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Trans Canada Credit offices in Charlottetown are located at Block Building, 164A Kent Street. Telephone 1976.

TRANS CANADA CREDIT CORPORATION

Strange But True

By F. H. MacArthur

In 1859 the first cable to America was laid, but it broke down and communication was not restored until eight years later. 1890 saw the city and South London Railway come into being. This was the first electrically operated railway in England, and the first tube in the world.

World War I cost 50,000,000 pounds and led to the enlisting of 50,000,000 armed men; there were 30,000,000 casualties, and some 8,000,000 deaths. France alone lost 21,000 factories, 630,000 homes and 1659 townships were completely destroyed. While the National debt of Great Britain in 1914, 708 million pounds—in 1919, 7435 million pounds. What a dark chapter in a so-called civilized world! Then it happened all over again in 1939-1945. Will it happen again in this generation? The future looks anything but bright, and we shall never see the brotherhood of man so long as Peace and Good-will walk different roads.

Thomas Mort built the first freezing unit in the world at Sydney, Australia, in 1881. This venture failed in the test of the sea voyage back to England. This however, led to the first frozen meat to come from the land down under. A carcass of lamb was sent to Queen Victoria and a sheep to the Prince of Wales, who pronounced the meat A1. From this humble beginning has sprung up a mighty industry which stretches right across the world.

One can hardly believe that so late as 1801 industrialists treated children like common slaves. Many thousands of children were driven into the factories and mines in the desperate effort to obtain sufficient food for families. Farington, the painter tells us he saw children coming out of a mill at Cranford, Eng., at seven in the

evening. These pauper children had been at work since six or seven in the morning. Think of it! Not until 1811 did the National Society for promoting the Education of the children of the poor come into being. But there was no such thing in those days as compulsory education, and so long as industry claimed the bodies of the poor man's children they could not go to school; in many places there were no schools to go to. But the government finally woke up and started giving grants to schools in 1833. Gradually the children were delivered from bondage by an Act passed in 1870 which provided for public elementary education in England and Wales. The first Ford car proved a great nuisance in the city of Detroit. The horses all became panicky, the same as they did in this Island when automobiles made their debut. The people, too, resented the appearance of automobiles on our streets and country roads. I well remember the night a group of indignant farmers laid spiked boards on the approaches of the North River bridge. With the result that motorists found themselves stranded, the tires of their cars punctured beyond repairs. No doubt some of our early motorists can well remember the treatment they used to receive.

Before Lister the surgeons were notorious for their lack of cleanliness. The general practice was to wear an old, dirty, bloodstained coat for operating. This was bad medicine for the patient, who was often doomed the moment the surgeon came into his presence. To give my readers some idea of the high mortality rate let us look into the French hospitals around 1868. The mortality after amputations was 80 per cent, but following Lister's advice 34 out of every 40 survived, so gradually his methods were adopted. The expression O.K. is not as modern as some of us may think. It was the language used by telegraphers back in 1865.

Not until 1903 were mechanical vehicles in England allowed to increase their speed to 20 miles an hour. Not so many years ago, when you wanted to buy tobacco you went to the tobacconist, who weighed you out your ounces, which you put in your pouch, for making cigarettes or for pipe use. It might be shag or navy cut, but it carried no particular brand name, and it was pretty good tobacco too. Then some smart Alec conceived the idea that if the

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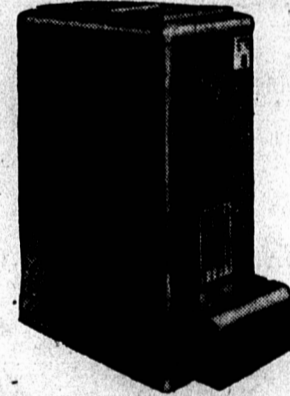
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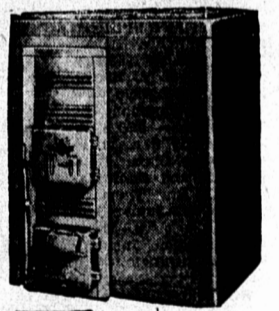
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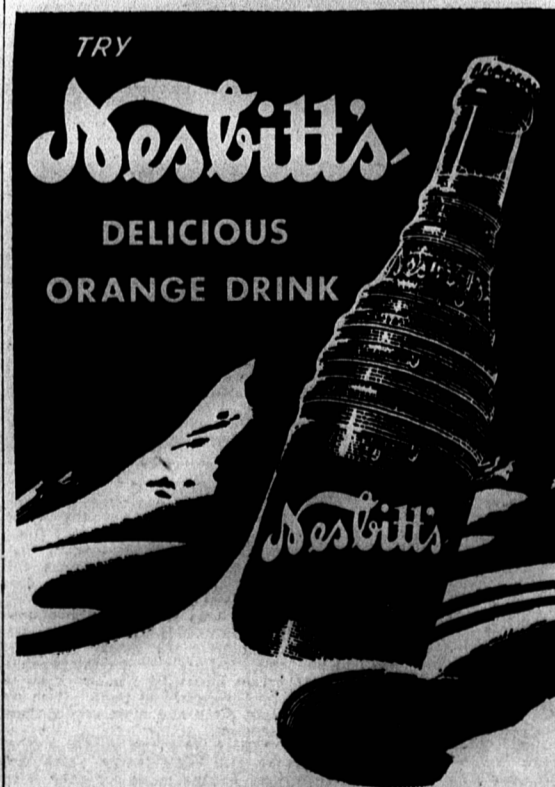
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