

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and all communities comprising northern and central British Columbia. (Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.)  
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## The Federal Budget

THOSE WHO MIGHT have been looking for relief in direct taxation as a result of the enormous surpluses being piled up year after year by the federal government are completely disappointed by the budget of Hon. Douglas Abbott, minister of finance. No one is, of course, hurt by the budget but there is little if anything offered in the way of relief from the burden of tax paying and living generally.

Most interesting tax elimination of the budget is the removal of the eight percent sales tax from a wide range of food items. How much of the benefit will be passed on to the consumer remains to be seen. The minister of finance hopes that it will be substantial. Elimination of the luxury tax on silver-plated cutlery, some alarm clocks and watches, will not be of very far-reaching effect. To certain elements the withdrawal of the federal government from the amusement tax field may be a matter of some satisfaction.

The minister of finance admits, himself, that continued piling up of record surpluses of revenue derived from taxation over expenditure would be unjustified except under special circumstances such as to curb inflation or pay off the national indebtedness more quickly.

There are certainly no pleasant if no unpleasant surprises in Mr. Abbott's budget for any section of the community of Canada.

## A MEAN ACT

ROBBING a blind person is a mean act. Taking a stick of candy from a youngster is also despicable. And down in Atlanta, Georgia, there has been discovered another individual who becomes a candidate for inclusion among those who do base things.

He stole a newspaper from a verandah after it had been left there by a carrier boy. This, however, is nothing new. It has happened right here in Prince Rupert. The Atlanta case had a happy finish. The responsible party was caught, soundly lectured and fined \$50. He never paid that much for a paper.

## STATEHOOD NOT NEW

WITH STATEHOOD FOR ALASKA being widely canvassed, there are many who jump at the conclusion that this is something new. It is perhaps not generally known that as far back as 1906, the change from territorial status was an issue. In that year, Judge James Wickersham, delegate to Congress, was busy on what was known as the Enabling Act as a preliminary to the introduction of the Alaska Statehood Bill. It did not pass, and this was expected. At a later date, Judge Wickersham renewed his efforts with practically the same results. So, it would seem that the endeavor to place a diadem on Alaska's head is a long and a tedious process.

## GRASPING OPPORTUNITY

BARBARA ANN SCOTT is close to big money. If the champion figure skater turns professional and signs a contract at Hollywood, it may mean more than a million and percentage of picture profits for the first three years, together with options for renewal. Barbara Ann has youth and fame. Neither will last indefinitely. Even friendship will fade, in time. Barbara Ann has an opportunity no wto provide a fortune for herself. She had better make the most of it.

## Just Arrived...

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## Medical Men Gather Here

Hospitalization Insurance  
Welcomed—Clinical Sessions  
Being Held

Medical men of this province heartily welcome the new provincial contributory hospitalization scheme and will be ready to co-operate in every way possible with a view to bringing it into successful operation. Dr. L. H. Leeson, president of the British Columbia Medical Association, declared at a dinner meeting last night in the Civic Centre which marked the opening of a series of medical sessions and clinics marking the annual session of the Prince Rupert District Medical Association. Dr. Leeson made it clear, however, that medical treatment was not provided for under the hospitalization insurance plan which would be of great benefit in removing to considerable extent the great financial strain involved when hospital treatment became necessary. He touched on some phases of the operation of the scheme, mentioning how the payments to hospitals would be regulated by the facilities and services which they offered. The scheme would come into operation as hospital capacity permitted. Dr. Leeson mentioned a new scale of fees which had been put into effect by doctors as from May 1, something that had long been deferred notwithstanding increasing costs which had seen rising scales of all other goods and services.

Second of the visiting speakers at last night's dinner meeting was Dr. F. L. Whitehead, executive secretary of the British Columbia Medical Association, who spoke on the subjects of medical service to recipients of social assistance, on the supply of doctors and on the possibilities of prepaid medical care. Dr. Whitehead disclosed that there were 1500 physicians and surgeons in British Columbia today as compared with 800 four years ago. The number would be further increased during the coming year by new graduates from medical schools and doctors arriving from other countries. Maldistribution rather than scarcity was the problem in regard to supply of doctors. A new problem was foreseen by Dr. Whitehead through the increasing number of persons receiving social assistance. There might well develop a public demand for prepaid medical care such as had resulted in the inauguration of a compulsory hospitalization insurance scheme. There had been a great increase in the number of people in the province subscribing to medical treatment insurance.

