

# 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.

The wages of Winnipeg policemen have been advanced.

Port Colborne harbour improvements will be commenced at an early date.

Ald. Matters and Ald. Wilson are candidates for the Winnipeg Mayoralty.

Kingston will seek legislation for the abolition of the ward system of electing aldermen.

The Hamilton Stock Yards Company has been given another year to complete its yards.

Track laying on the Manitoba South-eastern road is now within 90 miles south-east of Winnipeg.

The Kingston Locomotive Works wants a cash bonus of \$75,000 from that city to remain there.

Edward West was sentenced at Halifax on Thursday to 12 years imprisonment for plundering mail bags.

The St. Lawrence channel, between Montreal and Quebec, is being dredged to a depth of 29 feet in low water.

The Royal Trust Company, with a capital of \$500,000, to be increased next year to \$5,000,000, has been formed at Montreal with Lord Strathcona president.

A boom above Grand Forks, B. C., containing nearly two million logs, the property of the Granby Smelter Co., gave way, carrying with it a dam and two bridges.

Trinity Church, at St. John, N. B., was entered by safe-crackers, who blew open the safe in the vestry and stole \$45. They also did a lot of damage to the church property.

At a meeting of the Kingston Union of Carpenters it was decided that after January 1 next nine hours would constitute a day's work. The rate of wages will be fixed at a later meeting.

There is a possibility, when the trans-Siberian railway is completed in about a year, of a direct line of steamers being established between Vancouver and Vladivostok, the Pacific port of Siberia.

The smallpox epidemic which broke out in the four parishes of St. Paschal, Mount Carmel, St. Helen and St. Germain, Que., is now controlled, so that there is little danger of a further spread of the disease.

The carpenters of Hamilton are agitating for a return to the rate of wages which prevailed prior to the cut during the hard times. The old rate was \$2.25 a day, but for some time it has been \$1.75 and \$2.

Winnipeg has two of her boys with the British troops under Gen. White at the besieged town of Ladysmith. They are sons of the late Mr. Rice M. Howard, formerly inspector of offices for the Manitoba Government.

Hamilton City Council, realizing the need of additional water mains and also that the ratepayers will not sanction a by-law, will apply to the Legislature for special permission to issue debentures without a vote of the ratepayers.

Deputy game wardens and hunters from Muskoka and Parry Sound district report that most of the deer secured this year were shot in the water. They also report open violation of the close season fishing laws on Moon River.

The Canadian Department of Marine has forwarded to the British Government a handsome binocular glass, which has been awarded by the Dominion Government to Mr. J. Shekleton, master of the steamship Cento, of Liverpool, in recognition of his services to the shipwrecked crew of the brig Madelen, of Yarmouth, N. S., on March 20th last.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

The Earl of Yarmouth has been declared a bankrupt.

Dixon Kent, the noted English yacht designer, is dead at London.

The Duke of Portland has donated £10,000 to the Red Cross Society.

The wrecked British steamer Coquet, from Quebec for Sunderland, has been abandoned on Shetland Islands.

Dickens' manuscript of "Holiday Romance," 30 pages closely written, brought \$500 at auction in London on Tuesday.

The Scotch Oil Companies have issued a circular by which the price of all lubricating oils is raised 20 shillings per ton.

The preliminary trial of the turbine torpedo boat Viper took place Wednesday, and was successful. She developed a speed of 32 knots.

The Sutej, the first of four new armoured cruisers of the Cressy class, now building for the British Government, has been launched at Glasgow.

The Lakes of Killarney were "put up" at auction in Dublin on Thursday. The bidding reached \$255,000, but was not considered enough. The property will be sold privately.

It is the general impression that Lord Salisbury will not remain in office after the close of the war. His own health is far from robust, while this loss must certainly seriously affect his mental and physical powers. Already the matter of a successor is discussed, the choice lying between Mr. Chamberlain and Lord Rosebery, the majority of the old-fashioned Tories preferring the latter, who will

have also a strong Liberal as opposed to Radical backing.

