TIMELY NOTES ON TOPICS CONNECTED WITH Silver Fox Farming

One of our Islanders who is now a permanent citizen of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Mr A. M. Doyle, B.A., LL.B., is visiting the haunts of his boyhood and looking in on a multitude of friends made when he lived here, who are greatly pleased to see him. Dr. Doyle is accompanied by his son, J. Leo, who recently received his discharge from the Navy in which he served three years as a wireless operator and saw a great deal of the world.

Our first recollection of Art Doyle was one afternoon many years ago when I attended an Abegweit football practice at Victoria Park in which some students from Prince of Wales College joined. A thickset, splendidly built young runner with a shock of reddish hair was passed the ball and dodged through quite a number of the opposing forces and scored a try. Art then and there served notice that he possessed athletic ability of no mean order and I am confident that had he trained for running he would have been a Maritime champion, but instead he settled down to teaching school and after a few years of that worthy occupation in which he helped in the developments of many good students and earned the title of a first class school master he decided to follow Horace Greeley's advice— "Go west, young man"—and Winnipeg became his permanent home.

There he studied and secured his B.A., LL.B., degrees and around 1919 started a fox ranch in partnership with Jack Lee of the same city. Their venture was a success from the start but Arthur, who was a keen student of breeding, decided to buy even better breeding stock so visited the first fox show ever held in Canada, at Montreal in the fall of 1920. He persuaded the judges, one of whom was W Chester S. McLure, to allow him to watch them at their work and in that way picked up many pointers. He saw that the Tom Hamill foxes, which were pure Dalton, were of especially good quality and there and then made a deal with Mr. Hamill for ten pairs which included most of the show winners Mr. Hamill had in Montreal. Among these was Queen Sybil, the champion female of the show. From her and other good breeding stock he developed one of the best, if not the best, herds in western Canada and in a few years was one of the largest show winners.

Ever on the alert to pick up good ones he made it a practice to go each year to the Royal Winter Fair fox show and we distinctly remember him offering us $1,500 00 for a fox pup which we had sold a few minutes before to Bill Rutaven. As a matter of fact we did not intend to sell that pup but thought Bill was merely showing curiosity when he asked the price. However, when we said $1,000.00 out came his cheque book and the sale was made. That fox together with others he purchased from George A. Callbeck at the same show, became the nucleus of some of the best produced in the Ruthven ranch.

TAKE TWO TIMELY NOTES ON .....

Getting back to Mr. Doyle we may say that although not securing that fox he bought several other prize winners from us and other parties and each year wherever he would hear of good types he endeavored to add them to the All Star ranch. So successful were Messrs. Doyle and Lee in their operations and so widely known were their foxes that people came from the United States and purchased from them. That led them to establish a ranch in California near Bert Avery's and incredible though it may seem it was a success although far away from their basic ranch. Eventually Mr. Lee decided that the climate of California suited him better than the cold Canadian winters and a division of the All Star properties resulted with Mr. Doyle taking over the Winnipeg ranch and Mr. Lee the California.

In the early 1930's mink were added and a good strain has been built up including the newer types. This addition has helped out considerably in revenue when silver foxes slumped and in the last few years particularly has been a real help. When white marked foxes came into vogue Mr. Doyle was quick to see that they were beautiful and would be in demand, so added all the best of that strain. He did the same with platinums and Greenland blue foxes and now as a consequence the All Star ranch produces silvers of all types, pearl platinums, white faces, LaForest and Norwegian platinums and Greenland blues in foxes as well as the regular types of mink and the new mutations. At the Manitoba pelt show held last December the All Star ranch made the greatest showing that has ever been made by any ranch in the history of that Province. It was really astounding and a tribute to the versatility of the management and their forethought in keeping abreast of the times and also to the splendid caretakers who looked after the animals so well.

On Saturday Mr. Doyle with local directors of the Canadian National Silver Fox Breeders' Association leave for Toronto where the annual meeting will be held at the Royal York Hotel on Tuesday, June 18th. Other directors will be present from all parts of Canada and matters connected with the Association as well as of foxes and fur farming will be discussed and a new president and other officers elected.