Dr. J. D. Galbraith, president of the Prince Rupert Medical Association, was in the chair at last night's dinner meeting at which a number of representative citizens were invited to join the doctors. On behalf of the laymen guests, appreciation was expressed by C. G. Ham, president of the board of directors of the Prince Rupert General Hospital.

Following adjournment of last night's dinner meeting, the first medical meeting was held in the ladies' lounge of the Civic Centre when there was a discussion of clinical subjects led by Dr. J. E. Walker of Vancouver and Dr. W. A. McElmoyne of Victoria.

This morning there was a clinical session at the Prince Rupert General Hospital when a number of cases were presented by local doctors.

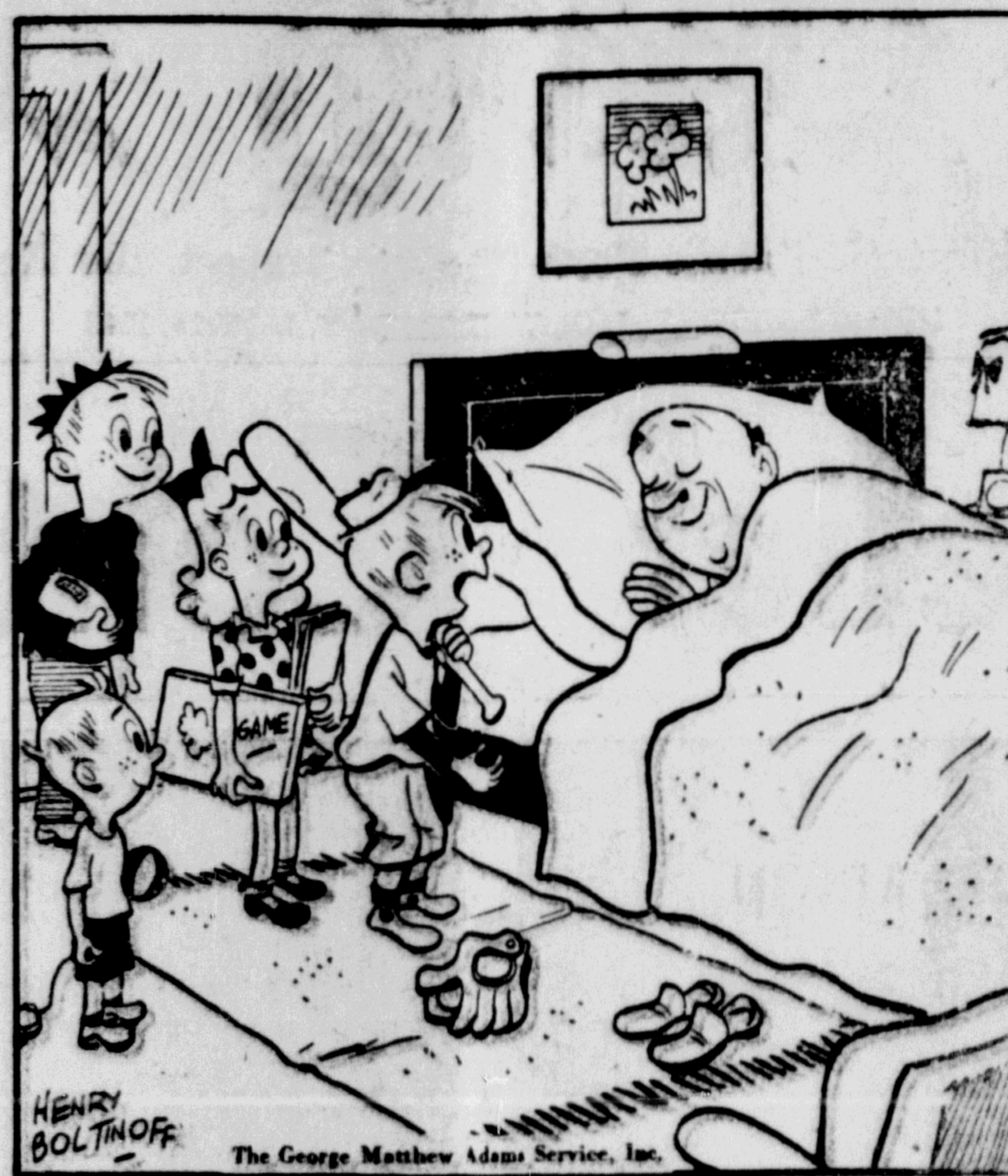
Another professional discussion is being held this afternoon at the Civic Centre.

