

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.

It is expected that railway labor will be in demand in the northwest this summer at good wages.

The London street railway management is considering a plan to provide seats for the motormen.

It is reported in Quebec that a large hotel is to be built shortly in the heart of St. Roch.

A shipment of Crow's Nest Pass coal taken to Esquimaux for a test by the navy is said to be smokeless.

Lord Strathcona has donated \$1,000 towards the payment of the debt on Christ's Church, Winnipeg.

London wants a new drill shed, and will send a strong deputation to Ottawa to press the matter on the Government.

Postoffice Inspector Burnham of Toronto will shortly be superannuated owing to the unsatisfactory condition of his health.

It is reported that the Belleville electric railway has been sold for \$85,000, and that the line will be extended in many directions.

The Brandon City Council has decided to ask the Manitoba Government to guarantee for fifty years the interest on Brandon's bonds, amounting to \$500,000.

The Kingston Penitentiary will be equipped with a printing press, and all the report forms and binder twine tags will be printed in the institution.

It is rumored that a large paper mill will be established near Ottawa by a syndicate of New York Publishers, who are feeling the oppression of the American paper trust.

Col. Hercher, commander of the Northwest Mounted Police, has arrived in Ottawa with his annual visit in connection with the affairs of the force. He wants more men.

The Government's lease of the historic Plains of Abraham at Quebec expires in 1901, and if the lease be not renewed the land will be sub-divided into lots and will be sold for building purposes.

In the forthcoming edition of the postal guide it will be stated that the class of mail matter hitherto known as fourth class has been done away with, and that the former fifth class will in future be the fourth.

At Dundas, while Steven Clark was working on his lathe the tool caught his left hand in such a way as to draw out the cord, from the elbow to the tip of the little finger, and wind it around the arm.

The Canadian Atlantic workshops in Ottawa are to be operated by electricity generated at the Chaudiere Falls. A contract has been closed between Mr. J. R. Booth and the Canadian General Electric Co. for the appliances.

It is proposed to close the Royal Military College in the second week in June, so that the cadets in the two senior classes may be able to join camps of instruction as subalterns. The College will open a week earlier in September.

As a result of the analysis made of samples of quinine wine and tincture and Hamilton purchased from London and Hamilton druggists, Chief Analyst MacFarlane recommends that the vendors be prosecuted for selling adulterated preparations.

Mary Doran, of the Union Hotel, Guelph, was fined \$10 and costs for selling liquor to John F. Redwood, son of John Redwood, while he was in a drunken condition. The father had notified the hotelkeepers not to sell liquor to his son.

The following articles have been placed on the Canadian free list by an order-in-council: Safety bats and tannin to be used exclusively in the tanning of leathers in their own tanneries; cotton yarn, polished or glossed, when imported by manufacturers of show laces.

The Montreal City Council will consider the remarks made by Mr. Fysher, manager of the Merchants' Bank, before the Legislative Council, that the condition of affairs in Montreal was astonishing, and it would have to stop. The end could only be decadence and perdition. "I have been told that a large proportion of them are bribable, have accepted bribes. Of course, we live in a democratic age, and we cannot protect ourselves."

GREAT BRITAIN.

It is reported in London that Mr. Kipling is to be made a Peer.

Mr. Choate, the United States Ambassador, is being lionized in London.

Sir Edward Fry, formerly a Lord Justice of Appeal, is suggested as the successor of Lord Herschell as British representative on the Joint High Commission.

During February, the emigrations to Canada consisted of 594 English, 43 Scotch, 30 Irish and 7 foreign. Those who emigrated to Cape Colony numbered 1,640 and to Australia 802.

It is said that the Duke of York will not be given his promised command until early next year, when he will hoist his flag on the Crescent as Commander-in-Chief of the Australian station.

Mr. John Henniker Heaton, who inaugurated the chess match played by cable between members of the House of Commons and the United States House of Representatives in 1897, is

arranging another international tournament between the two Houses.

Vice-Admiral Philips Howard Colont, lecturing in London on the Spanish-American war, said that hereafter secrecy in war was impossible, owing to the vigilance of the newspapers, also that the United States victory would not have been so easy if Spain's equipment had been up-to-date.

