on Monday morning. The express car was cut off and run about two miles down the road, but an armed guard in the car prevented the robbers from entering, and after holding the train for two hours they took to the woods without having secured any booty.

GENERAL.

1,800 persons were rendered homeless by great fires in Galicia, Austria.

The gold yield of New South Wales during the past seven months amounted to 181,821 ounces.

Estival's great manufactory of military equipments at Lyons, France, has been destroyed by fire.

It is reported at Athara that the advance of the Anglo-Egyptian expedition against Khartoum has practically begun.

The bubonic plague is again in evidence in Bombay. There were 103 deaths officially reported last week.

Persistent rumours are current that a meeting will take place between Emperor William and the Czar in the first week in September, Emperor William desiring to remove suspicion with which his eastern tour is regarded in Russia and France.

BURNING OF THE DEAD.

Task an Awful One and Impossible to Get Men to Undertake It.

A despatch from Santiago says:—The bodies of the dead Spaniards continue to be cremated. Over 700 have been burned so far. Tuesday afternoon 70 were to have been burned. Over two rails a dozen bodies were stretched across them another dozen, and then about thirty corpses are stacked in an immense funeral pile, ten feet high. The pile is then saturated with kerosene, and the torch applied. A fall of rain put out the fire, causing the bodies to be only half burned. Around the pile lay 22 coffins, containing corpses in a state of decomposition. Several haked bodies were strewn upon the ground in a state of putrefaction. Altogether about seventy unburied and unconsumed bodies lay around. The stench was terrible. This happened at a cemetery within the city limits. The authorities and the cemetery officials say it is impossible to get men to work at the cremation. These 70 corpses represent two days' dead from the Spanish camp.

LATEST CROP BULLETIN.

ESTIMATES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Increases in Spring and Fall Wheat, Though a Smaller Average Per Acre—Live Stock Through the Province.

The following are the crop estimates of the present year, as compiled by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The acreage is final, but the yields of grain will be revised in November from actual threshing results.

Fall wheat—1,048,182 acres, yield 25,305,890 bushels, an average of 24.1 bushels per acre. In 1897 950,222 acres gave 23,988,051 bushels, an average of 25.2 bushels per acre. The average for the sixteen years, 1882-97, was 891,144 acres, giving 18,022,748 bushels, being an average of 20.2 bushels per acre. The acreage this year is the largest since 1883, when 1,097,210 acres yielded only 10.6 bushels per acre. The largest crops of the past sixteen years were in 1884, 20,717,631 bushels; in 1891, 21,872,488; in 1892, 20,492,497 bushels, and in 1897, 23,088,052 bushels. The yield of 1898, therefore, promises to be the largest recorded by the department since 1883. The big increase this year is partly due to the fact that only 25,159 acres were plowed up this spring, as against 56,477 in 1897. On the basis of acreage, yield and quality, the Ontario fall wheat crop of 1898 may be set down as the best since 1883, at least.

Spring wheat—Spring wheat has an area of 889,205 acres, yielding 6,714,516 bushels, an average of 17.3 bushels per acre. In 1897 823,305 acres gave 4,868,101 bushels, or 15.1 bushels per acre. The crop this year is the largest since 1891, in which year 510,634 acres gave 10,711,538 bushels, or 21 bushels per acre.

Barley—438,731 acres give 12,048,245 bushels, or 27.5 bushels per acre. In 1897 451,515 acres gave 12,021,779 bushels, or 26.6 bushels per acre. The acreage has fallen steadily since 1890, when 601,326 acres were sown, but the yield of the past four years has been about stationary.

Oats—2,376,360 acres promise a yield of 83,132,026 bushels, being 34.5 bushels per acre. In 1897 2,432,491 acres gave 86,318,128 bushels, or 35.5 bushels per acre. In 1896 the yield was about 83,000,000 bushels, and in 1895 84,700,000 bushels. The great increase in recent years may be seen from the following statement of the sixteen years: 1,875,240 acres, giving 64,476,051 bushels, or 34.4 bushels per acre.

