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As I See It



by  
Elmore  
Philpott

Schools in 1952

IN MACLEAN'S Magazine for March 1, Dr. William E. Hume charges that "progressive" education is turning out high school graduates who are lazy, inefficient in work and lacking in knowledge.

He cites the obvious fact that a considerable percentage of high school graduates cannot spell—and that many would-be entrants to McGill University did not even know the name of Canada's Prime Minister. The veteran Canadian educationist blames all this on lack of old-fashioned drill.

"Who ever learned anything without drill?" he asks. "Hockey is learned by drill; a boy thinks nothing of practising skating and puck handling until he's good enough for the team. Singing is learned by drill... the old saw about education being 'the application of the seat of the pants to the chair' is as true today as it ever was."

IT SEEMS to me that the pendulum did swing somewhat too far to the free-and-easy side in education in the past few decades.

There are some things in this life that you just do have to learn the hard way—and unless you do learn them you are not only handicapping yourself for your whole future life; you are also holding back all the other folks in your own nation, for somebody will have to try to carry your share of the total load, or it won't be carried at all.

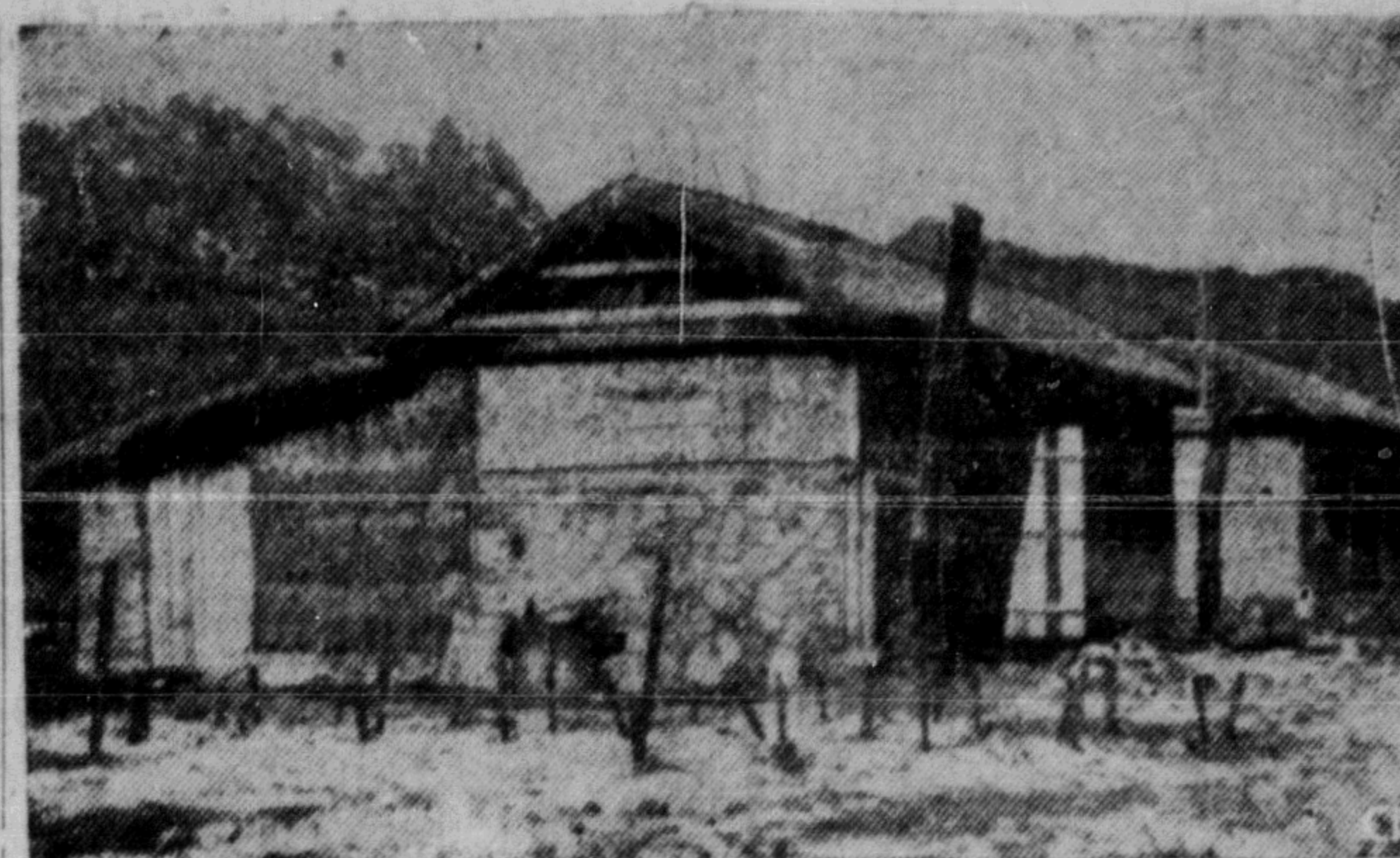
But in all fairness to the schools it should be recognized that they are being asked to take over more and more of the responsibility of training the rising generations.