Four thousand Welsh settlers in the Argentine Republic are sending home bitter complaints about their treatment in that country. Delegates are now in London and efforts are being made to convince them of the advantages of removal to the Canadian Northwest.

The British Railway Association have arranged to send five prominent railway officials to the United States to investigate the facts upon which the Government bases the bill compelling the adoption of automatic couplings, the measure which would give the Board of Trade power five years from its adoption to compel British railroads to supply the whole of their rolling stock with this device, at an estimated cost of \$10,000,000.

UNITED STATES.

Governor Smith, of Montana, has vetoed the bill passed by the late Legislature legalizing boxing contests.

The citizens of Fort Wrangel, Alaska are drawing up a petition for the cessation of their town to Canada.

Mrs. Catherine Murray committed suicide in New York, because one of her daughters married a bartender.

Zei R. Carter, former president of the Chicago Board of Trade, is the Republican nominee for Mayor of Chicago.

Despatches from the Middle, Eastern and Southern States indicate that the usual spring freshets are in full blast.

At Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Adeline Harvey, 14 years old, was arraigned on a charge of trying to kill her father by mixing poison in his food. She pleaded guilty.

Austin Bidwell, one of the men who by means of forged securities in 1873 got \$5,000,000 from the Bank of England, after victimizing other banks in Europe, died at Butte, Mont.

At a meeting of the manufacturers of worsteds in New York, on Friday it was decided to combine their interests and formed the American Woolen Company, with a capital stock of \$50,000,000.

Twelve hundred men employed on Alaska's first railroad, the White Pass and Yukon, have gone on strike because the company cut wages from 35 to 30 cents an hour, and added another hour to the day's work.

Homan Walsh died in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Wednesday. It was he who flew a kite across the Niagara gorge. The kite string was followed by a heavier cord, that was followed by ropes, and the ropes by cables out of which grew the first suspension bridge.

The 10th Immunes colored, were mustered out at Macon, Georgia, on Wednesday, and on their journey home amused themselves by shooting promiscuously from the train. It is reported that school children and others were wounded by the drunken, brawling ex-soldiers.

GENERAL.

Famine is prevalent in many of the districts of British East Africa.

A vast quantity of rock, overhanging the Village of Rucaerja, near Albacete, Spain, fell, destroying many houses and killing eleven people.

Admiral Von Diederichs has been recalled from the command of the Asiatic squadron of Germany, virtually in disgrace for his lack of tact at Manila.

All Finnish postage stamps will be withdrawn by the Russian Government at the end of the year and the ordinary Russian stamps will come into use.

Albanian Musulmans and Turkish troops engaged in a fierce battle in Northern Macedonia recently. Several hundreds are reported to have been killed on each side.

Trieste is in an absolute panic over the fact that race hatred in that region has taken the peculiar and malignant form of circulating explosive cigarets.

The Porte has ordered the Provincial Governments to close some of the orphanages supported by British and United States funds for the benefit of the Armenians.

A carboy of benzene exploded in a third-class railway car on the line to Dvinsk, south of St. Petersburg. Six women and a man were killed and 16 others were injured.

Le Figaro states that a service of pigeons between the French transatlantic liners and the shore will be inaugurated this month, and that almost constant communication between the steamers and the land is henceforth insured.

Two months ago President Faure received a French missionary named Vienot, and during their conversation M. Faure said he believed that Dreyfus was innocent, but it would be hard to release him now, as it would cause the ruin of so many important men.

NOT LIKE HIS MOTHER'S.

I know, pleaded the little bride humbly that I make a good many grammatical errors.

They are nothing said the young husband, to those mother used to make.

CHEMISTRY KINDERGARTENS.

Bobby—If oxygen what oxen breathes all day?

Papa—Of course, and what everything else breathes.

Bobby—And is nitrogen what every one breathes at night?

Agricultural

BUTTER MAKING ON THE FARM.

