

Bedeque United Church

The History of a Methodist Circuit in Prince Edward Island

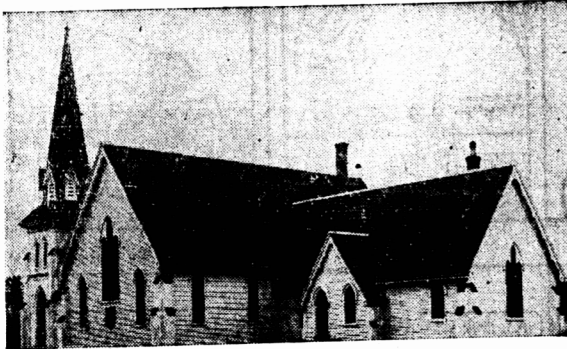
Tracing Its Roots in the Cultural, Educational and Commercial Fields of the Community.

By E. S. D.

CHAPTER THREE (Continued)

Though politics secured the ardent loyalty of many Bedequeers it was generally second to the loyalty given their churches. The third church to be established in Bedeque was the Baptist. Rev. Charles Tupper, a missionary of that persuasion, preached throughout the Island in the summer of 1825 with considerable success. The following year at Bedeque, under the leadership of Rev. Theodore Seth Harding, the first Regular Baptist Church in Prince Edward Island was organized on Calvinistic principles under the rules and articles of the Baptist Association of Nova Scotia. This Baptist congregation, which included members in both Tryon and Bedeque was the first Regular Baptist Church, but had been preceded some years by a Scotch Baptist Church which, established probably by Alexander Crawford, was found to be in a disorganized state when the communities of Tryon and Bedeque were first visited by Mr. Tupper in 1825, and the next year by Rev. Joseph Crandall and Rev. T. S. Harding, all of whom helped in the founding of the Regular Church by each baptizing a number of the original members.

Like the Presbyterian and the Methodist, the site of the first Baptist Church is covered with the graves of its early membership. The first church, built in 1826, stood in the middle of the present cemetery. In Bedeque's early history, Isaac Bradshaw was to the Baptist Church what Nathaniel Wright was to the Methodist. Coming to Bedeque from Sackville, N. B., in 1835, with his wife, Sybil Emerson, he settled on a farm at Central Bedeque. His pleasant home, built on the hill overlooking the creek which for many years carried



BEDIQUE UNITED CHURCH
Erected 1887
Dedicated January 8, 1888

his surname, was the first headquarters of the Regular Baptist Church on the Island, with Mr. Bradshaw serving very effectively as local preacher in Bedeque and Tryon. Prominent Bedeque families who were Baptists included Lewis Baker, Isaac Schurman, William Schurman Jr., Peter Schurman and others, with a devout group of Foy, Gouldrups, Farrow and Boulters in Tryon. The church when organized in 1826 had a membership of twenty-eight with Isaac Bradshaw the first deacon. The earlier ministers resided in Tryon.

Sturdy Champions

The early pastors of all the Bedeque churches appeared to be men of considerable stamina. They travelled over the incredibly poor roads preaching incredibly long sermons four or five times a week, in addition to performing the many chores incidental to pioneer existence. Rev. George Jackson the Methodist minister of this period, wielded a ready pen which was not confined to obituaries and sermons. Just previous to coming to Bedeque he had written a lengthy pamphlet entitled "An Humble Attempt to Substantiate the Legitimacy of Infant Baptism and of Sprinkling as Scriptural Mode" which was directed rather apologetically as the title suggests against the teaching of the Baptist brethren. It, of course, was not allowed to go unchallenged and was answered by William Elder, first pastor of the Baptist Church at Bedeque, wrote a two-hundred-page book entitled "A Further Attempt to Substantiate the Legitimacy of Infant Baptism" and the battle of Baptism was on. Rev. Charles Tupper, (father of Sir Charles Tupper), who was later to be the first ordained Baptist minister residing on the Bedeque charge and Alexander Crawford of Tryon, rushed into print in defence of the "gospel mode" of baptism and so the wordy war continued. None ever knew who won, though Mr. Jackson's Methodist supporters claimed a victory for their side, inasmuch as Rev. Wm. Elder of the Bridgetown Baptist Church was won over by Mr. Jackson's book. He offered his services to the Methodist ministry which had to be declined on a technicality, and eventually ended up as first Anglican rector at Sydney Mines. The loss of Rev. Wm. Elder, the Baptists countered, was not unexpected; he was trying all the ministries, having started as a Congregational preacher.