The present epidemic of distemper in fox ranches in this Province is certainly causing everyone a great deal of concern. It is in the opinion of Dr. George Bishop an exceedingly deadly outbreak threatening the extinction of foxes in a few ranches. In some ways it offers a new problem to be faced in that usual dose of Promm's distemperoid which is administered to a fox suffering from distemper is not sufficiently large enough to accomplish its purpose and very much heavier doses are indicated. This of course costs money and Dr Bishop has asked Dr. Chaddock of Fromm Laboratories to put up a special vaccine and make it available at a moderate cost to treat foxes suffering with actual distemper.

As an instance of the value of the distemperoid vaccine Dr Bishop quotes a ranch which was inoculated to the extent of about three-quarters of its fox population last winter, as some evidence of disease was present. The females that were not innoculated all aborted their young while those treated produced normal litters As abortion has been evident in so many ranches this winter it is probable that such ranches had some form of distemper and were unaware of it. At present Dr. Bishop believes that if sufficient help were available so that the numerous ranches applying for immunization could be handled quickly and effectively it would be possible to clean up this epidemic. That would be carrying out the advice given by Dr Chaddock, namely innoculate your "clean" ranches and distemper will soon be a thing of the past here for this season and of course the foxes kept over that have been innoculated will be immunized for life.

Checking up with Dr. Bishop on the number of applications from ranchers for immunization and treatment we find that they totalled 84. Of these 37 have been attended to and among them were quite a number where distemper had become active and that meant several trips to the ranch Although the Doctor is doing everything in his power to halt the spread of the disease yet it is humanly impossible for him and his assistant to get over the whole Province and he would certainly welcome help.

Wilfrid L Todd, well known rancher of Norwegian foxes, writing from Boston says:—"I advised ranchers to vaccinate their foxes a long time ago and not to lock the door after the horse is stolen. This Dr. Green vaccine will prevent distemper without a doubt and we found it will also cure distemper even when a fox has the germ, although Dr. Chaddock told me we would lose foxes after giving the vaccine providing the distemper germ was in the process of incubating, but I know we even stopped it when the germs were incubating after three months of distemper in one ranch in 1942 where we lost 126 adults and pups before giving the injection and after that we lost none at all."

Mr. Todd informs us that in the ranches which he controls in Massachusetts they have a pretty good turnout of pups with quite a large number of platinums and they all seem to be doing well. Commenting on the state of the fur market he says that mutation foxes will sell well again this coming season, that light colored furs are the high styled furs at present and will last for two or three seasons As soon as all the women get mink chokers they will become common and silver foxes and their mutation will again be in fashion Today scarfs of three to five mink skins costing from $125 to $300 a set are selling very readily. "Recently we made up a very fine white marked fox jacket and sent it to California. It contained four and a half large skins and the report came back that there was nothing to touch it, not even in the fashionable fur city of Los Angeles". Many thanks, Wilfrid, for your interesting letter and your information which we have always found authentic.

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—Agents

- NEWSY NOTES -

By AGRICOLA

The Eastern Kingbird

The Kingbird is one of our most interesting and familiar birds. Charles Nash, in his "Birds of Ontario", also credits it with being one of the most obstrusive creatures of the whole feathered tribe in Canada. "As soon as a pair take possession of a tree in an orchard they immediately proclaim the fact to the neighborhood, and then trouble berals everything wearing feathers that ventures to trespass on what tney are pleased to consider their domain." They especially detest Crows, Hawks, Jays and Grackles, and at once attack any of these birds, keeping up the assault till the intruder is glad to escape — usually leaving some of his (or her) feathers behind Mere size does not scare them; an observer mentions an incident in which a Kingbird attacked a Golden Eagle, and rode on its back for more than one hundred yards, viciously jabbing away with its beak the while. In such moments of excitement, its orange-red crown patch is distinctly visible. Its courageous defence of its territory has earned it the popular name of Kingbird over all this continent.

A less common name is the "Bee Martin", for says Dr. Tavernes, this bird is accused of catching honey bees and most circumstantial accounts of its doing so are given credence. This charge is to some extent true, but of 564 Kingbird's stomachs examined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 22 contained a total of 61 bees; 50 of which were drones, 8 were workers and 2 could not be determined. The "Bee Martin" is said to prefer the drones because they don't sting!