The creamery method of making butter is decidedly the best for creamery practice. The old style dairy method is not the best for home use, neither is the creamery method, unless enough is made to warrant putting in a full line of machinery and also pay for the time required. A modification of the creamery method to suit actual conditions is what is really needed. A small churning must be done with but a small expenditure of time and labor, or there will be no profit. Suppose the amount churned at once is but 12 to 25 lbs.

The following is confidently recommended as the simplest and easiest way that has proved satisfactory: Use a barrel or box churn and churn until the butter granules are as large as grains of wheat. Then dash in cold water, in quantity about equal to the cream put into the churn. Revolve the churn rapidly a few times, then draw off the buttermilk. Fill the churn nearly full with cold water, and revolve swiftly until the butter granules are firm to the touch. In most cases the butter will now be ready for salting, but in winter the butter may be too firm, and the remedy is to add some warmer water, not hot, and soften it so it will adhere when pressed together. Now scatter fine dairy salt on top of the butter in the churn, and then revolve a few times very slowly to mix the salt with the butter. Let it stand 15 minutes or more, and then revolve the churn and let the butter firm in a mass. Press the butter down firm with a "tamper," in shape like a potato masher, turn it over and set "on edge" with a ladle and press down again. The butter is now finished and ready for packing or printing.

This has the advantages of the "granular" method of the creamery, it is also washed practically the same as in the creamery, and the "finish" is the same as when the modern combined-machine is used in the creamery. The great advantages are the saving of labor and time, no exposure to the air, as it is not taken from the churn until it is finished, and no danger of over-working because it is not worked. The buttermilk is washed out and the butter then merely pressed together with the grain unjured. Where the churning is larger than 25 lbs. a butter worker is a convenience, if not a necessity, unless the combined machine is used. If salted on the worker, less salt is required than when salted in the churn. The usual proportion is one ounce of salt to one pound of butter, but when salted in the churn more salt should be used as the butter will not be drained so free from moisture, and the salting is naturally done sooner, as there are no intermediate steps and therefore it does not stand to drain dry.

In summer, churn early in the morning. The churning and the milking should be done at the same time. As the milkers come with milk to strain, they notice how churning progresses, and stop the churn when the butter comes. It is something that most people do not know—when a churn should be stopped—but nothing that anyone with fair, common sense cannot and should not learn. There is a "chink" that is soon learned by the ear, and until it is learned the churn can be stopped and the learner see how the work is progressing. Butter dealers report that the most of the farm-made butter is of poor quality and that it is over-churned, over-worked and spoiled by too much fussing and grinding. I avoid all this in the way described, and find that farm-made butter, made as explained, sells as creamery butter in market, and even better than "common" creamery butter.

A COMPLETE COMPOST.

First put down a layer of vegetable matter, such as farmyard manure, night soil, hen manure, refuse from the vegetable and fruit piles, scrapings from the woodpile, rubbish from the garden in fact anything and everything in the shape of litter. Make the layer 10 ft. wide by 20 ft. long, and six inches deep. Over this sprinkle 15 lbs potash, dissolved in five or six gallons of water which will turn into a jelly. Then over this scatter evenly one or two barrels of unslaked lime and cover the whole evenly with two in. of fine earth, the finer the better. Repeat this as often as you have enough matter to make a layer, as above described.

When the pile is three to four feet high, put on enough water to slake the lime, and thoroughly saturate the whole mixture, but not enough to wash or leach it, as that would carry away the best of the fertilizer. The water will cause the potash and lime to produce a powerful heat, and a very sudden decomposition of all vegetable matter. This amount of material will make one load of fertilizer worth three or four of common barnyard manure. Besides it will come out as fine as ashes, and consequently be very easily handled. The compost can be made without potash and lime, but not without the water. It will not be as rich in plant food without the lime and

potash, nor nearly as well balanced chemically. The potash may be obtained from the crude potash, or two barrels of good hard wood ashes evenly spread over each layer, instead of the 15 lbs of potash, will be just as good. It is one of the best and cheapest fertilizers. Anything and everything can be put into it even to a dead horse, ox, horns, hoots, old rags and the scrapings from the woodpile, simply by adding more potash to the last named matters, and it will all be converted into a splendid fertilizer.