Miramichi Fire

1825 was remembered longest in Bedeque as the year of the Miramichi fire. Everything for many years dated from that terrible catastrophe which not only filled the Bedeque atmosphere with cinders and smoke but brought the sorrow of bereavement to several Bedeque homes. The Miramichi, no distant unknown place, was Bedeque's best market for potatoes and oats supplied to the big lumbering centre by the schooner trade each spring and fall. John Wright of Middleton, eldest son of Stephen Wright and Frances Lord, was at the Miramichi with oats and early potatoes in the first week of October 1825, when the unseasonably hot dry weather made ideal conditions for the great fury of fire which, accompanied by a high wind, swept down on Newcastle on the evening of the 7th. Of two hundred and sixty stores and houses only twelve remained. One hundred and sixty people were burned to death.

Several Bedequeans in Newcastle were rescued by John Wright and his crew. George Price, who with his wife and children, were found next morning in the river, where they had spent the night almost totally immersed to avoid the searing gasses and heat, were given passage back to their native Bedeque. They had lost everything and Mrs. Price died soon afterwards from the effect of the fire. Eliza Hooper, eldest daughter of Major Hooper of Centreville, who was visiting in Newcastle, guest of her grandfather, Rev. John Urquhart, the first Presbyterian minister of P. E. I., was so unfortunate as to be ill with scarlet fever during the fire, from whose flames she escaped only to die from the effects of being moved.

Shoemaker's Treasure

John Wright's own account heard many years later from the lips of an imaginative grandson described how he saw a ball of fire strike down judgment upon the wicked town, and how he was kept busy for hours ferrying people to the other side of the river. When the ashes were partly cooled he was able to search for a shoemaker friend whom he had not seen during the rescue. Going to the lot where the shoemaker's cottage had stood he saw only smouldering ruins and a chimney, like many others, pointing a desolate finger heavenwards. As he approached through the smoky haze his old friend the shoemaker became visible sitting on the hearth stone in the blackened ruins, indicating by signs, that his Bedeque friend should dig up the hearthstone, after which he faded away in the smoke.

John Wright unearthed a pot of gold coins and soon found evidence that the shoemaker had been burned to death. Was he entitled to the money? Deep down in his Methodist conscience he knew that regardless of the vision the money was not his but belonged to the shoemaker's only heir, a daughter whose whereabouts was unknown, having married against her father's wishes and moved away many years previously. Counting himself a shoe-appointed executor Wright advertised for the missing heir to the estate, but the lost daughter was never heard from. The coins, kept in a treasure bowl on a Bedeque sideboard for many years, eventually were divided to the daughters of Mill Grove Farm as part of their dowries.

(To Be Continued)

Alberton

Messrs. Stephen Burke and Earl Callaghan have returned from Halifax, N. S., where they spent a couple of weeks.

Mrs. Ainsley Hutt entertained at a delightful social gathering at her home in Alberton South on Thursday evening. Games were played with exceptionally pretty prizes for the lucky winners. Dainty refreshments were served by the hostess assisted by several of her friends.

Regretful farewells were said over the week end to Mr. Henry Swift, who left on Tuesday for Kingston, N.S., where he will take up immediate duties in the Canadian Bank of Commerce there. His position in the Alberton branch has been replaced by Mr. A. M. MacLean of Moncton, N.B.

The Ladies Aid of the Western Hospital entertained at a social evening in the Women's Institute Hall on Monday evening. The winners of the prizes were as follows: Bridge, Mrs. Jas. Pike; Auction forty fives, Mr. Malcolm Skerr; Consolations, Mrs. Joseph Larier and Mr. Everett Shea; Lucky chair, Mrs. Frank Fraser; Door prize, Mr. Everett Morrissette. The drawing of the lucky tickets, also given by the committee in charge. The members of this society feel very grateful towards all those who so kindly helped to make their affair a success, also towards all those who helped with the sale of tickets.