Rye—165,089 acres give 2,683,828 bushels, being 16.3 bushels per acre. In 1897 187,785 acres gave 3,382,005 bushels, or 18 bushels per acre. The average of the sixteen years was 16.2 bushels.

Peas—865,961 acres give 15,681,782 bushels, or 18.1 bushels per acre. In 1897 890,785 acres gave 18,867,093 bushels, or 15.5 bushels per acre. The average for the sixteen years' period was 19.9 bushels per acre. The total crop of 1891 was 18,300,000 bushels, that of 1896 17,500,000 bushels.

Beans—45,220 acres give 831,698 bushels, being 18.4 bushels per acre. In 1897 50,591 acres gave 981,340 bushels, being 19.4 bushels per acre. The largest yield was in 1895, when 72,747 acres gave 1,414,988 bushels, being 20.5 bushels per acre.

Hay and clover—2,453,503 acres yield 4,399,083 tons, being 1.79 tons per acre. This is an increase over 1897 of 587,545 tons, and over 1,000,000 tons above the average of 1882-97. The largest previous yields were as follows: 4,305,915 tons in 1890, 4,334,838 in 1892, 4,963,557 in 1893. The yield per acre has been equalled only once in the past ten years—in 1893. This report on hay and clover is final.

Other crops—In regard to other crops acreage alone can be given at present. Corn for husking has fallen from 335,030 acres in 1897 to 330,748 in 1898; silo corn, from 209,005 in 1897 to 189,948 acres in 1898. Buckwheat is 150,394 acres, and potatoes 169,946—both practically the same as last year. Mangels increase from 41,175 in 1897 to 47,923 in 1898; carrots from 12,025 to 12,418, and turnips from 149,336 to 151,601. Rape shows 36,651 acres, as against 31,905 in 1897. Flax drops from 16,240 acres to 10,720 acres. Hops decline from 1,688 to 1,423 acres and sorghum from 1,175 to 904 acres. Tobacco was reported in 1897 as covering only 705 acres; this year 7,871 acres are reported of which 5,086 acres are in Essex, and 2,140 in Kent.

Live stock on hand—The numbers of live stock are for the 1st of July in each year. Horses were as follows:—611,241 in 1898, 618,670 in 1897, 624,749 in 1896. Cattle—2,215,943 in 1898, 2,102,326 in 1897, and 2,181,958 in 1896. Milch cows show an increase of 26,000 in the past year, and store cattle a decrease of 20,000. Oxen have dropped from 3,411 in 1896 to 1,780 in 1898. Sheep were 1,677,014 in 1898, 1,690,350 in 1897; and 1,849,318 in 1896. Swine made a remarkable increase from 1,263,631 in 1896, and 1,284,963 in 1897 to 1,612,787 in 1898. There is an increase of no less than 325,000 in young swine over last year. Poultry are 9,084,473 in 1898, 8,435,341 in 1897, and 7,734,16 in 1896. Every class shows an increase.

Live stock sold—The figures are for the twelve months preceding July 1 in each year. Horses are about the same as in the previous two years—44,404. Cattle are 552,485 in 1898, 503,007 in 1897, and 433,451 in 1896. Sheep show a decrease—766,876 in 1896, to 732,872 in 1897, and to 664,239 in 1898. Swine sold have increased from 1,304,359 in 1896, and 1,399,907 in 1897 to 1,592,697 in 1898. Poultry show a slight increase over the previous year—3,072,767 in 1898; 2,965,221 in 1897, and 2,711,771 in 1896. The wool clip was 5,104,086 pounds, as compared with 5,139,984 in 1897. There are 190,080 colonies of bees in Ontario.

RUSSIA MUST STOP.

Britain Will Stand No Further Aggression in Asia From the Bear.

The New York Post's London special says:—We may expect next week to hear that England and Russia have come to a decision as to their future relations, but the nature of the decision, peace or war, to-day hangs in the balance.