Kingbird. A.O.U. 444. Summer resident. Fairly common. **Upper parts** grayish slate color, darker on the head and upper tail coverts; crown with a concealed orange-red patch which is absent in young birds. **Tail** black, with a white band across the tip. **Wings** dusky, feathers with much white edging. **Underparts** white, washed with gray on the breast. Length 8 to 9 inches.

The Kingbird belongs to the family of the flycatchers, and captures a vast number of insects in the course of its stay; and "as most of these would produce eggs to become caterpillars, the service is great," says the ornithologist C.W Nash. The bird varies its diet with the berries of the sumach, and June berries, but has never been known to touch any kind of cultivated fruit.

Nature Notes

On May 31st an earthquake took the lives of 390 people in Turkey. The astronomical phenomena about that date are worthy of study. First, the Moon was "new" that is, the Sun, the Moon, and the Earth were in a direct line Secondly, the Moon was in Perigee, that is nearest the Earth for the time being; a position (according to Dr. Alexis Perrey, a French seismologist) in which earthquakes occur most frequently. In addition to this, the Moon was in conjunction with the planet Uranus on the 31st, and with Venus on June 1st. Thus, the Sun, Uranus and Venus, and the Moon in Perigee, were all in line with the Earth and pulling at it by gravitation. Here was all set for a major earthquake and it came.

A writer in an African paper — the Cape Argus, I think— had a good word for earthquakes, some years ago His argument went like this: Over all the land surface of the globe, since the earliest times, there has been a perpetual struggle between destructive and restorative forces. The great enemy of land is water, which employs the double-edged weapon of sea and rain. The sea, for instance is eating away the east coast of Britain, and many spots are now sandbanks where old maps show towns and villages Many people find it hard to believe that rain (or snow) can have any appreciably destructive effect on land but geologists say it is the principal element of denudation and point to the deltas, many miles in extent, formed by deposits of earth washed into the rivers by rain. (I see this process every spring, when wagon-loads of soil are washed from the roadbed and carried down Smelt Creek into Rustico Bay.)

The periodical upheavals of the earth (earthquakes), says our author are nature's method of counteracting the continual disintegration of the shores and interiors of the continents. Over 30,000 earth tremors are recorded every year, and under these innumerable impulses, Sweden is slowly rising; so is Nova Scotia, and the shores of Hudson's Bay

Sometimes the upheavel is not so gradual; like that which heads this article and for a similar cause. In 1832 an earthquake in Chili left the beach high and dry over a stretch of one hundred miles!

This theory derives some support from the fact that crevices open in the ground during a severe quake, sure sign of an upward pressure.

He concluded that terrible and destructive as they have proved themselves, nevertheless earthquakes remain the land's greatest safeguard against the ravages of water, which if unchecked would lead to total submersion and a shoreless ocean tumbling round the globe"

The Moon and the Weather. In a recent Gallup Poll, published in The Guardian, 38 per cent of those interviewed believed that the moon influenced the weather; the rest didn't believe or were undecided I have here what purports to be Dr. Herschell's "unerring" weather guide, founded upon the phases of the moon. Whatever its value in England, it is altogether astray here, as tests for the past two years have shown. Two of the miscellaneous weather clues are of some value. "You can foretell bad weather by the sound of Niagara Falls" says one observer. On the Island here if the wind has been from a northerly direction and the surf on the North Shore becomes audible, the wind will change to the southward within 24 hours—generally next day. "When northern lights are in the south" says another, "we are going to get a change of weather". I have seen heavy rainstorms follow when the aurora stretches from the north to the zenith, and beyond it to the south—as I think this latter observer means If the wind is from the north and the aurora is in the north (where it should be) then the wind will shortly shift to S or SW.

Meteors and meteorites. As related last week there were extraordinary showers of shooting stars in 1833 and 1866 I was too young to take notice of the latter, but afterwards got a fair idea of the display from a colored picture of it, which had been framed and hung in my bedroom. Observers said that on November 13 of that year many thousands of meteors flashed across the sky; in a small section of the sky, 600 were counted in the space of twelve minutes Some were the usual streaks, some were as bright as Jupiter or Venus, and one was reported "apparently as large as the Moon". They appeared to radiate from a definite centre, in all directions; and as that centre was (seemingly) the constellation Leo, the meteors have been named the Leonids'

Thirty-three years before in 1833, there had been a noteworthy shower of Leonids, and superstition and ignorance led some people to predict the end of the world. Thirty-three years later in 1899, I hoped to see the Leonids put on their show again but was sadly disappointed. The meteors follow the track of a comet which came round every 33 years, but which had disintegrated Its "relics", closely grouped in 1833 and 1866, are perhaps more spread out over its orbit, or perhaps the fragments were nearly "used up" in the great displays of those years At any rate no such showers have been noticed since. If there are any Leonids this year they ought to be seen on Friday, Nov 15.

