

Wednesday, January 3, 1951

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and northern and central British Columbia
Member of Canadian Press — Audit Bureau of Circulations
Canadian Daily Newspaper Association
A. HUNTER, Managing Editor. H. G. PERRY, Managing Director
— SUBSCRIPTION RATES —
By Carrier, Per Week, 20c; Per Month, 75c; Per Year, \$8.00; By Mail, Per Month, 50c; Per Year, \$5.00.
Published every afternoon except Sunday by
Prince Rupert Daily News Ltd., 3rd Avenue, Prince Rupert.

Russia's Reply

THE PROPOSAL of the British, American and French governments for the holding of a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers may yet provide an opportunity for an easing in 1951 of the international tension, which seemed many times near breaking point in 1950. There seems to be some encouragement in the Russian reply but there can be little benefit unless the proposal is not only accepted but accepted in the spirit in which it has been made.

Another meeting of the council after the pattern of those held in Moscow and London in 1947 would serve little purpose. On each of those occasions, Mr. Molotov opened the conference with a salvo of accusations against his allies, hurled charges across the table which he made no attempt to substantiate, and continued through dreary controversial weeks to use the council simply as an instrument of propaganda against the western powers. These were the meetings which effectively destroyed what goodwill had survived from the days of the alliance. They were for the Russians part of the operation of declaring the cold war. They linked with Molotov's withdrawal from the Marshall Aid conference, with Zhdanov's formulation of the doctrine of the two camps, and with the attempt to drive the western powers out of Berlin by blockade.

To repeat these performances would at best be a waste of time. And it is, therefore, a wise suggestion that the first step should be consultation between the representatives of the four powers to see if some "mutually acceptable basis" can be found for a meeting of their principals.

In the meantime, Soviet acceptance of the three-power proposal will have to be greeted with cautious satisfaction rather than with enthusiasm. It would be folly to expect much until we know more. It would be folly to assume that it means change in "the general attitude" of the Soviet government which is a basic condition for any real change in the world situation. Above all, it would be folly to expect miracles from a mere decision to hold a meeting of the council. But that does not mean that the alternative to a miracle is a catastrophe. Even rejection of the three-power offer would not mean that Russia is determined to make war, any more than its acceptance would mean that she is determined to make peace.

Moscow's policy has been well summarized in a pamphlet just published by the London Bureau of Current Affairs, tracing the history of the cold war. The author, Miss Anne Whyte, concludes that the Soviet government, with "no certainty that a world war would benefit her in the long run," believes the cold war much more effective for her purposes. "We must reckon, therefore, on the most favorable assumptions, that the cold war will go on indefinitely." That seems to strike a realistic if somewhat depressing mean between unjustified optimism and equally unjustified pessimism.

THRIFT AND WORK

WE ARE entered on a new year with new problems, a new year with new hope, and with new strength born of a challenge and a vision of the future; a new year with renewed determination growing out of our faith in the boundless resourcefulness and ingenuity of our country and its people; a new year into which we march with employment soaring to new peaks, with individual earnings mounting to new heights, spreading prosperity to all levels, with mounting production topping all records; a new year during which problems precipitated by those who envy and would destroy the example of freedom our nation sets are the clouds on the horizon.

It is a new year, therefore, with a challenge for us to multiply our ability to defend freedom wherever it may be threatened the while we continue to work for the expansion of the benefits of our own way of life.

Never have we as a nation failed to meet such a challenge, and never will we fail to do so, so long as our unity of purpose remains firm. True, it will require more effort. But it is worth it, for then, even as now, there will be enough to give us all everything we require to maintain our superior standard of living, to help others, and also to insure the security of democracy in this world. Buy whatever we really need but we should be thrifty. Work a little harder at every task to produce more, and this can indeed be a memorable year.



As
I
See
It

By ELMORE PHILPOTT

UNCLE SAM DEBATES

JAMES RESTON of the New York Times says that the United States is now entering another of her historic debates, this time on the Hoover-versus-Truman plans of world politics.

He is obviously right about the debate. And he is probably right in his forecast that it will be fierce.

My guess is that it will culminate with the U.S. elections of November 1952, unless it is ended in the meantime by outbreak of war with Russia.

THERE IS NO other country where they have great national debates quite like those in the U.S.A. In Britain, for instance, the great public discussions centre in the House of Commons. But neither house of the U.S. Congress plays quite the same role, although the U.S. Senate is probably the most powerful parliamentary body in the world today.

But whereas public opinion in Britain is inclined to follow the lead given by the rival sides in parliament, in the U.S.A. the Congress is more apt to register the opinions which massively crystallize outside.