I hear on excellent authority that Lord Salisbury has at last decided that since China does not object to dismemberment, it is idle for England to attempt to save her from that fate. Lord Salisbury falls back therefore on spheres of influence, carefully delimited. If Russia refuses to bind herself to remain within the limits agreed upon, she must take the consequences.

BRITISH FLEET READY.

The British fleet is ready at this moment for all eventualities. Officers on leave have been warned to hold themselves ready to rejoin their ships on summons.

In the meantime Salisbury is awaiting Russia's decision, but Russia has not yet made up her mind.

Men who are in a position to know what is afoot are confident that Russia will climb down and accept Salisbury's terms, basing their confidence on their expert knowledge that Russia will not be ready for a conflict for three years at least.

UPSET RUSSIA'S PLANS.

A well-known Englishman, long a resident of St. Petersburg, says that the Spanish-American war, coming soon and unexpectedly after the Chinese-Japanese war, has upset Russia's plans in the far East entirely. The advent of a nascent great power at Manila on friendly terms with England has created consternation among the military advisers of the Czar, who hope that the disputes between Spanish and American delegates to the Paris Peace Conference will yet afford an opportunity for it. Men who know Sagasta well say that he reckons upon this, and that Austrian influence, against Count Goluchowski's urgent advice, is prompting him to this course.

RECONQUEST OF THE SOUDAN.

Khartoum Will Be Captured and Mahdism Smashed Within A Month.

A despatch from London says:—The Anglo-Egyptian re-conquest of the Soudan is steadily approaching its culmination. Khartoum will be captured and Mahdism smashed within a month, but Englishmen have not yet reached the stage of excitement over what is one of the most remarkable and uninterrupted successful military enterprises in British history.

Gen. Kitchener is the youngest man of his rank in the British army. He has made no mistakes, and now has a perfectly equipped army of 25,000 men of all arms, 1,700 miles from the starting point, and ready to deliver the last crushing blow upon the enemy. There has been no fuss, and this fact has lulled foreign suspicion as to the aims of British policy in the Soudan.

WILL REMAIN.

If the French think about the matter at all they assume that Gen. Kitchener will clear out of the Soudan as soon as the dervishes are finally defeated. The assumption is unfounded, whatever the British Government may have said a year or two ago. The intention now is to keep the Soudan and ability—nay, the probability—of war with Abyssinia, despite King Menelek's newly-found friends in Paris and St. Petersburg. The purely British regiments will be gradually withdrawn from the Soudan, but Gen. Kitchener's Egyptians, transformed by him from spiritless peasants into real fighting men, and the Soudanese warriors, who have learned to worship their British officers, will remain to extend and complete the scheme of conquest. General Kitchener's flag, nominally Egyptian, will be taken to the borders of Uganda, there to get the British flag now upheld by a handful of Englishmen thousands of miles from civilization. It is a scheme to stir the imagination, yet it was born in prosaic Downing street.

MAY BE LAME FOR LIFE.

A Paris Doctor's Opinion of the Injury to the Prince of Wales' Leg.

A despatch from Paris, says:—The Matin has interviewed Dr. Lucas Championniere as to whether or not the Prince of Wales, in his opinion, will remain lame. Dr. Lucas Championniere admits he has only a British medical journal's account to go by, but says he fears the phrase in it, "The Prince may be able to walk with assistance, though the member may remain somewhat weak," really means that his Royal Highness will be lame all his life. Dr. Lucas Championniere does not appear to think the treatment followed with regard to the Prince quite modern. He thinks that across the channel, as in a great measure, in America, the treatment of a fracture of the knee-cap is too much bound by tradition and routine.

In general the doctor thinks that the Prince ought to have been operated upon, unless there are organic reasons against it.

TESTING THEIR RANGE.

Ethel—These are wonderful glasses! You can just see everything with them!

Jack—See if you can see that \$20 I lost on yesterday's yacht race.

PLUNGED DOWN 120 FEET.