### UNITED STATES.

The White Star and Atlantic Transport lines have increased passenger rates to Europe 50 per cent.

The mutilated bodies of a mother and her three children were found at their home on a farm near Williamsport, Pa.

Mrs. Evelyn Adams, author of the novel "Is Marriage a Failure?" died in New York on Tuesday in abject poverty.

American soldiers in the Philippines, discharged for bad conduct, are taking service under Aguinaldo as officers and leading attacks on their countrymen.

At Joplin, Mo., Miss Laura Heifley, a pretty young woman of 19, was arrested and placed in jail, charged with stealing a team of horses from Southwest City, Mo.

The Holland submarine torpedo boat at New York has attracted the attention of several foreign Embassies at Washington, and several naval attaches have visited the vessel.

After an absence of 30 years, James Edwards, whose home is now in Denver, returned to Philadelphia and discovered that his wife had been divorced from him and married to another man.

The safe of the Exchange Bank, of Brooklyn, Mich., was blown to atoms, early Tuesday morning, and between \$5,000 and \$6,000 was secured by three masked men who did the work.

Francis Bock, a jeweller, of Providence, R. I., and John Treholn and S. G. Taylor, of the Cunarder Etruria, are under arrest at New York for smuggling pearls—only \$50,000 worth.

Mrs. Jennie Siken, of Minneapolis, answered a summons at the front door of her residence, only to be shot down by an unknown man standing in the darkness outside. She cannot recover. The police are investigating.

The transfer by (Admiral Dewey to his wife of the residence in Washington presented to him, and Mrs. Dewey's subsequent transfer to the Admiral's son, George, has caused a great deal of annoyance to the subscribers.

At Topeka, Kansas, Elizabeth Hagerman, 79 years of age, has been granted a divorce from her husband, 81 years old. In her petition Mrs. Hagerman declared it was impossible for her to live happily with her husband, because he chews tobacco.

The identity of the man who committed suicide by jumping over Niagara Falls Monday has undoubtedly been established. Rev. A. Wickham, pastor of the Baptist church at Ivesia, Cattaraugus county, has been issuing since Sunday morning last, and a description of the minister tallies exactly with that of the suicide.

The United States Secretary of the Treasury has decided that Canadian cattle or sheep may be shipped through the United States for exportation from Philadelphia, Baltimore and Newport News, as well as from Portland, Boston and New York, until now the ports of exportation of Canadian cattle and sheep have been limited to the last three ports.

The Willingham bill, providing for State prohibition in Georgia was passed by the House of Representatives after the most exciting debate the House has known in years. If the bill passes the Senate and becomes a law, it means the annihilation of the saloons. Every plant for the brewing of beer or the manufacture of whiskey must be closed. It will not interfere with banquets or private entertainments, but the law will not allow any club to sell or keep for the use of members intoxicating liquors, beers or wines.

### GENERAL.

The Neva river and two canals are on the rampage, causing great alarm in St. Petersburg.

The Sultan is demanding the suppression of foreign post-offices in Turkey.

Seventeen schooners were driven ashore on the coast of Newfoundland during the recent gales, and all were wrecked.

A special despatch from Vienna reiterates the report which was denied last week, that the Russians had occupied Herat.

Aguinaldo, Filipino leader, says he will repay the \$30,000,000 which the United States paid to Spain for the Philippines, to be allowed to establish a republic.

Half a dozen stalwart constables, members of the Shropshire Constabulary, had, according to their weekly custom, travelled from Market Drayton to Whitchurch for the purpose of taking part in a drill exercise, and were returning home in a brake drawn by a single horse. On turning a bend in the road near Blechley both the party and the horse were somewhat alarmed to meet a gigantic elephant quietly coming along in the opposite direction, apparently without anyone in charge. The horse naturally became restive, and endeavored to pull the conveyance into the fence while the occupants tried to escape as quickly as they could. Fortunately no injury was sustained by any of the party. It seems that the elephant, who refused to be entrained at London recently, is making his journey to Liverpool by road, and was walking calmly on while his coloured attendant refreshed at the village tavern.