The wash suds and the slops from the chambers pile, or can be thrown on as made, as they will increase the value of the manure. The liquid manure from the stable should not be allowed to go to waste, but all put into the compost heap, so that nothing be lost.

SHEEP NEED DRY BEDDING.

Many people who keep sheep under sheds on an earthen floor in cold weather make the mistake of not providing bedding enough, thinking that it will interfere with properly packing the manure which is trodden into a hard mass by them. But a little dry straw should be scattered over the floor at night and it will be none the worse if it is the refuse of what the sheep have picked over during the day. Even the fattening sheep will eat some straw each day as a change of food, and it will select the upper part of the stalk near the head. Cat straw is the best for this purpose. The sheep is very impatient of wet, and besides, it is injurious to the wool to have it soiled by manure. If the ends of the wool are closed by the filth this stops its growth, just as it does on the tags, which even after they have been secured are not worth as much as clean wool from other parts of the body.

LONDON'S DEADLY FOG.

An Engineer's Plan for Relieving the City of Its Black Pall.

Mr. B. H. Thwaite, C.E., F.C.S., author of a number of books on sociological questions, has been studying the smoke problem in London, and proposes a novel remedy.

Mr. Thwaite says, that, naturally, the London atmosphere is as clear and pure, and often as bright, as that of Paris. This, he says, is easily shown at night or at early morning, before fires are alight. Unhappily, this desirable condition is destroyed by the fall of smoke that follows London's awakening.

The deprivation of comfort, and the ruin of works of art, by London's smoke plague is a small part of Mr. Thwaite's indictment against this ever-present evil.

"No plague," says he, "no contagion has a more destructive influence on the well-being and stability of men's lives than the smoke-laden fog of London."

The average weekly rate of mortality during the prevalence of fogs is increased nearly two-fold, Mr. Thwaite declares, and the deaths traceable to diseases of

THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS

are more than doubled. In persons of advanced age this rate is increased to an alarming degree.

A few years ago a fortnight's heavy fog in London brought the death-rate to forty per thousand, a rate equal to the great cholera year. The death record of a single day of fog in London may be estimated at between 170 to 200. A railway accident or other disaster that would produce such mortality Mr. Thwaite, truly says, would raise an outcry that would be heard throughout the kingdom.

Not only does an ordinary London fog sweep away each day the population of an English village, but its effect upon the moral stamina of the people is declared to be more appalling. In fact, Mr. Thwaite charges fogs with being the cause of most of the crimes and misery of the city. He contends that the increase in the cases of drunkenness during foggy days substantiate this statement.

The almost daily fog that hangs over London weighs, according to scientific investigators, 300 tons, composed of fifty tons of carbon, and 250 tons of hydro-carbon. The value of these commodities is estimated at £2,600,000.

The solution of the problem that Mr. Thwaite suggests is to supply London with gas generated in the coalfields of South Wales, South Yorkshire, and Staffordshire.

LONDON CONSUMES

12,000,000 tons of coal a year. In transporting this there is probably a loss of 60,000 tons, equal to £45,000. The cost of transportation by rail is estimated at £2,780,000, and by sea £1,566,000. The profits of various merchants, middlemen, and carters, and the loss in nitrogenous and other constituents of the coal, bring London's annual coal bill up to £9,500,000.

All this, Mr. Thwaite argues, would be saved by the erection of gas-generating plants in the coal districts, and the carrying of gas by pipes to London.

HAD NO INTEREST IN SAVING IT.

Hostess, at party—Does your mother allow you to have two pieces of pie when you are at home, Willie?

Willie, who has asked for a second piece—No, ma'am, up to £9,500,000.

Well, do you think she'd like you to have two pieces here?

Oh, confidently, she wouldn't care. This isn't her pie!

OLD EASTER CUSTOMS.

Easter, the great festival of joy and gladness, has had an unusual number of quaint customs and traditions attached to it. Whether they were serious or playful, however, there runs through all of them a thread-like suggestion of the great truth they celebrate.