UNITED CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Alberton pastoral charge of the United Church of Canada was held on Jan. 21st with an attendance of seventeen. The Rev. J. M. Fraser opened the meeting with scripture reading and prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The first item of business was the reports of the various organizations. The financial report was given by the treasurer, Miss Mabel Fleiding; Guild; Mrs. Fraser reported for this group; Ladies Aid

—This report was given by the treasurer, Mrs. Herbert Matthews; W. M. S.—Mrs. Fraser reported for this organization; The Sunday School was reported by the Supt. Mrs. C. H. Weeks; Y. P. U.—In the absence of the Y. P. U. Secretary this report was given by Mr. Henry Clarke; The Brooklyn Y.P.U. report was given by the president, Mrs. Charles Johnston.

Mr. Fraser spoke very highly of the work of the three Y. P. U. and congratulated them, especially on their fine gifts to missions. A discussion of Churchman subscriptions followed and a motion of Mrs. C. H. Johnston, that a committee of three be appointed to look into the matter of increasing subscriptions. Mrs. C. H. Weeks, Mrs. C. H. Johnston and Mrs. A. Wright.

A request that a committee of three from the church be appointed to work with a committee of three from the Presbyterian Church for the handling of funds now in possession of Mrs. Fred Clarke for the maintenance of the "Old Cemetery on the Hill". Moved by Mr. Waugh and seconded by Mrs. Weeks. The following were appointed, Messrs. Walter Wells, Herbert Matthews and Henry Clarke.

Mrs. Waugh was appointed to look after the "Upper Room" subscriptions.

The pastor mentioned the amount still due on the Tignish Church. After some discussion it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Ladies' Aid, Ladies Guild and Y.P.U.

The Rev. Mr. Fraser thanked all officers and members of the church for their support and co-operation during the year.

Moved by Mr. Waugh, seconded by Mr. Black and Mr. H. D. Corbett (jointly) that a vote of thanks be extended to the Rev. and Mrs. Fraser for their fine work in the charge during the year.

Moved by Mr. Henry Clarke and seconded by Mr. H. Hardy that a vote of thanks be extended to the choir leader, choir, organist and treasurer for their splendid work during the year.

These motions were carried unanimously and were extended on behalf of the congregation. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Waugh and seconded by Mr. Weeks.

Mr. Fraser closed the meeting with the Benediction.

O'LEARY LEGION ELECTS OFFICERS

The following are the Officers of the Canadian Legion at O'Leary who were recently elected for 1948 at a very enjoyable "Smoker" held in the hall. President, Edwin Turner; 1st Vice-President, William Bartle; 2nd Vice-President, Leigh Ellis; Secty.-Treas. Lloyd Matthews; Sgt.-at-Arms, Ira Ellis. The following Committees were appointed: Employment, Hugh MacGregor, Dr. George Dewar, Ord Sharp, Entertainment, Allan Matthews, Arch Sutherland, Wendell Turner, Monument, Ira Ellis, Hugh MacGregor, Ralph Ozon.

Dr. George Dewar was elected Honorary President. The receipts from Poppy Band campaign amounted to \$114.20.

Howlan

Mr. James Finnan, Howlan, spent the week of the 18th in Summerside.

Mr. Hector Martin returned to his home in Charlottetown on Monday.

Mr. Bruce Carruthers has a car of potatoes graded all ready just waiting for a car now.

Some of our local men have their ice put up while others haven't started yet.

Mrs. Manderson of Lot 16 is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Alvin Webb.—H.

Mr. Frank Richard, Howlan, was a passenger to Summerside on Friday, January 23rd.

There are a large number of children down now with measles which are accompanied by a severe cough.

The Knutsford Women's Institute put on a pantry sale in the store of Helley Jolley on Saturday.

Mrs. J. E. Arsenault, Howlan, is visiting in Woodstock at her brother's home, Mr. and Mrs. G. Gaudet.

Rev. Fr. Rooney returned from his trip to Boston and Mass was at St. Anthony's at 10.30 a.m. on January 25th as usual.

Mrs. Fred Arsenault and daughter Mariene spent Sunday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Alban T. Arsenault.

Mr. John Gallant, Casumpec spent an evening last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Gallant, Howlan.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Richard and their daughter Shirley spent the week end in Piusville, guests of Mr. and Mrs. Alyre Gallant.

Mr. Frank Richard and family who lost their house and contents last Tuesday's big fire have moved to the Gerard Richard house.

Friends of Mr. James Boice, Howlan will be pleased to know he is out again after his recent illness.