Is Perkins an honest man? asked Fangle.

Indeed he is, replied Gazzam. There isn't a man in the office who would refuse to lend him an umbrella.

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## Agricultural

### GRASS IN ORCHARDS.

It is customary among the farmers who set out orchards of young fruit trees to cultivate them pretty thoroughly while small, generally planting corn or potatoes as often as possible, as these afford opportunities for cultivating the surface most of the growing season. But as the trees grow larger the apparent profit from cropping the young orchard lessens very rapidly. Under the shade of trees in full leaf neither corn nor potatoes will do their best. Usually the orchard is cropped with grain between the hoed crops, and it is sometimes seeded with clover or with the grasses. This is always a severe check to the young trees. It often starts them to bearing, the check to growth being nearly always accompanied by the formation of fruit buds. So soon as the trees get to bearing, most farmers give up cropping the orchard, and if not seeded before, it is at once seeded with both clover and grass. But if the grass is continued year after year the sod becomes impenetrable by air or water, and its roots exhaust the surface soil, which is always the richest. The tree soon becomes unfruitful, and unless manure is brought to the orchard to fertilize it, the tree will die before it has borne half the fruit it should have given under better treatment.

There is, however, one way to keep orchards in grass that does not lessen their productivity. That is to have the trees so low that the shade of the branches with a very slight mulch of manure will keep the grass from growing too rampant, and will also loosen the soil beneath, so that it will be easily permeable by rains and melting snows. The low-trained orchard will also be better protected by snow than the orchard whose trunks are trained high with nothing near the ground to prevent the winter winds from sweeping the snow away. But the trunks of such trees should be banked up with earth in the fall so as to prevent mice from gnawing the bark and thus destroying the tree. Neither should grass or mulch be allowed to lie under the trees in winter, as this makes just the kind of harbor that mice like. If the limbs hang low some of them will be weighed down by snow, and the tender bark on the small branches will suffer, but this is better than leaving the mice to eat the bark around the trunk as they will often do, thus destroying it entirely.

### KEEPING GOOD STOCK.

The practice of reducing the stock in the fall of the year, "weeding" out the poor animals, as it is called, has two sides to it which may be worth considering. Poor stock sold in the fall of the year simply to save the expense of feeding them through the winter, when cost of food is high, invariably prove a loss to the owners. Prices are usually low for such stock at any time, and especially in the fall. Everybody else is weeding out, too, and the only market for them is the butchers. It would be much more to the purpose to recommend early in the fall or late in summer to weed out the poor animals that it will not pay to winter, and make extra exertions to feed them up to a standard which will make them sell for a decent price. There is hardly an animal, no matter how poor and inferior, which cannot be fattened with judicious care so that it will sell for a fair price. The lean, cadaverous sides, the scrawny hair and the half-starved appearance of the animal can all be changed for the better. Shut the animals up in some clean, healthy pen, where they cannot exercise much, feed them systematically on fattening food, water them as they need it, and even curry down their rough coats occasionally.

This treatment followed up carefully for a month or six weeks will add a good many dollars to the value of the animal. If we have that scrub stock in the fall of the year that we conclude will not pay to winter, it is much better to adopt this course of treatment than to hurry them away at once to the butchers, being forced then to accept almost any price that is offered.

At other times of the year when the markets are good another temptation induces some to injure the herd by selling off the best animals because they will bring the highest prices. Now, manifestly if we sell off the best each year the herd is going to degenerate rapidly, and in spite of the introduction of new blood it will be hard work to keep up the standard of the herd. The best policy is to retain the finest animals on the farm for breeding purposes, and sell the next best in times when prices are high, and fatten the scrub and inferior animals for market whenever the season is promising. As a rule these do not improve much anyway, and it is often better to fatten them for the market as soon as possible. But by keeping the very best of our herds on the farm, we advance rather than reduce the standard of the herd.