A dinner at the Civic Centre this evening will precede the departure of the team of visiting doctors for Prince George by train.

Dr. W. S. Kergin was host at his home yesterday afternoon to the visiting doctors, Dr. C. H. Hankinson will entertain them this afternoon.

Today at luncheon the visit-

## THIS AND THAT



## Reminiscences By W.I. and Reflections

For stubbornness, a stump considered, the good judgement sometimes reminds one of certain acquaintances. And speaking of stumps calls attention to the fact of how putting ground in shape for a lawn in Prince Rupert means good, hard work.

There isn't any easy way, particularly where stumps are concerned. Toil, however, can be somewhat reduced by a shot of dynamite but this will involve a permit, questioning and more or less red tape and officialdom. Oh, this stump-extraction business is not simple or tranquil, no matter which way you look at it.

A dispatch from Capetown says locusts are appearing in such numbers that South African agriculture feels anxious. Watching a flight is worth remembering. Early one brilliant morning, marching to Bloemfontein, what appeared to be a haze came over the cloudless sky. This deepened into twilight and the beating of countless wings merged into a strange, humming sound. The locusts were traveling. It was like a heavy snow storm, only the flakes were living things, and Heaven help any maize fields the visitors would, sooner or later, alight on.

People living here, today, give scarce a second glance at the deep retaining walls and jagged, sides of rock cuts scattered across the townsite. Mountains, once, were literally moved. Rough grading was completed and the waterfront licked into shape. The men entrusted with the discharge of explosives knew their business. Huge quantities of dynamite were handled, it seemed, with but little respect. The roar of a blast, a sudden deep-down quiver or thud, a sky full of whirling rocks all became commonplace. Casualties were so few, through those strenuous, venturesome years, that it only emphasizes again, all things and care shown by engineers and

ing doctors were guests at the weekly luncheon of the Prince Rupert Gyro Club, speakers being Dr. Leeson, Dr. Whitehead and Dr. D. W. Johnstone.

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## Inquire About Installations

Prince Rupert Chamber of Commerce is prodding War Assets Corporation once again for further information in regard to the mystery of disposal of the American war-established waterfront installations here. The Chamber had been promised information on the matter by May 15 but, so far, has heard nothing. Meantime, word has been received indirectly that Kenneth Meek, who had an option, has relinquished at least some of the installations.

A. D. P. Heeney, K.C., Clerk of the Privy Council and Secretary to the Cabinet, accompanied by Mrs. Heeney, are visitors in the city today. They arrived on the Prince Rupert and plan to leave for the east tonight by train.

## a word about Personal Purchases in the U.S.

● If you are contemplating a trip to the United States, here are two important facts to remember:

● You may not bring back with you any merchandise which is prohibited under the Emergency Exchange Conservation Act. Find out in advance from Canadian Customs officials whether you may bring in any contemplated purchase.

● To conserve all available U.S. dollars for essential purchases, a travel ration of \$150 U.S. per person for the 12 months between Nov. 15, 1947 and Nov. 15, 1948 has been established. Be sure to get the necessary forms and details at your bank, well in advance of your trip.

This caution is given to help avoid possible embarrassment at border points.