Mr. Bruce Carruthers, Jr., has been spending some time lately in Wilcox helping his brother-in-law Francis MacQuarrie putting up their supply of ice.

Rev. Garland and Mrs. Brooks now of River Herbert, N. S. formerly of O'Leary are receiving congratulations on the birth of a new boy.

Mrs. John Fields and little daughter, who joined Mr. Fields now in O'Leary where he is the new manager of Bank of Nova Scotia.

Mrs. Isidor Perry and small sons Clair and Richard of Summerside were on a week's visit with relatives of Duvar and Howlan recently.

Mr. Hector Martin and son Gus came to Howlan from Charlottetown on Wednesday p. m. to spend some time with his brother Phillip Martin who is seriously ill.

A little of the long awaited for rain came on Wednesday night. Here's hoping the roads now will have time to make before more snow falls.

Mr. Eugene, son of Phillip Martla who has been residing in Rumbold, Me., for the past 29 years arrived home on Friday p.m. having been called by the illness of his father, also on Monday p.m. another son Simon arrived from Sydney, N. S.

Rev. Fr. Monaghan of Alberton came by train on Wednesday the 21st (in the absence of Father Rooney) to visit Phillip Martin who is seriously ill at his home here. Besides his beloved wife he is being cared for by his daughter, Mrs. Eddie Gallant of Charlottetown.

KEEPS TRAPOTS FRESH

To freshen trapots, boil a mild solution of vinegar in them.

Is Your Chest Weak, Sore?

You will find Polson's Cough Syrup very soothing; it is strongly antiseptic and destroys bacteria in the mucus that clogs up the throat and nose. There is an abundance of soothing medication in Polson's Cough Syrup which enables it to work wonders on Colds. Let this specialized medication help you to clear your breathing organs of distress—to abate nasty discharges—to bring hacking and sneezing to an end. Sold everywhere in 35c bottles.

POLSON'S COUGH SYRUP

HOCKEY AT BORDEN

SATURDAY NIGHT SUMMERSIDE FLYING HEARTS VS. BORDEN NATIONALS
Game starts at 8 o'clock
Admission 25 cents and 50 cents
Good game and one hour's skate after match.

BARNLEY NOTES

Miss Joyce Campbell, Spring Valley spent a pleasant week end in Summerside visiting friends.

Messrs. Keir MacKay, Fred Donald and Geo. Campbell were visitors to Summerside on Thursday.

The many friends of Geo. Proffitt are pleased to hear he is able to be up out of bed and improving after his recent illness.

Mr. Jas. Bearisto, Baidic, Mrs. Ernest Bryanton and Mrs. Preston Green, and daughter, Shirley, Malpeque, were visitors to Summerside on Saturday.—Dar.

The friends of Wm. Burt, Darnley, were sorry to hear it was necessary for him to undergo a serious operation in Prince County Hospital recently. All wish him a speedy recovery and an early return to his home.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Campbell, Darnley, entertained a number of friends and neighbors in their newly remodelled home recently. Dancing was indulged in by those who felt "light footed" while others found pleasure in social chat and enjoying the splendid music furnished by Jas. Ken tables, Jack Brande and Bernie MacKinnon also by the Campbell family.

Mr. and Mrs. James Hickey, Darnley, are being welcomed home after a month's visit to the United States. They visited Mrs. Hickey's sisters in Portland, Me., also Mr. Hickey's brothers in Worcester and Lancaster, Mass. They were accompanied in Mrs. Hickey's sisters, Frank L. MacKay, Summerside and formerly of Darnley, Mrs. MacKay also visited her sister-in-law, Mrs. Harry Ramsay in Revere, Mass.

A very enjoyable evening of progressive auction was spent at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Keir MacKay recently where ten tables were in play. Mr. Jas. Bearisto, Baidic, Mr. Michael Murphy, Sea View winning the first prizes, while Mrs. Arthur Campbell and Mr. Chas. Adams, Sea View captured the consolations. A dainty lunch was served by hostess assisted by Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Crozier. A neat sum was realized and donated by Mr. and Mrs. MacKay to Darnley Women's Institute to be used for school.

Abrams Village

Mrs. Emnoth Curran of Egmont Bay is suffering an attack of measles.

Mr. Tilmon Arsenault and Nazaire Arsenault have returned unexpectedly from Quebec lumber camps.

