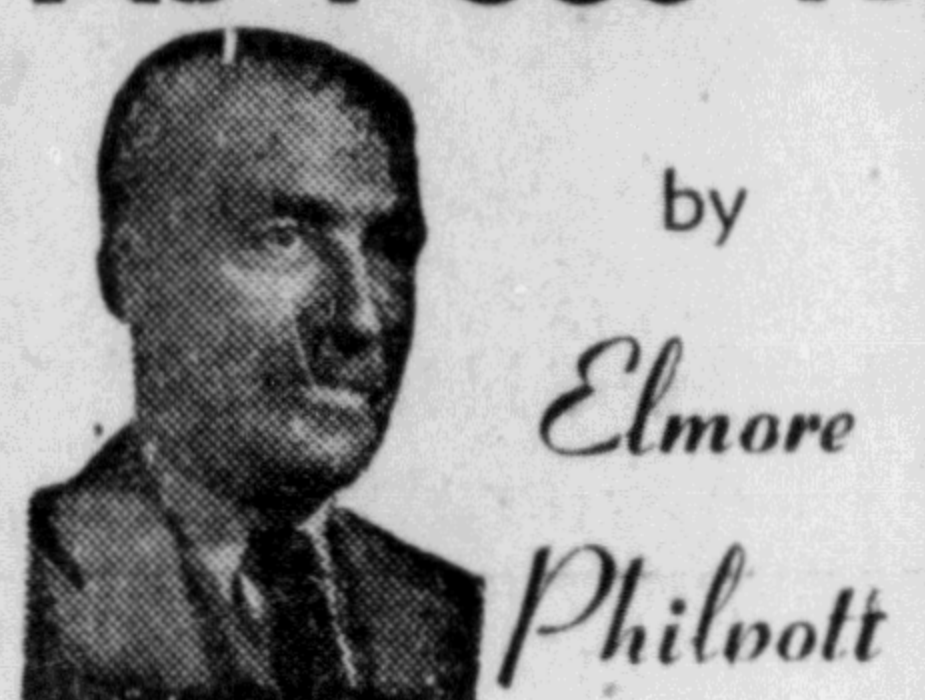


Tuesday, March 9, 1954

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As I See It



by

Elmore
Philbott

Three R's—Plus?

THIS IS Education Week, and education was never so much the centre of controversy as right now.

The critics tell us — and how right they are — that our school products can't spell, or add, as well as their grandparents could!

I notice the comparison is always to the grandparents, and not to the parents, for fear the youngsters might snap back: "How come, Dad, you can't add or spell yourself?"

But granted that the youngsters are far from perfect on the three R's, whose is the fault?

The whole trend of this country has been to push over on the school more and more of the responsibilities which used to be borne by the parents, not to mention the church and Sunday school. Moreover, in this age of dizzy speed the youngsters have far too much to do. Everybody goes too many places, too fast and too often. Everybody is rushing hellbent, to get some place where he or she does not particularly want to be when they do arrive.

The youngsters naturally take on the temper and tempo of society as a whole. Out on the Coast I thought it was only our youngsters who went to several parties on the same night. But here in the staid and somewhat stodgy Capital of Canada, I find that the teen-agers, on really big nights out, make a whole round of parties, ending up with ham and eggs on the morning after the night before — still all in a bunch.

THE MAIN thing that seems to me to be wrong with our educational system is that we are trying to do too much, for too many people. It is a good thing that more and more people are getting more and more education. But I am not so sure that a good many of those who go through our ordinary high schools would not benefit more from vocational or mechanical school training.

The ever-recurring cry that education costs too much leaves me absolutely cold. A nation that is spending half of its total annual production on what is called "defence," is certainly in need of more and a different kind of education if it crabs and quibbles at the level of school teachers' salaries, or costs of new schools.

I know of no more appalling commentary on the sense of proportion of our own times than the fact that many school teachers have had to desert their profession, and take industrial jobs to make better pay.

IN OUR family we often laugh at the difference between our grandfathers and the younger generation.

Great Granny, my mother, still alive and laughing at age 88, has told us over and over again about the famous spelling match which she almost won. It was apparently a big inter-school affair, about the year 1877, when Great Granny was a girl of twelve. The word that stumped her was phthisis.