PRIOR TO THE American Civil War our neighbors had one such great debate—opinion in the north only slowly crystallizing against slavery as a result.

In the early years of the Hitler war there was another. It is prudent for Canadians to remember that this never was about whether the Americans should come into the war on our side. It was whether they should relax the "Cash on the Barrel-head" policy and substitute that of Lease-Lending war supplies to the anti-Hitler nations, who had already exhausted their ability to pay cash for U.S.-made supplies.

Canada did not qualify for or accept Lease-Lend, then or later, as we were always able to pay our way.

BOTH ROOSEVELT and Willkie campaigned in 1940 on a platform solemnly promising to keep American soldiers out of Europe's wars. We tend to forget that the U.S. only abandoned isolationism, to the extent that it was abandoned because Hitler and the Japanese Emperor Pearl-Harbored the Americans into the war.

I find myself half agreeing with both sides in the U.S. debate.

Surely the Trumanites are right in arguing that the day is past when any great nation can live in isolation.

But it seems to me that the theory that western Europe may be re-armed in two years to the point that Russia will thereby be overruled from attempting an attack that she would otherwise make is open to very serious doubt.

It seems to me possible (though not certain) such a plan could do the exact opposite—that is, to encourage the Russians to sweep through Germany, France, Spain before the United States gets the time to build up the 60 division army, proposed by Mr. Acheson.

UNFORTUNATELY Nobody in our part of the world knows the answer to the one question which is vital:

Are the Russian leaders planning to conquer as much of the world as they can take over, directly or indirectly, by hook or by crook?

Are they merely defending their world interests—much as the U.S.A. is doing in her enlarged sphere?

IF WAR IS certain, then the Hoover policy, at least as a beginner, seems to me much more realistic than Truman's.

We should never send a single man, let alone a single division, to any position where there is no chance to hold if war comes.

Indemnities Are Same as in 1950

Indemnities for the year were set at \$2,000 for the mayor and \$300 for aldermen by city council at the inaugural meeting of the year last night. The indemnities are the same as last year.

BLIND PENSIONS
There are more than 10,000 persons in Canada in receipt of pensions for the blind.



EDITOR RETIRES—Victoria Daily Times publisher Stuart Keate wishes Harry P. Hodges, retiring editor-in-chief, good luck as he ends 34 years with the newspaper. (CP PHOTO)

Housing Is Important

Mayor Stresses This In Appointing Committee

At the first meeting of the new 1951 city council last night, Mayor G. W. Rudderham stressed the need for the housing committee to get busy right away on the government housing project. He said much of the preliminary work had been done by last year's committee and that the new committee should carry on.

Mayor Rudderham welcomed Aldermen H. M. Daggett, H. S. Whalen and Darrow Gomez to the council and also welcomed Ald. G. D. Frizzell back.

The mayor gave a brief resume of work to be done during the year, projects that had been started and were not yet complete. In this connection he mentioned particularly water, sewers, streets, telephones and housing.

Committees for the year were named as follows:

Finance—Ald. T. B. Black, chairman; Ald. H. F. Glassey, Ald. D. Gomez.

Board of Works—Ald. G. B. Casey, chairman; Ald. D. F. Fitch, Ald. H. S. Whalen.

Utilities—Ald. H. M. Daggett, chairman; Ald. D. F. Fitch, Ald. D. Gomez.

Health, Police, Licensing—Ald. G. D. Frizzell, chairman; Ald. H. S. Whalen, Ald. H. F. Glassey.

Pioneers' Home—Ald. H. F. Glassey, chairman; Ald. G. D. Frizzell, Ald. H. S. Whalen, M. W. H. Krueger, W. G. Shear-town.

Library Board—Ald. T. B. Black, Mrs. M. M. Roper, A. D. Ritchie, Mrs. W. S. Kergin, Mrs. B. S. Prockter, Bruce Stevens.

Air Port—Ald. D. F. Fitch, chairman; Ald. D. Gomez, Ald. H. M. Daggett.

Wages—Chairmen of standing committees.

Health Unit—All Health Committee.

Civic Centre—Ald. D. F. Fitch, Ald. G. D. Frizzell.

Hospital Board—Ald. H. S. Whalen.

Museum Board—Mrs. N. E. Arnold.

Public Relations Council—Ald. H. F. Glassey.

Housing and Zoning—Ald. G. B. Casey, chairman; Ald. T. B. Black, Ald. H. M. Daggett.