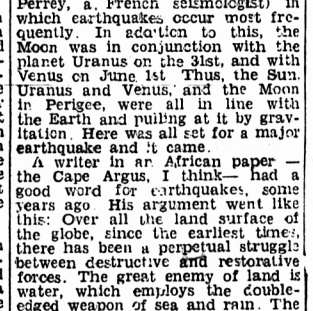
Soot as Fertilizer

"Coal seems to be the fuel in town," I remarked to a visitor. "Yes it is very generally burnt" was the reply. "How is the soot disposed of?" was my next question. "Well, said he, "it just accumulates till it takes fire, and is consumed" — "And then the Fire Department is notified," put in the wag of the party. "In Newcastle it was the Fire Department that did the notifying when the soot took fire; and as a result you visited the Town Hall and paid a fine of two shillings, and sixpence. There was a kind of joke in this, for "two-and-six" was the chimney-sweep's charge for cleaning the flue. You didn't save anything by burning it out!" "What did the chimney sweep do with the soot" asked my friend. "Sold it to the farmers for fertilizer," I answered.

A day or two afterwards a friend from the City visited me, and the conversation drifted round to the soot disposal. He confirmed the story that the flues were cleaned by burning and said that the smoke from it was regarded as a nuisance, by most people. He was surprised when I told him that soot was sold as fertilizer and desired to know its composition. That was a question I couldn't answer, so I determined to look it up. I read: "Soot is a fertilizer for most crops, yielding salts of ammonia, potash and soda". It was dusted over gardens or lawns in a quantity just sufficient to well blacken the soil or grass, just before rain; but it was sometimes put on two or three inches thick; with woeful results! It was commonly sprinkled over young plants as a repellant for insects such as flea-beetles; but never when it was fresh from the chimney. When too fresh it injured the plants In my garden "overseas" I had a barrel sunk in the ground and filled with water. Coal soot put in a bag or piece of sacking and hung in the water, made a good "liquid manure". Coal soot was sometimes called "Scotch Soot" without any reason that I could perceive; however it must not be confounded with the creosote generated by burning wood. Creosote cannot be used as fertilizer, being inimical to plant life.

FIRST ZOO

The first zoological garden was established in China about 1100 B.C.



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W. C. T. U. NOTES

WHAT CAN A MOTHER GIVE HER CHILDREN

What can a mother give her children,
Greater today than this great thing—
Faith in an old sweet beautiful story,
A star, a stable, a new born King.

Shining faith in the young lad Jesus;
Lover of high white things was He;
Jesus, straight as a Lebanon cedar;
Jesus, clean as the winds from the sea.

Faith in the young lad come to manhood,
Jesus, compassionate, tender and true;
Oh, my children, what more glorious
Gift in the world, can I give to you?

Carry it high, like a lamp in the darkness,
Hold it for warmth when the day is cold;
Keep it for joy, when youth goes singing;
Clasp it for peace when you are old.

What can a mother give her children
More than a faith that will not dim?
Take it my dear ones, hold it forever,
A lamp for a lifetime—faith in Him!

—Selected.

THE FUTURE OF STRONG DRINK

TORONTO —Prof. L. Josyln Rogers, advisor to the Ontario Attorney-General's department, said recently he expected a nation-wide revulsion against excess drinking.

"What chance has the present generation of boys and girls whose mothers are shameless in beer parlors?" asked the Professor, member of the University of Toronto Chemistry faculty and Government investigator of murder and other crimes.

The situation today was much worse than in the 1920's "when the jazz age burst so unexpectedly and when it became smart for the first time for a youth to carry a flask of liquor with him.

"The drinking situation is going to get worse for a little while, I think, and the people will be so revolted at the foolishness of it that there will be a drastic change. It's inevitable there will be a swing back to the conditions where a man was proud to look up to his wife, not just look after a beer-swiller."