Mr. Irene Arsenault of St. Chrysostome is a patient in the P. C. Hospital. His case is not reported as critical.

Mr. Edmond Arsenault, B.A., B.S. A., of the Charlottetown Experimental Farm, was a recent visitor in Egmont Bay.

Steps were taken for the organization of a local Study Club. Next meeting is scheduled for the last Monday of February.

At a recent bingo, which took place in St. Chrysostome, in behalf of the School Trustees Board, the sum of \$39.00 was realized. A lunch was served after the game.

Mr. F. E. Dolron, school supervisor was visiting in Urbainville and Abrams Village districts last week. Weather conditions did not permit the supervisor's special meetings.

A Parent-Teacher meeting was held at the St. Hubert School Monday night. Mr. Emile Buote was in the chair. Taking active part in the discussion of problems were Mr. Theophile Arsenault and J. Albert Gallant.

Mr. Donat Gallant of Urbainville was a recent visitor at his parent's Mr. and Mrs. Cyrille P. Gallant. A former resident of Wellington, Mr. Donat Gallant has re-enlisted in the Air Force service and is now stationed at the St. Eleanor's Air Port.

A whist party took place last week at the home of Mr. Sylvère Arsenault in Abrams Village in behalf of the St. Thomas Aquinas Society. After the card game, auctioneer Anthony J. Gallant took the stand and made a fine sale of various articles. Luncheon was served and the neat sum of \$54.13 cents was entered.

FIRST TEA TAXES

The government of Charles I imposed the first tea taxes to make up for the declining revenue from beer and wine due to the popularity of tea.

FARM For Sale

For sale at Rose Valley, farm containing 100 acres; 85 clear and in a high state of cultivation. Watered by two springs and two brooks; balance covered with hard wood and a heavy growth of hemlock lumber. This farm is conveniently situated to School, Churches and shipping centres. Price reasonable for quick sale. Apply:—ANGUS MCKINNON, Brookside R.R.

S'ide Sportsmen Distribute Feed For Game Birds

During the past week at the suggestion of Island Pheasants Unlimited, a number of the sportsmen of Summerside and vicinity completed arrangements for the securing and distribution of one and one-quarter tons of suitable feed principally for Hungarian partridge, and many of which were reported to be in need of food and grit in the County.

The facilities of International Fox and Animal Foods were made available and many volunteers met there on Friday evening last and completed the bagging of necessary grain. On Saturday last, this seed was distributed by five different aeroplane flights throughout Prince County. A small quantity was distributed in the immediate vicinity through private sources.

It is very pleasing to note that so many parties were keenly interested and did everything possible to affect a proper distribution. Accompanying Mr. Paul Sharpe, the operator of the aeroplane on the separate flights, were Preston Noonan, J. B. Jenkinson and Dr. Richard Found of the Biological Station at East Blidford. The aeroplane flew low over the various sections in the hope that covets of the birds could be seen and food dropped as near as possible. However, as the day was very cold not many covets were in motion.

In these cases, the food was dropped in proximity to where covets had been seen from time to time. It is hoped a substantial percentage of the grain dropped will be found by the Hungarians. A canvas is being made in Summerside and throughout the County for contributions towards a fund to supplement the previous distribution by Island Pheasants Unlimited, and we understand that a substantial sum has already been raised.

To supplement this and at the suggestion of many farmers, farm-ers' sons and others throughout Prince County and Western Queens, a committee has been formed with headquarters at Summerside to secure a quantity of suitable feed by private contributions in an effort to feed the birds not already being provided for.

It is hoped that the County will act together and organize as far as possible and make provision to feed any birds in distress. If suitable feed is not available in any locality, arrangements have been made so that anyone might call or send to the shop of George Bowness, Summerside, where a suitable supply will be kept on hand free of cost until further notice. Mr. Morley M. Bell is chairman of the local committee.

Weekly Live Stock

(Continued from Page 11)

Grade A hogs, Montreal up to \$28.50, Winnipeg \$27.50, Calgary \$27.15, Edmonton \$27. Prince Albert, Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Regina \$27.25, Vancouver \$28 to \$28.05, Moncton \$28.50, and Charlottetown \$27.50, the latter f. o. b. country points.

The above prices do not include the Dominion Government premium of \$2 per head on Grade A and \$1 per head on Grade B hogs.