But one of Great Granny's granddaughters, who is a very smart young woman in her own profession, can't spell worth a sou apiece, despite the fact that she is a university graduate.

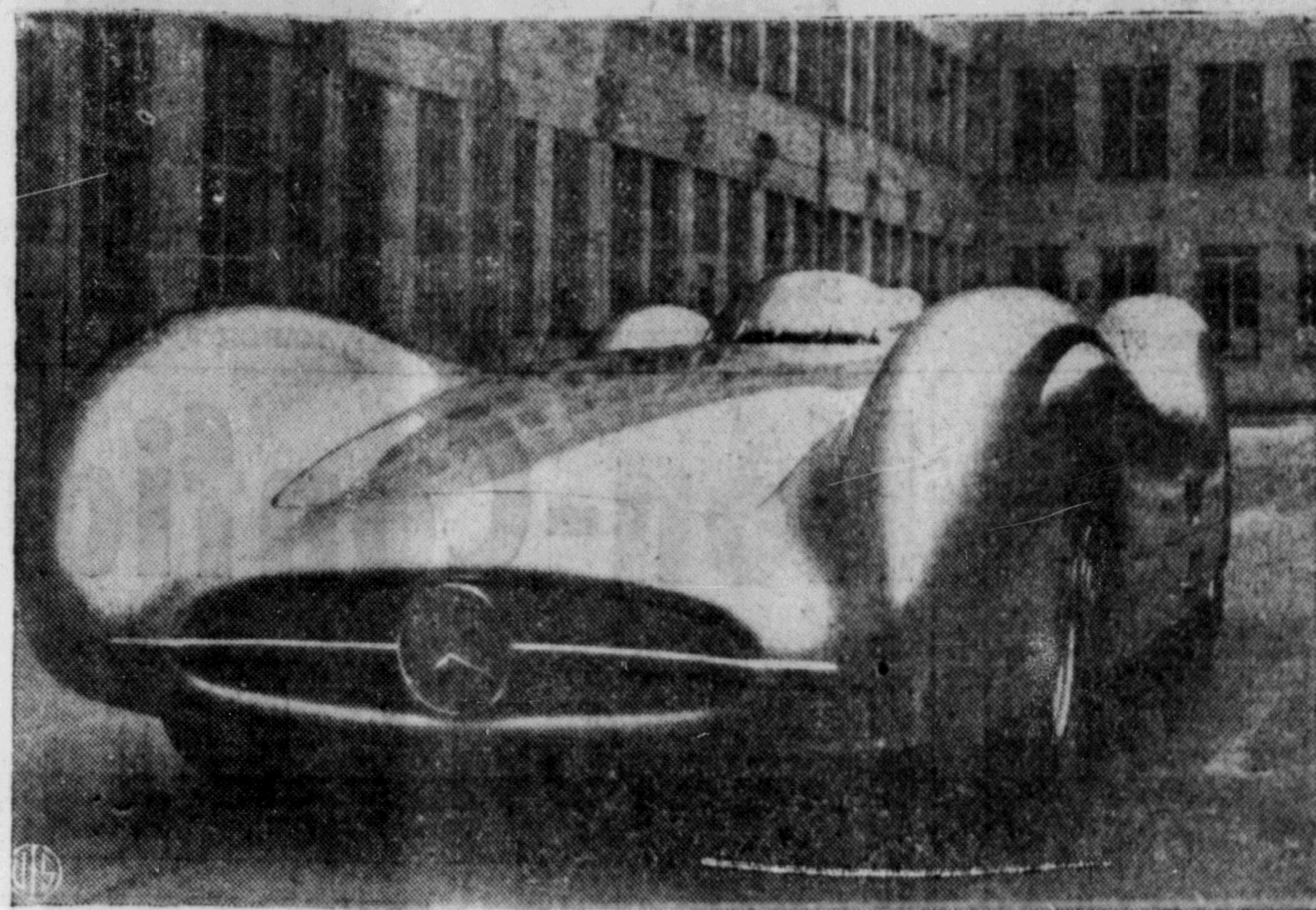
Are the schools to blame? Or is it heredity gone wrong? Or is it that the more modern schools are not only trying to teach the three R's but also trying to teach the whole field of human knowledge, from A to Z?