Prof. Rogers said that an Ontario magistrate, checking over court cases, estimated that over a period of many months 80 per cent arose directly or indirectly from excessive drinking.

"Drunk drivers and drunk pedestrians will kill and be killed in shocking numbers during the years to come.

END WOMEN'S BEER ROOMS ONTARIO WOMEN URGE DREW

"We represent the rank and file of the sane-thinking women of Ontario, both urban and rural and we are standing together in defence against an evil that is undermining our homes. This evil is women's beverage rooms. We consider women's beverage rooms the most immoral and degrading force ever existing in our province. We feel we can no longer tolerate them because of the conditions which they produce."

This, in part, is a brief submitted to Premier Drew by a delegation representing 207,079 women, belonging to 3,614 branches or auxiliaries of the following provincial organizations; The Federated Women's Institute of Ontario, the Provincial Council of Women, the Catholic Women's League, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Baptist Women's Missionary Society, the United Church Missionary Society, the United Church Women's Association, the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Society, the Ontario Girls' Work Board, and the Rebekah Assembly.

The brief continued:

"It has always been woman's responsibility to keep the moral standards of civilization on as high a plane as possible. But these moral standards of civilization can be no higher than its womanhood. We are fearful of the destructive force the women's beverage room is wielding. There has been an alarming increase in illegitimacy, juvenile delinquency, venereal disease and divorce in our province While we know this increase is not entirely due to the women's beverage room, it is common knowledge that it is the greatest contributing factor."

The delegation was graciously received, but at the very same time elsewhere in the same building "the Attorney General, Mr. Blackwell, was introducing to the House the bill for this enormous extension of mixed drinking," said Mrs. W. R. Lang at the Metropolitan Church Protest Meeting. "Mr. Drew tells us the new cocktail lounges will be respectable but women are fully aware what the specious respectability of beverage rooms has done to our women. They are afraid to test this law at the bar of public opinion.

TAKE WCTU SASKATCHEWAN TEMPERANCE FEDERATION

At a recent sub-executive meeting in Regina, plans were made for a Provincial Temperance Convention on June 19th and 20th. The annual meeting of the Federation will be held at the same time and place (not yet decided).

Dr. Lorne McTavish's resume of work for the Saskatchewan Federation reveals interest in the Temperance Educational Movement. Recently he had travelled throughout the province addresses to senior pupils in the schools where he has been most cordially received by both teachers and scholars.

A contribution of $100 was voted towards the National Federation's Educational program.

On February 28th a delegation composed of Dr. McTavish, Mrs. Aden Bowman, W.C.T.U. Prov. Pres., Major J.J. Sutherland, Miss Mary Legate, and Rev. L.E. Anderson, Wolseley, met in the Premier's office, Legislative Buildings, with some of the Cabinet Ministers to present a brief outlining our views on Liquor Administration in the province. Highlights are:

1. We petition that the teaching of Scientific Temperance in public schools and collegiate institutes of the province be incorporated as part of the regular curriculum in order that the subject may be properly presented. We recommend that a special course in scientific temperance teaching be given in the Normal schools by teachers who are specially trained.

2. We further petition that scientific temperance be correlated with health, physical fitness, and social studies; also economics, literature, history, chemistry and home economics, and be incorporated as part of the University curriculum.

3. We petition that a credit course in scientific temperance, temperance, presented by a fully qualified teacher, be a part of the program at the University summer school.

4. We believe that a progressive government should appoint a competent commission to thoroughly investigate the effects of the liquor traffic on the whole economic, social, physical and mental health of all our people. And that the findings of such a commission should be published, for the information of all citizens.

We also recommend that the Government should not only exercise control over the liquor traffic but should provide substitutes for the beverage room. (Such as up-to-date attractive Milk Bars.)

We also expressed our regret that the quantities of alcoholic beverages allowed each individual purchaser per day are so generous and same should be curtailed.

MARKING CENTURY OF FRIENDSHIP

VANCOUVER, June 14 — One hundred years of unbroken friendship along an unfortified border will be celebrated Saturday by Canadians and Americans at two British Columbia - Washington State fetes.

This is the centennial date of the signing of a treaty extending the international boundary line from the Rockies westward along the 49th parallel and the middle of the Strait of Juan De Fuca. It compromised Britain's claims to everything north of the Columbia River and the 49th parallel, and the United States claims to everything south of what had been Russian America.