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## NOTICE RE DOG TAX

Dog Tax for the year 1948 was due and payable on January 15th, in the following amounts:

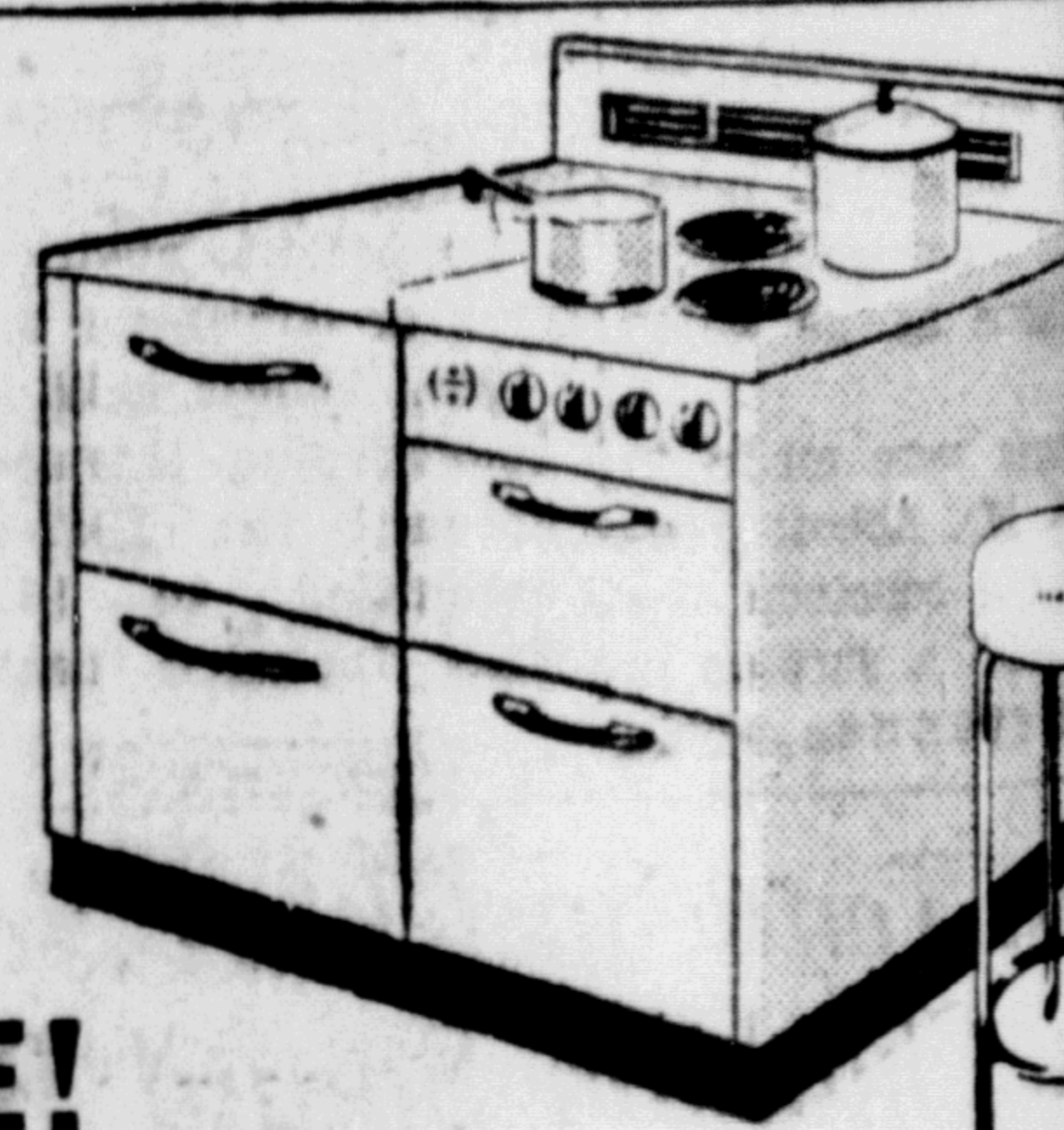
Male ..... \$2.00  
Female ..... \$5.00

Dog owners are warned that prosecution may follow failure to pay this tax.