ONE THING that is good is the fact that there is so much argument about schools and education. People do not argue about things of no importance. The school question is very much alive today, because schools were never so vital as they are right now.



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SHADES OF SPACEMEN and flying saucers! Resembling a four-wheeled giant from a science-fiction thriller, the new Mercedes racing car has just been completed at the Dallmer Benz car factory in Stuttgart, Germany. Due to make its debut in this season's Nuerburging races, the Mercedes' technical data has not yet been disclosed. This is the front end of the car, with the shield (middle of car) protecting the small cockpit.

CAPITAL COMMENTS

I thank the Daily News for the opportunity of submitting this as the first of three articles which I propose to write during the course of the current session. The work of the Legislature at this session lends itself to be dealt with under three headings: Throne Speech debate; Budget debate; and Legislation.

The Throne Speech was read by Lieutenant-Governor Clarence Wallace on the day of opening, February 16. It is, of course, prepared by the government and its main purpose is to give an indication of the policy of the government for the coming year.

Each member of the Legislature is entitled to speak on the Throne Speech but may include anything from growing coffee in Brazil to taming monkeys in northern India.

The debate on the Throne Speech ended Friday. We listened to about 40 members speak. It is a rather tedious way in which to gain a small amount of knowledge but it appears to be a necessary part of our democratic process.

Following the reading of the Throne Speech it was moved and seconded by two members on the government side of the House. On this occasion it was moved by Rev. C. W. Parker from Peace River who has been the first member at either session of the present government to expound on the Social Credit monetary theory. His explanation was simply that, when the people see fit to elect a Social Credit government at Ottawa, with divine help and the aid of the Social Credit monetary theory (which no one here seems to know much about) it will not be necessary for the government to borrow money and in such event no interest will have to be paid, there will be no taxes, and everyone will have everything he needs.

Following the moving and seconding of the Throne Speech, Arnold Webster, leader of the official opposition, spoke at length, in a most able and scholarly fashion, but possibly with not enough aggressiveness to suit various members of his own party. Following Mr. Webster's address the leader and only member of the Conservative party, Dr. L. Giovando, spoke to the legislature briefly. He is in the unenviable position of being obliged to endeavor to keep himself informed on all matters, and this, of course, is an impossible situation.

Next came Liberal leader Arthur Laing who spoke at length, followed by the Attorney-General. The Premier spoke yesterday in his dual role as leader of the government and finance minister.

In spite of the great number of speeches that have been made the members still had only a very slight knowledge of the intentions of the government. Rumors were persistent that it had in mind eliminating hospital insurance premiums and raising the 3 per cent sales tax to 5 per cent. Now that Mr. Bennett's speech has disclosed this to be true the government will meet with very substantial opposition from many quarters.

It was indicated in the Throne Speech that amendments will be made to the Workmen's Compensation Act and the I.C. & A. Act. Organized labor has been pressing the government to bring in these bills at an early date so as to give them a chance of studying them before they are debated.

I spoke at length in the Throne Speech debate on various items of interest to Prince Rupert district, including an outpost hospital at Massett, the establishment of a liquor store on the Queen Charlotte Islands, the construction of a road from Massett to Port Clements, a night liquor store for Prince Rupert, maintenance on Highway 16 as well as the re-locating and rebuilding of certain sections in

A. BRUCE BROWN,
M.L.A., Prince Rupert

preparation for hard-surfacing, the Terrace-Kitimat road, the Metlakalla enfranchisement, as well as hospital insurance, workmen's compensation for fishermen, school finance, rent control and a reduction in the annual motor-vehicle licence fee rather than the registration fee which is paid only once. I will pursue these items at greater length during the debate on the budget.

With the budget brought down yesterday, it is expected that the budget debate may last from two to three weeks.

At the conclusion of the budget debate I will attempt to give you a brief account as to what took place and by that time will have a more detailed knowledge of government policy.

LETTERBOX

The Editor,
The Daily News.

Has any landlord in this town ever been a child, if so, where did they live?