Delegates to the International Labor Organization's maritime conference at Seattle will be special guests at the ceremonies under the peace arch at Blaine, near Bellingham, Wash.

Simultaneously, the residents of interior British Columbia and Washington will be joining hands and voices at the Governor-General of Canada have been invited to broadcast from their capitals in honor of the day.

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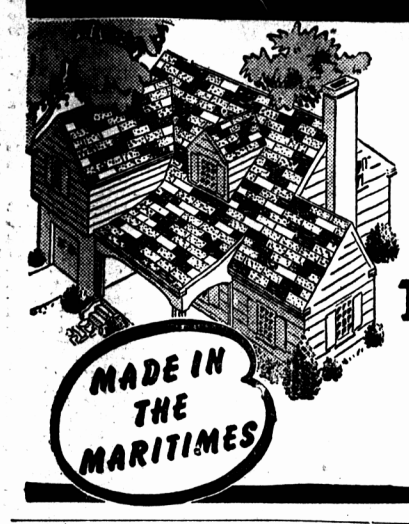

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Annual Meeting Summerfield C.W.L.

Covering the year which ended April 30th, 1946, the report of the St. James sub-division, Catholic Women's League of Summerfield lists a variety of activities which marks the past year as a highly successful one. With a membership of 75, the sub-division raised $1124.17. Having met all obligations, and contributed cash to the amount of $324.00 to various phases of social service, which work is regarded as a very important part of C. W. L. endeavours. The balance was given to the pastor to apply to the church debt.

At the annual meeting held on June 2nd, the president, Mrs. C. W. Croken, expressed her appreciation for the splendid spirit of co-operation which has always prevailed since the organization of the League and it is chiefly due to this co-operation that this branch has attained such a measure of success.

The chaplain, Reverend Father Murray, spoke a few words of commendation and encouragement, congratulating the members on their splendid record and urging them to continue on in their good work.

Election of officers followed.
President, Mrs. C. W. Croken.
Rec. Sec'y., Mrs. J. Austin Murphy.
Cor. Sec'y., Mrs. James Lawless.
Treasurer, Mrs. Carrol Hughes, re-elected.

Following is the Secretary's report:

Madam President, Reverend Chaplain and Sister members:

As recording secretary of St. James sub-division of the Catholic Women's League, I beg to submit a report of our activities during the past year.

Seven regular and two special meetings were held at which our chaplain was present to cheer us by his words of encouragement.

As this year marked the Silver Jubilee of the C. W. L., one delegate was sent to attend the National Convention in Montreal. She accompanied our Diocesan President, who, this year, was elected from our sub-division. Several members also attended the Diocesan Convention held in Charlottetown.

It is with much regret that we record the death of our convener of social service and war work, Mrs. Ambrose Carr, who was always a very active member. Death also claimed three other members and our sympathy is extended to their bereaved families.

Donations were made to the Provincial Sanatorium, the Scholarship Fund, Red Cross, St. Vincent's Orphanage, Sisters of St. Martha, Sisters of Service and Prince County Hospital as well as generous contributions to the care of one of our members who was ill. Our chaplain was remembered at Christmas and also one of our members who left the Parish.

A mass was offered for the boys and girls in the services, a mass for one reported missing, one for each of those who made the supreme sacrifice, one for our living members and one for each member who died during the year.

To raise funds the following entertainments were sponsored: A bean supper, chicken supper, two box socials, and an auction and dance. At each of those, substantial sums were realized.

In closing, on behalf of all members, I wish to extend our thanks to our chaplain for his attendance at our meetings and his kindly interest in all our undertakings I also wish to thank all members for their co-operation during my two years as secretary.

Respectfully submitted,
ETHEL CURLEY.

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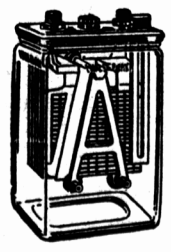

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10 YEAR GUARANTEE

ATTENTION SUMMER COTTAGE OWNERS

Smaller electric and water plants similar to the above may be used to bring modern conveniences to your summer residence.

The Capital Electric

G. D. FITZGERALD & SON
61 GRAFTON ST.
CHARLOTTETOWN