Cliff Ford Trust Fund—Mayor G. W. Rudderham, City Clerk H. D. Thain, Ald. T. B. Black.

GIANT STARS

The two largest stars, Hercules and Betelgeuse, are respectively 400 and 300 times larger than the sun.

Resignation of Telephone Head

The resignation of J. F. Edwards as superintendent of telephones was read and referred to the utilities committee at last night's council meeting.

When asked by the council for his reason for resigning, Mr. Edwards, who was at the meeting, said he felt his term of usefulness had ended. He said a five year cable renewal plan was in operation, the filing system was up-to-date and a cost accounting system had been installed. Until the city had sufficient money to buy a new exchange there was little need for his services. He said an apprentice had been trained to make repairs to the switchboard and that Eric James was fully qualified to look after the line work. For those reasons, Mr. Edwards said, he felt he was no longer required here and that he would like to join his wife and family in Vancouver, where the children were attending university.

Ald. G. B. Casey said, if those were the reasons for the resignation, it was all right but he had heard there had been friction between Mr. Edwards and the utilities committee. If it was a case of a man being nagged out of a job he did not like it.

A New York haircut now costs \$1.25 instead of \$1. Lamenting growing expenses, one Gotham barber says his net profit on an investment of \$125,000 was only \$2,000 in the first nine months of last year. Business was doubtless pretty fair when he was able to rake together \$125,000.

NO ENCOURAGEMENT
PONTYCYMMER, Wales — The council of this Glamorgan-shire town hopelessly planted trees on a street in 1925. The trees died except one growing above the rooftops. Residents want this one cut down because of the noise of the birds.

FICKLE FATE
BANKS, England — First prize at a local whist drive in this Lancashire town was a motor car worth \$600, and folks came from miles around to try their luck. But the winner of the car went home by bus—he couldn't drive.

ATOM SCIENTISTS
STOCKHOLM — Prof. Max Von Laue, German physics expert, said here that the belief of a great many German nuclear scientists are at work in Russia is erroneous. He said most German experts either remained in West Germany or went farther west.

Fast Relief for RHEUMATIC PAIN
Dull wearisome aches—sharp stabbing pains—sore joints and muscles, are often quickly relieved by Templeton's T-R-C's. Many sufferers report genuine relief in 24 hours. Take T-R-C's today, get the relief you long for tonight! All druggists, 60c and \$1.25.

The agreement gives Alcan rights leading to a 500,000 horsepower hydro-electric power development on the Kemano River in the Tweedsmuir Park area and an aluminum plant at Kitimaat, about 80 miles south of Prince Rupert. Value of the entire project is placed at \$300,000,000.

Aluminum Co. Gets Rights

VICTORIA (Special to Daily News)—Final touches were put yesterday to long standing negotiations between the government of British Columbia and the Aluminum Co. of Canada Ltd. when Hon. E. T. Kenney, minister of lands and forests, signed on behalf of the government an agreement between the province and the company.

The agreement covers the proposed power and aluminum development in central British Columbia which has been under survey by the company since 1948. It requires that the consent of the Legislature be requested for certain features of the agreement and for this purpose the agreement will be laid before the provincial legislature at the next session in February or March.

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Ray Reflects and Reminisces

Thus, with Yule fading and as far off as ever, we all come back to the duties of Exercise Daily Routine—in other words, the drab job of earning a living.

Plenty of men away from home and strangers wherever they happen to be welcome the invitation to enjoy a Christmas or New Year dinner. The generosity is to be highly commended. Anyone can be short of money, no matter what the season, just as one can be a person of means and yet feel lonely while those around him are surrounded by friends and kin. Conversation, not silence, is natural and the brighter and more engaging, the better, particularly when the spell of the greatest season is over the world. Let gladness go with feasting. There are scores who have been in Prince Rupert, or are still here who look back with gratitude to those who never spared their own time and services.

We hope Joe Stalin never sends a note to Harry Truman suggesting that Margaret cannot sing.—Vancouver Province.

A piece of granite has been shipped by an Alberta man to Lord Beaverbrook suggesting that, if the stolen Stone of Scone, for 600 years in Westminster Abbey, the granite could be substituted for it. Sounds workable and simple. Nothing is known as to whether or not the gentleman in Alberta belongs to a curling rink.

The kind of publicity Prince Rupert cannot have too much of is at last coming this way. Over the air last night the progress of aluminum development in Northern British Columbia was made reference to. The expenditure of many millions would favorably affect communities on the coast, it said, "but more particularly Prince Rupert." It would all mean substantial port expansion and growth of shipping.