(116) H. D. THAIN, C.

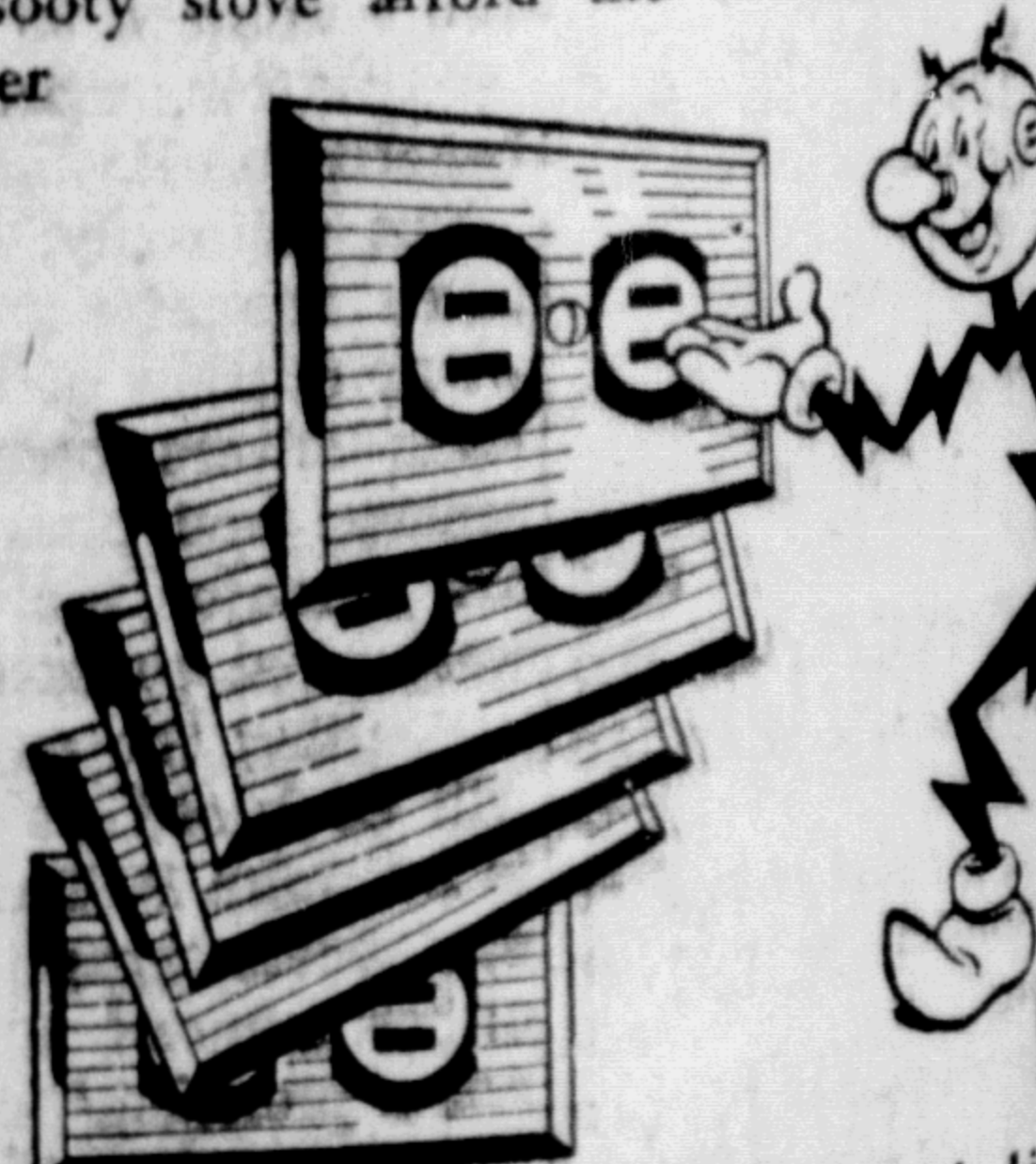
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