For many hundreds of years eggs have been made the means of furnishing customs, at Eastertide. In our own time they are sure to make an important dish for breakfast on Easter Sunday. Beautifully colored eggs are prized by the young people and kept for several days to remind them of the festival just passed, but we no longer have the egg games, egg battles, and the wholesale giving and receiving of eggs that distinguished Easter holidays of the past.

In Catholic countries no eggs were eaten during Lent, but on the last day of that season the head of every house sent a large basin of eggs to the priest to be blessed. On Easter Day these eggs were distributed far and wide among the friends and relatives of the family. Each visitor to the house would receive an egg as a token appropriate to the day, and give one in return. Kisses often accompanied the giving of the egg. The master of the house received the salutation on his hand, and his wife upon her cheek. This custom prevailed in Russia until a short time ago. One old English custom was that any youth who got a hare before breakfast on Easter and took it to the vicar of the parish was entitled to a hundred eggs in return for the animal. History does not say for how many hares the vicar was obliged to pay a hundred eggs each. The supposition was that a hare was hard to catch so early in the day, and that the vicar was, therefore, in no very great danger of being bankrupt in eggs. Valuable auxiliaries for St. Valentine were found in eggs decorated with hearts, cupids, love darts, and lovers' knots, which were sent on Easter to the maidens who inspired them. A favorite German custom was the presenting of prints, emblematical of Easter. One of these represented three hens, holding a basket containing three eggs, which were ornamented with illustrations of the resurrection. The centre egg had the chalice of Faith, while the others bore the emblems of Hope and Charity.

On Easter Monday crowds of boys would meet in the street and have an egg battle. Every one armed with a hard-boiled egg, would pit it against those of his comrades. The one whose egg held out the longest with an unbroken shell gathered in all the broken ones as the spoils of war.

Out of the desire for Easter celebrations grew some ridiculous customs, which died out quite naturally as refinement and culture advanced. Among these was one called "heaving" or "lifting." On Easter Monday, the men went about in twos or threes, carrying a large arm-chair, into which they invited or forced any woman they met to sit, while they lifted her up three times. On paying a small fee the woman could escape, but not without. On Tuesday the compliment was returned, the women being quite as zealous as the men and determined to pay back the score. It would seem that this custom belonged only to the lower classes, but it was not so, as King Edward IV. was one Easter. Tuesday threatened with "heaving" and escaped only by paying four hundred pounds. The idea that lifting was an appropriate ceremony for Easter also obtained in Italy, however, not as a prank, but as a dignity. The Pope, who officiated at St. Peter's on Easter, was always carried there that day in a chair elevated on the shoulders of servants.

In olden times the Irish would rise at midnight and watch for the Easter dawn, there being a superstition that the sun danced for joy on that day, and whoever saw it would not want good luck the rest of the year.

Many worthy charities were exercised during Easter week. One particularly was the distribution of bread and cheese to the poor. This charity was supported regularly by the revenue from lands called on account of it, bread-and-cheese lands. The custom dates back so far that it is not positively known by whom the lands were given and dedicated to the purpose.

In old England Easter week was a time of much feasting and good cheer, being given over to pleasures of the festive board, and games, such as archery and football, very different from the modern game, and minstrelsy. Among the dishes considered especially appropriate to Easter was tansy-pudding, which seems to have been as much a part of an Easter dinner as plum-pudding is now of the Christmas meal.

Flowers, beautiful emblems of Easter have always been used in profusion on that day. They filled great empty fireplaces where the logs had been allowed to die out, thus symbolizing the triumph of life over death.

In Spain, great pageants, led by a mock king, moved through the streets. Upon one occasion Charles V. met the Easter king crowned with a tin crown, and proudly waving a spit as a truncheon. "A greeting," said King Charles. "I wish you joy in your new office. You will find it a troublesome one, I assure you."

Easter in the simple Tyrol was truly characteristic of that country. Bands of singers with flowery wreaths on their broad-rimmed hats, and guitars in their hands went from one village to another singing hymns. In return for this entertainment the villagers gave them refreshment of wine and sweetcakes. At night the singers formed processions, carrying torches to light their way.