How is anyone in this town supposed to bring up children if they can't find a decent house in which to live. One mother in our group with three children has been looking for a house for four years.

The apartment they live in is so drafty that her two youngest children have been in the hospital with pneumonia five times in the last three months. Everywhere we go to rent houses, they either don't take children or the rent is too high. DISGUSTED MOTHERS.

The Editor,
The Daily News.

As a subscriber of your paper I would like to express myself on the conditions of the old men of today who helped to build up Canada. Forty years ago I was working on the Grand Trunk Pacific when they connected the steel between here and Prince George.

Now our old fellows are on the scrap heap with a miserable pension of \$480 a year.

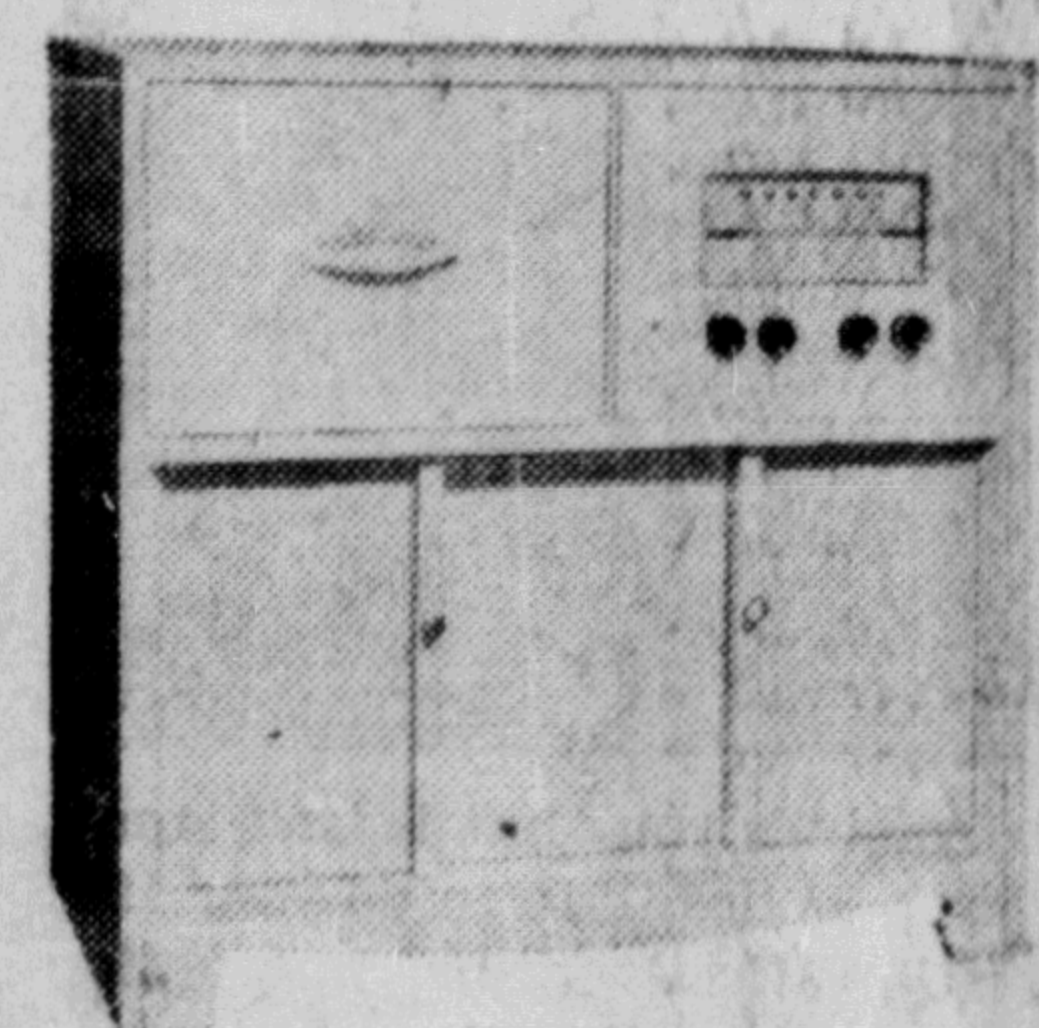
Well, it's a great joke. We vote and put people into power to look after our interests. I would call them public servants, representing the people and I can't see how they can raise their salaries to such an amount without the consent and vote from the people they represent.