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wealthier and
wiser for us
all in the
New Year is
the hearty
wish of

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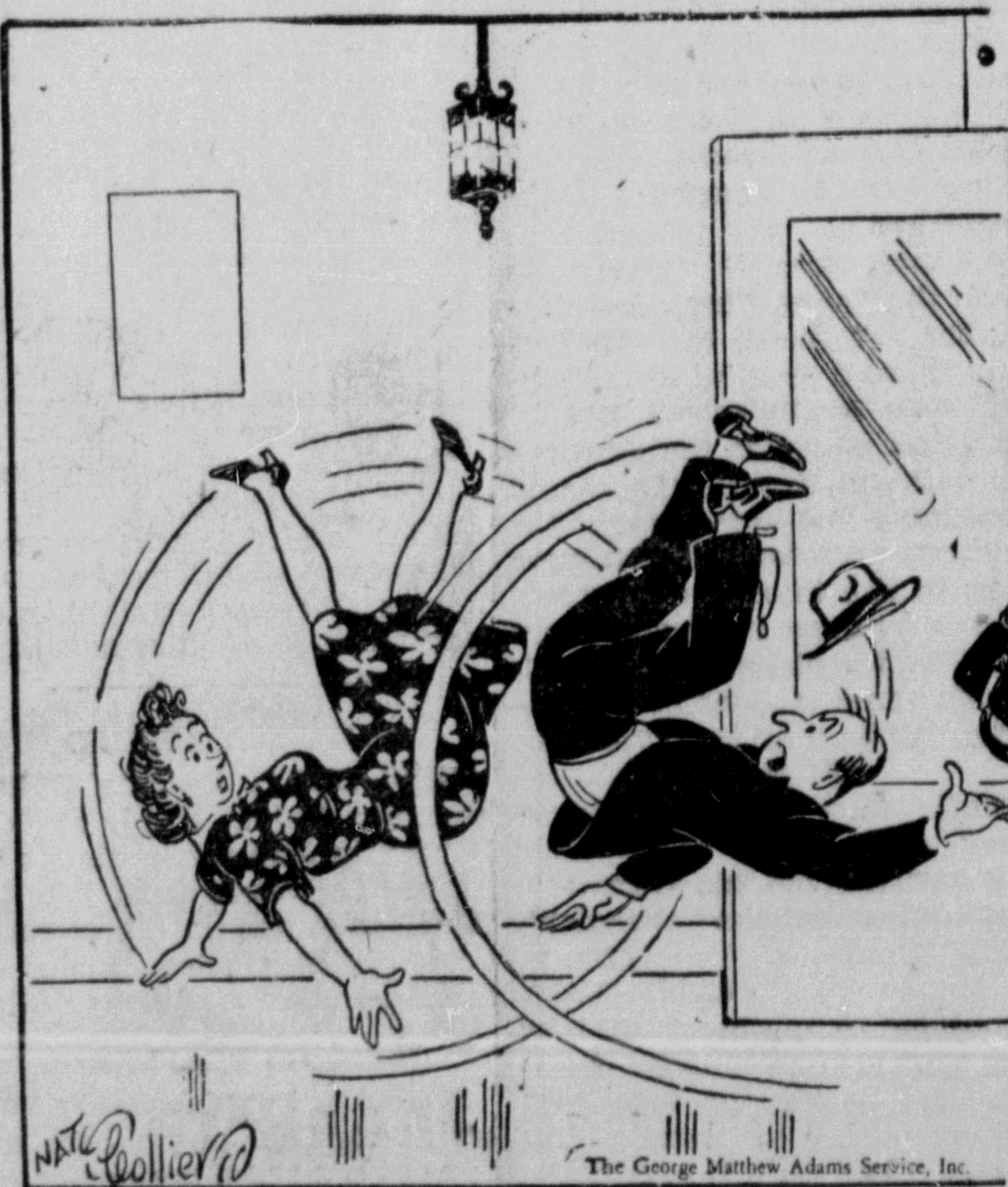
ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcement is made of the sale of R. E. MONTADOR LTD., real estate and insurance brokerage business, to H. G. HELGERSON LTD., as of January 1, 1951.

For the time being, business of R. E. MONTADOR LTD. will be carried on at the present premises, 355 Third Avenue.

In taking over this respected pioneer firm, H. G. HELGERSON LTD. hopes that it will be able to maintain its fine record of service to the customers, old and new, with which it becomes associated in the transfer.

Best wishes to all clients for the
New Year and many more to
come are heartily extended.



"Be careful, dear, I just finished waxing the floor."