Lambs Continue Steady
Practically no change was shown in prices for lambs. Toronto sold good quality lambs at \$18.50, Winnipeg up to \$16, Calgary \$15.50 to \$16, Edmonton \$14.80 to \$15.50, Prince Albert \$14, Moose

LUMBER WANTED

SPRUCE or HEMLOCK

TIGNISH BREAKWATER REPAIRS

57 pcs. 5" x 10" x 21'
153 pcs. 5" x 10" x 14'
40 pcs. 7" x 7" x 14'

20,000 f.b.m. 4" Plank—6' to 10' widths—12 1-2' lengths.
12,180 f.b.m. 4" Plank—6' to 10' widths—10' to 16' lengths.
17,000 f.b.m. 3" Plank—6' to 10' widths—10' to 16' lengths.

QUOTE F. O. B. CARS OR TIGNISH BREAKWATER

H. J. PHILLIPS and SON

P. O. BOX 26 CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I.

Jaw \$14, Saskatoon \$14.25, Regina steady up to \$15, and Vancouver \$16.50.

Ellen's Diary

By an Island Farmer's Wife
(Continued from Page 2)

"pretty much according to the books" in the matter of cutting teeth, so Carolyn says, and Jamie himself was treated to a surprise this week when a new molar appeared from out a swollen gum. Grand-daughter holds middle place in the trio with seventeen "teeth" now to her credit. It amuses us to watch this small lady develop, to find that she is not at all taken with masculine interests such as amused Jamie when her age, but already finds much pleasure and entertainment in putting her dolls or a cat to bed, covering them with a blanket as carefully as she herself is tucked to sleep in her cot upstairs.

Visitors we have had this week in a succession started by Pat, last Monday evening. He came driving the old white mare. The babe born on a quiet morning in early Winter came too on her first visit, reminding us oldsters who are apt to be a bit erring that here was one who in her surprised and innocent smile, till "talked with" one in day and into the night our farming continues. The small engine drives the pump happily; horses follow or by times break a new trail down to the stream; the cattle too, leaving off a playful locking of horns. Bedding is carried in armfuls; hay to the oves; straw is fetched from the other farm and among the other we were beginning to scrape bins closely in their various mixings.

And one day James brought home a jar of herring which served to revive old memories of an era when such fish apparently came out of bottomless barrels, that had been bought at the harbour. One night as we minded grand-daughter who continued to sleep sweetly, James and "the young lad" from the house on the hill talked of a time when "the mill was full to the doors with wheat and grists of crushing" and one remembered wistfully that then the great nations were at peace. Peopled with old friends those days were, and old ways. Tomorrow brings a wedding of ways to Churches where prayers will be made. "And it's your own name, I'll be remembering" Ellen, Pat has told me. And how much is "wrought by prayer!"

"Because you prayed for me I found the strength I needed for my task, the courage I had lacked before, the faith to see,

INSURANCE ALL LINES

RALPH MUTTART
Summerside

PROFESSIONAL CARD

T. Earle Hickey
Chartered Accountant
Office at 15 Granville Street
Phone 575
Summerside

BOWNESS FUNERAL SERVICE and AMBULANCE

SUMMERSIDE
DAY AND NIGHT
Phone 77-1 and 77-2

Dr. G. J. Gallant
Kinkora
Hours:
Monday 2-4 P.M.
Tuesday, Thurs., Friday 2-5 and 7-9
Wednesday and Saturday by appointment.

ELECTRICAL Clearance Sale

UP TO FEBRUARY 7TH

Greatly Reduced Prices On

ELECTRIC Ranges, Kettles, Heat Pads, Toasters, Irons, Floor Lamps, Radios, Pin-Up Lamps, Blankets, Bed Lamps, Desk Lamps, Ovenets, Electric Churn (5 gal. capacity), Coal and Wood Ranges, Wall Cabinets, Humidifiers, Flashlights, 35 ft. Extension Trouble Lamps, Fire Extinguishers, Fans.

EXTRA SPECIAL!!

One New Portable 3000 watt, 110 volt AC, Gasoline driven ELECTRIC GENERATING UNIT, with weatherproof case.
Special Price \$395.00

PALMER & WILLIAMS CO. LTD.

WATER ST. SUMMERSIDE PHONE 343