You hear the talk of the high standard of living in Canada. Well, in the face of all the necessities of life and losses along with it for everything at \$480 a year, I fail to see where the high standard of living comes in.

I was just thinking I was lucky at being born a Scotsman and can eat lots of mush or I would have starved long ago.

In the hungry 30's, we were told to go out in the bush and build a shack to live in as some of us did, but I see now the old

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OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Some folks in these parts — but not really many — are naive enough to be wondering what the effect will be on Hon. George Drew's status of next week's convocation here of the Progressive Conservative Association of Canada.

Already the indications are pretty clear that such individuals should spare themselves any and all suspense. For nothing is going to happen at next week's meeting that will have any effect upon Hon. Mr. Drew's position, unless to strengthen his grip on the leadership which it is now apparent he is determined not to resign.

The plain reason nothing is going to happen to Hon. George's detriment lies in the fact that next week's meeting isn't in any sense a gathering of the Progressive Conservative rank-and-file. It is rather a meeting of the party "brass" from the different provinces. In other words, it is a meeting of the Federal Progressive Conservative machine. And Hon. Mr. Drew still has effective control over the party at the machine level.

To make it plain that the coming meeting isn't going to be any grass-roots affair, rank-and-file Conservatives have had their status at it — if they choose to attend — carefully spelled out. They have been told that any Conservative supporter who cares to attend may do so, upon payment of his dollar fee to become a member of the Federal association. But they have had it emphasized that, while payment of the association fee confers the right to attend and even take part in the discussion, it does not allow the right to vote on any matter that may come before the meeting. That is reserved for the select group composed of members of Parliament, provincial executives, and "brass." While a vote taken on any matter by any members of the rank-and-file must just sit on their hands and not raise them in disapproval.

Obviously, the Conservative faces little threat of a revolution from such a gathering. The advance program of the malcontents in the party won't even be taken into consideration. The whole affair will turn out to be a harmless confined — unhappily party — to the size of a convention in the Chateau Laurier which is sufficient to accommodate who will be present.

In brief, next week looks like another machine politics farce in which the machine will triumph at the polls rather than the manipulation of the hierarchy's hold on the party.