### FARM TOPICS.

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Skim milk in moderate quantities has often been fed to young colts after weaning, with good results. If the colt has been well cared for up to weaning time, feeding milk is hardly ever necessary.

Plenty of fresh air is essential for hogs as well as other animals. This is more often neglected in case of hog houses than buildings designed for other farm stock. The best success cannot be obtained unless this injunction is strictly observed.

If that sow of yours is a good breeder and milker, do not on any account fatten her to save winter feed. She can live on very little all through the winter. There can be no better investment than such a sow. Stay with it if it is good money you are after.

The advantage of growing improved stock does not lie merely in its better adaptation to the wants of the market, and to the fact that it will respond more promptly and continuously to feed; the early age at which it matures is one of the sources of profit to its owner.

One of the surest indications of thrift upon a farm to-day is a well kept manure pile. It is necessary that the fertility of our farms be maintained, to a large extent, from sources that are inexpensive. Neglect to appreciate this causes losses, which though unappreciated, are large, and materially reduce the net income of the farm.

### A BOER COURTSHIP.

"While here," said a traveler in the Transvaal, "I saw how the Boers courtship. The girl was the daughter of my employer. The young man dashed up to the house on horseback, wearing new clothes, with an ostrich feather in his hat. He made his fine horse prance and caper before the house ere he descended. Then he gave the lines to one of the Hottentots standing near, and walked up and down in front of the windows of the house well knowing that the eyes of his sweetheart were peeping through the blinds at him. Then he strutted into the house and first shook hands with 'Tante,' the mother, and said 'Guten tag,' good day. The same he did with 'Oom,' the father, and then at last spoke to the girl and her sisters and brothers.

"Oom said only 'sit,' take a seat, and then there was complete silence which lasted until the bowl of coffee was brought in. Then each in turn spoke a few words. 'Oom' asked how everything was at 'the huis,' home, and then we heard all about the health of each one in the family, how the cattle and the crops were doing, etc. All the time we were drinking coffee. At last the suitor rose and handed his chosen bride the 'Lachergoot,' confectionery, which she, blushing and laughing, accepted.

"This was the critical moment, for if she had refused the gift that would have ended the courtship. Now there was gayer talk, until all but the two left the room for it was the right of the suitor to remain in the front room along with her of his choice. But so that he should not stay too long, 'Tante,' according to custom, stepped up to the wax candle and made a mark on it with a needle, saying that the visit might last until the candle burnt thus far. This was a command that the most lovesick swain dare not disregard."

### TEA IN RUSSIA.

The Russians drink enormous quantities of tea. The poor people—and the Russian people are the poorest in existence—use the so-called "brick" tea. This is the cheapest sort, being mixed with the stems, and compressed by some adhesive gum into dry cakes of various sizes, resembling in its appearance "plug" tobacco. This tea, which would probably prove poisonous to any one else, is consumed by the Russian workman at the average rate of about 20 stakan, or tumblers, a day, the Russian stakan being equal to five of the little thimbles of cups used at afternoon teas. Taking into consideration that black, sour or bitter, brick-like bread, raw onions, garlic, dried leather fish and strongly salted herrings are usually the chief articles of food of the people at large, one must not wonder at the enormous quantity of hot tea needed to quench a Russian's thirst and help on his digestion.

### THE NEW WALK.

Parisian women have come to adjust their mode of walking to the present exigencies of dress. Their gait is slow, with very short steps, although there is a sort of prancing step accompanying it. A skirt that rests on the ground, back and front, is scarcely suited to walking, nor indeed to any exercise. It is the divine Sara, without a doubt, who is responsible for this present swaddling arrangement of clothing, she having affected such gawking for years. And her marvelous management of the long, trailing garment, clinging all about her feet, and her grace of movement despite, has won every woman's admiration, so much so perhaps that they seem to have eagerly thrown themselves into the maze of the difficulty though becoming mode of prancing.

