One little Yankee lady of Scotch descent, keen, sharp-eyed, with lips drawn down at the sides, judged by the writer's weary steps and listless manner that he might easily be taken in by some of her neighbors of doubtful honesty, who also had "rooms to let," so proffered him some friendly advice. Having dragged him to upper heaven, she waved her hand towards each article of furniture and explained its merits, carefully avoiding demerits.

"But how about the heat?" inquired the almost persuaded one.

"Oh, sir!" and she stamped one foot and eyed him sharply. "If anyone—anyone, I say—promises you heat this winter, doubt him! doubt him! I say, doubt him!"

Then she paused by way of emphasizing the seriousness of the situation, stared me for fully three minutes, drew herself together, and again stamping her foot:

Doubt it! I say doubt it!

Experience soon makes an expert of a room-seeker. You soon cease the custom of following the landlady through the internals of the house, unless the chances of success are at least above 50 per cent.

The points of disapproval fall into about the following ratio for discount:—Face of landlady powdered, or hair dyed, 20 per cent. off; dress or hair untidy, 30 per cent.; soiled wainscotting, or damaged oilcloth, 30 per cent.; inability of landlady to look you straight in the eye, 60 per cent. On the other hand, if there are no children the premium is about 40 per cent., and if a young lady with some expression and intelligence, and not too sweet, meets you at the door, some allowance may also be made.

"Wud ye room with a medicul student, and git a four-dollar room for two?" queried one fat, energetic, short-breathed, middle-aged lady.

"A medical student! Oh no, madam, not broke quite that badly, thank you!"

"Then how about a preacher, he is as nice as can be—never goes out o' evenings, don't swear, don't smoke, don't do nothink?"

"A preacher? Thank you, madam, but I must go."

Well, finally I got "sooted."

In a fit of desperation I had resolved to take the first in sight regardless of all but heat.

Madam ushered me up the stairs. All was fine, roomy, light, clean.

"But how, madam, about the heat?"

"I guarantee it, sir."

"I beg your pardon, madam, did you say 'guarantee?'"

"Yes, sir, guarantee!" and she threw back her head proudly. She was rather dignified, and somewhat aristocratic, and I did not wish to inquire too much into details—besides, her hair was red.

"Will you take it, sir?"

"Well, I think, perhaps," but the shrill voice of the wiry little Yankee woman could not be suppressed, and "Doubt it! I say doubt it!" came rasping into my ears, and I could not, as the ministerial students do, "down the doubt."

At last I ventured, "Madam, I will take it for one week on trial."

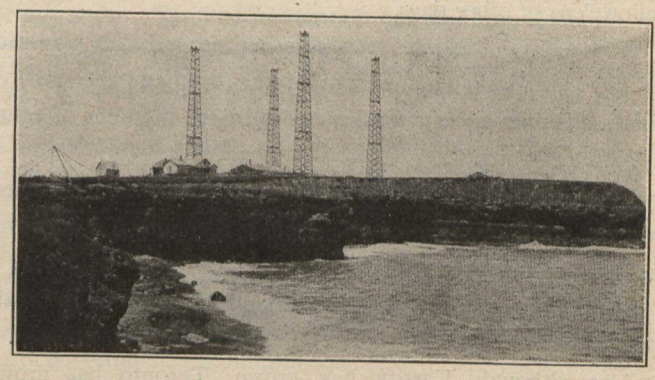
"All right!" she replied huffily, and that settled the deal.

Two days have gone, and I've got everything, including the heat—say nothing about it, whisper it it not in Gath. There sits, moreover, at one end of the dining table a brisky, quick-stepping, blue-eyed, hockey playing princess of the Victorian Order. You know the style, but say nothing about it. All for three seventy-five. "Heat guaranteed." "Cheap for those times."

JOE SHRIMINGTON,
Beavertown Hollow, Muskoka.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN CANADA.

BEFORE the close of the present year we may expect that Canada will be in wireless telegraphic communication, on a commercial basis, not only with England, but with South Africa as well; for, during the last few months, a large station has been erected at Cape Town by Marconi and his staff, and there is every indication that messages can be sent direct from this place to Cape Breton and vice versa. It is not our intention to enter into a detailed description of any of the three main stations established for the installation of the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy, but as the Canadian station differs considerably in construction from either the English station at Poldhu, or the South-African one at Cape Town, a brief outline of the construction work on the same will be given. On the inception of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, a grant was requested from the Canadian Government, and on receiving a promise of such, work was immediately commenced at Cape Cod. The first operation was the erection of light braced wooden towers to support the aerial wires, but before these were completed a heavy Atlantic gale swept over the eastern seaboard and the result was the total collapse of these towers. This necessitated the building of more substantial structures, and on the new site chosen at Glace Bay the present massive towers were erected. These consist of four wooden towers, each 215 ft. high, and located at the four corners of a square, of a periphery of 800 ft. Each tower is anchored in a solid mass of concrete, which forms the foundation, and is in the shape of a hollow square, having external and internal dimensions of 36 x 36 ft. and 24 x 24 ft., respectively. Cross and diagonal bracing was resorted to, to resist the heavy wind pressure; and to further insure safety from gales, guy ropes and stringers of special design were thrown out in all directions, both from the towers and the supporting cables. As will be surmised, the one use of these towers is to suspend the high aerial wires necessary in transmitting and receiving electric waves over such great distances. These wires are suspended in the following manner: From the tops of the towers four three-inch cables are strung from platform to platform, to form a square, and to the sides of this square are attached 150 aerial wires, which descend about 135 feet and are then brought together and meet in a common central cable, the whole presenting the appearance of an inverted pyramid, pierced at the apex by the centre wire. This central or main cable descends to the receiving or transmitting house, and is there connected with the requisite apparatus. It will be seen that this vast network of wires and cables, spread over such a large area, has a capacity exceeding anything of the kind hitherto attempted.



Marconi Wireless Telegraph Station at Glace Bay, N.S.

In conjunction with this part of the instalment is a powerful electric station for generating the electricity; and the transmitting and receiving apparatus, located in a separate building, also form a most important part of the equipment. Owing to the limited space at our disposal, a description of the power plant and other accessories required in such work cannot be attempted; but probably at some future date a more detailed and interesting account of the Glace Bay plant will be given.

WILL. J. LARKWORTHY.