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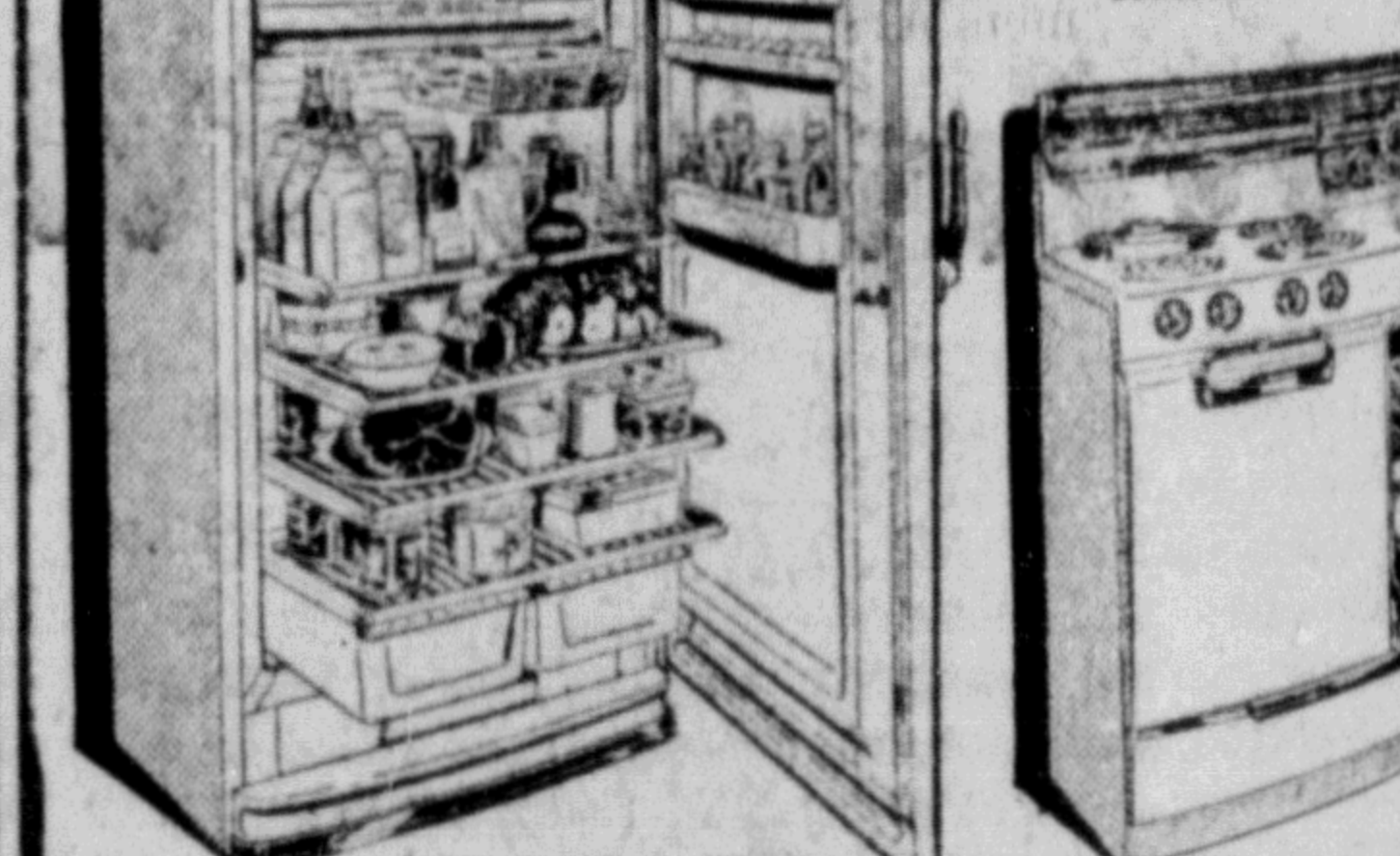
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Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

Making a budget is a method of worrying before you spend — instead of afterward.

A clever wife is not the one who sees the point of her husband's jokes, but one who can laugh without seeing the point.

NOT ONE "HELLO"

Heaven knows Sunday in Prince Rupert is quiet enough, no matter the state of the weather, or how you happen to be feeling. So we declare this is a timely moment to say that throughout last Saturday night, Prince Rupert's police station had the peace that passeth all understanding. The telephone never rang once. That has never been known to occur before.

There may be such a novelty as seasonal labor — you know, the time of year you figure its best to get back on the job — but to date no where a visible sign.

Lethbridge in southern Alberta is reputed to be the sunniest and windiest city in all Canada. This is more than somebody's say so. It is a matter of official record, as disclosed at the annual Toronto fair. Wonder what would occur in the event of a "rainiest city" competition. Don't know but can confess to a slight suspicion.

FINDING THE OFFICER

Appearing in Harbor & Shipping is the record of an error after the First World War, committed by a naval officer, in the course of a speech. The gallant officer was described as "the bottle scarred veteran." In next "We apologize for the printer's

error in our report yesterday of the speech of the captain who was cited as the "bottle scarred" veteran. This, of course, should have read "Battle-Scarred."

John Diefenbaker, M.P., is asking that the Canada Evidence Act be amended so that sources of information shall be considered confidential and inadmissible in court cases. If the press is denied protection of rights, it might just as well go home and stay there.

THEY KNOW

Near New Westminster, large scale industry will soon be taking shape, following an outlay of English capital. This can involve the evicting of hundreds who know its tough to get by on forty bones.

Flying saucers appear to still be flying which means that while the thing remains a mystery, it is nevertheless admitted that although a small percentage of the reported apparitions may be astronomically phenomena, others may not be so rationally explained. To date there have been all kinds of speculation. And don't dare say we haven't seen the last.

The trouble with a husband who works like a horse is that all he wants to do in the evening is hit the hay.

Every year the Swimming and Water Safety programme of the Canadian Red Cross instructs Canadians of all ages to enjoy water sports.