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## IN MERRY OLD ENGLAND

### THE DOINGS OF THE ENGLISH PEOPLE REPORTED BY MAIL.

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

Among the graduates "capped" at the graduation ceremony in connection with Edinburgh University, was Carel Hendrick Kruger, nephew of President Kruger.

The Barmouth Urban Council has accepted Miss Frances Power Cobbe's offer to present her library to the town: if a suitable building were provided for its accommodation.

Several of the Burton brewers have enjoyed a record output during the past week. On one day Allsopp's despatched no less than 5,000 barrels to various parts of the country, in addition to 7,000 dozen of bottled ales and stouts.

Workmen constructing a sewer in Salisbury road, Plymouth, exposed a quantity of human remains, which are believed to be those of the victims in the encounter between Royalists and Roundheads which took place near the spot.

The death has just taken place of Mrs. Lachlan, better known as Rosie Maxwell, Miss Braddon's daughter. Tall, fair, and pale, she riveted attention in the largest crowd. At the time she was laid aside by her fatal illness she was doing some very clever journalistic work.

Considerable interest was caused by the passage through the Strand, London, of three couples of dwarfs. The tallest of them was not more than three feet high and all were apparently of middle age. They were fashionably attired, and were accompanied by two ladies of ordinary stature.

Mushrooms are growing in the roadway of Allardyce street, a public thoroughfare, five minutes' walk from Brixton Station, London. It is a well known fact that mushrooms will grow almost anywhere, but this is the first instance of any having been found flourishing in a London gutter.

During his presidential address to the British Medical Association, Dr. J. Ward Cousins mentioned that it had recently been stated by a French observer that fleas were dangerous disseminators of the bubonic plague. As the result of a series of experiments, that observer affirmed that fleas taken from rats suffering from plague could communicate the disease to healthy rats, which, in their turn, became centres of infection.

There is a woman in the Wandsworth Infirmary who is in her 109th year. She was admitted when she was 98, and has been ten years in bed.

One who saw her says:—"I never saw such furrows and wrinkles—time seemed to have literally carved them into her face. She was in the possession of all her faculties. Her last words to me as I left the ward were that 'if she could ever get up again she meant to get married at once.'"

Professor Oyston, of Aberdeen University, read a paper at the conference of the British Medical Association on the medical services of the army and navy. He said the most talented graduates had ceased to aspire to enter the services. Everything on board ship that could destroy life was in the highest perfection; everything that could save it was of the rudest description. He suggested that every fleet should be provided with fast unarmed steamers flying the Red Cross flag, fitted to in every way imitate the best civil hospitals.

It has been suggested in Glasgow that a relief fund should be started in aid of the victims of Dr. Colquhoun. A large proportion of those who will suffer by his defalcations are entirely dependent upon the interest received from the money lodged with Dr. Colquhoun, and some of them are past work. It is stated that one of Dr. Colquhoun's best clients formerly entrusted his legal business to another lawyer, but in his zeal for the cause of temperance he transferred it to Dr. Colquhoun, because the other lawyer was not a staunch teetotaler, and Colquhoun was one of the most pronounced opponents of alcoholic liquor.

Jersey might be aptly named the "land of the new potato." It is amazing to hear of the many thousands of tons of new potatoes that have been shipped this season, and now tomatoes follow. The island is in a fine state of cultivation, but owing to the high rents and the growing competition from France in English markets, the Jersey cultivators are not prospering. The rent for land runs as high as £14 and £15 an acre per year—the purchase price, in fact, of freehold land in some parts of England. French people come over from their native land, and by dint of great toil and frugality endeavor to make both ends meet under this high rental. There is, indeed, a French life that adds to its picturesqueness of English eyes.

THIS IS NO DREAM.

Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,

And waste its fragrance on the desert air;

Full many a girl has made a man turn green

By showering kisses on another girl as fair.