TERRIBLE RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN WHICH SIX ARE KILLED.

The Colliery Coal Railway Bridge on the Upper Part of Vancouver Island Gives Way Under a Train.

A despatch from Vancouver says:—News of a terrible railway accident on the upper part of Vancouver Island was received here from Union on Wednesday afternoon. Details are meagre up to this time of writing, but it is definitely known that six people were killed outright and a number seriously injured. The accident occurred on the Union Colliery Coal Railway. A span of the Trent River bridge gave way when the first loaded train of twenty cars crossed at 8 a.m., plunging them and their human freight 120 feet into the river. Nine people were aboard at the time, five of these were killed, three seriously injured and one escaped without injury.

Following are the killed:—Alfred Walker, engineer. Alex. Maldo, brakeman. Wm. Work, train hand. Two Japs, names unknown.

Richard Nightingale of Nanaimo, who was working under the bridge at the time of the accident, was instantly killed, being pinned down in shallow water with a heavy car. Hugh Grant, wireman, had his leg broken and was otherwise badly injured. Three passengers from Victoria—T. Grant, Miss Horne and Miss Grieves—were seriously injured.

The accident is the most terrible of its kind ever experienced on the island. James Dunsuir, President of the road, with a relief party left by special steamer for the scene of the disaster.

A CARLIST RISING.

Insurrection to be Postponed Until the Troops Return From Cuba.

The London Daily Mail's Biarritz correspondent says:—"The troops sent in pursuit of the band of Carlists which appeared recently at Alcala de Chivers, in Valencia, failed to capture the members of the band owing to the complicity of the inhabitants, who are all Carlists, and feed and conceal the fugitives and give their pursuers false information. Many prominent Carlists have settled at Bayonne, Biarritz, and Saint Juan de Luz, close to the Spanish frontier, as many did previous to the last Carlist rising, their object being to establish easy contact with the petty local leaders in the Basque provinces and Navarre. Spanish detectives have been despatched by the Government to watch them. The fact that all letters from Don Carlos are now taken into Spain by couriers is regarded as proof that they contained orders to his followers, and therefore must not fall into the hands of the Government. Carlist recruiting agents in several parts of Spain are offering men two pesetas a day. A Carlist colonel has been arrested at Barcelona. Accounts sent to Spain by visitors to Don Carlos at Lucerne have occasioned the greatest alarm, and despite public declarations it is clear that everything is ready for a Carlist rising immediately upon the conclusion of the peace negotiations. It is believed that Don Carlos will wait until the army returns from Cuba before ordering an insurrection, as he hopes the Cuban army will return discontented and ripe for revolution. Carlist agents have been working in Cuba for months past.

A MIGHTY ARMAMENT.

Importance of the Increase of United States Navy as Regards the Far East.

A despatch from London says:—The morning papers comment upon the proposed immense increase in the American Navy.

The Standard says:—Such a fleet operating from Manila, as a base would be able to exercise considerable influence upon the progress of events in Chinese waters, and added to the English-China squadron and the Japanese navy would make a mighty armament indeed." The Standard suggests that this consideration may give Russia a pause.

The Daily Mail says:—"The new programme is startling in its immensity. The American navy jumps to fourth place among the world's fleets. It will not long remain, fourth, nor will it be long before the United States will have a policy in China."

TO BUILD THE NEW PACIFIC CABLE.

Australia Will Contribute Four-Ninths of the Cost if Canada and Great Britain Will Contribute the Balance.

A despatch from Sydney, N. S. W., says:—Right Hon. Sir Hugh Muir Nelson, Premier of Queensland; Right Hon. Sir George H. Reid, Premier of New South Wales; and Right Hon. Sir George Turner, Premier of Victoria met in conference on Saturday, and discussed the plans for a Pacific cable. They decided to make the definite offer that if Great Britain and Canada collectively would guarantee five-ninths of the cost of laying the new cable they would recommend to their respective Legislatures to contribute one-ninth each, asking New Zealand to contribute the remaining one-ninth.