Where is the family today which applies the tough discipline, or even steady routine, which was almost universal at the end of Queen Victoria's time? Will anybody in his right senses pretend that the churches and Sunday schools, as a whole, loom as large in the lives of the average Canadian family of 1951 as they did, say, in 1902?

PARENTS have abdicated a great deal of their responsibility. So have the churches. So now the whole tendency is to pile on to the school not only the old responsibilities but others which used to be discharged elsewhere.

Sex education is now a school teacher's job. So is Bible reading. Another extra burden that has been thrown on the school system is by industry. In the old days all sorts of crafts used to work on the apprenticeship system. A few still do. But more and more the schools have had to take over the task of giving the preliminary instruction that private business used to pay for, and give.

THE WEAKNESSES of the school system today seem to me to be mere by-products of



CHEAP HOUSING—Built amid the rubble left by departed armies are these new Korean homes, typical of hundreds going up in the war-ravaged country. The barbed-wire entanglement running past the houses gives evidence of a former defence line. (CP from National Defence)

KOREA SURVEY

Homes Provided Under United Nations Scheme

[Editor's Note: Bill Boss, Canadian Press staff writer in Korea, has completed a two-week survey of conditions among the civilian population during the Korean winter. This article is the third of a series based on interviews with United Nations, Korean Republic and civilian sources.]

By BILL BOSS  
Canadian Press Staff Writer

SEOUL, Korea (CP)—Recipe for a two-family duplex house: Thirteen hundred board feet of two-by-four lumber; 12 to 14 pounds of nails; two or three bags of cement (unless the builder is a reactionary who prefers mud); add assorted rush lathing and mud plaster, work for 12 days.

It's a good house, too, says 56-year-old Lee Tok Chong who built one in a small settlement eight miles north of Seoul on the road to Uijongbu.

Lee is chief of the village, elected by the heads of its other 39 families because "he gets things done and knows how to run us."

There are 20 new duplexes like Lee's in the village, each unit housing a family and built by the occupants with materials supplied by the United Nations.

EVACUATED COMMUNISTS

The settlement of tenant-farmers was destroyed by Korean Communist troops retreating after the September, 1950, Inchon landings. Lee and his neighbors hid as the northerners pillaged and burned, then moved south with what little goods they could carry.

Last autumn the UN permitted some farmers to go back to their land in "restricted" areas and plant winter wheat.

"Restricted" areas extend to within four or five miles of the front, where a "prohibited" area begins.

As destitute citizens in essential employment, Lee and the others in his community qualify

for free temporary housing. The United Nations Civilian Assistance Command provided the materials—wood, nails and cement, if desired—and the prospective occupants provided the labor.

Wood-framed, walled in with mud plastered on rush lathing and with thatched roof, each half of a duplex has two rooms—one a 10-foot square living-room, the other a kitchen half that size.

"Not so temporary," said Lee. "By thatching the roof every other year, I can make this house last 20 years."

Across Korea, 1,024,000 persons have been moved north into the restricted areas. A total of 1,550 "temporary" houses has been built and 6,200 more are under construction.

To qualify for settlement on this own land, such farmers must:

Return as family groups. Have all their household effects, and still have their family bull to pull the plow.

To save materials, the new houses must conform to a basic plan, though changes have been made to accommodate local needs and customs.

THOUSANDS IN BILLETs

Despite the building program, most of Korea's homeless still are billeted on the populace south of the Han River or are in organized camps.

(Continued on page 9)

ray ...

Reflects and Reminisces

Federal Parliament opens today. No general reduction of taxation is expected. Of course not! Who wants to be bothered with taxes when the first Canadian-born viceroy is installed? The latest in style can be observed. Overpowering uniforms are flaunted. Sonorous sounding statements are heard—and what's it all for?

A stubborn old sport, this Jones Bill. It must be close to forty years that Canadian ships have been barred from doing business between the United States and Alaska. Again a bill is before Congress asking admission of Canadian shipping. Alaskans themselves would like to see it in effect. But the influence of Seattle is old and far reaching.

Third Avenue is not yet the Great White Way but general development is in that direction. Every improvement means more lights. Six months hence the Woolworth Block will brighten one's thoughts. The Wallace corner is about to become a blaze of lights and spacious windows. And the illumination over The News entrance makes reading world dispatches and local reports clearer than ever.

FUNDS ARE FAVORABLE:

This being election year, President Truman is having his worries but, financially, he should feel grateful. Common report has it that present available funds will give him in retirement \$10,000 a year. He owns a farm and residence in Missouri. In 1948, he was next door to being broke.

Literary luminaries are already wondering who the next poet laureate will be although (Continued on page 9)

World Needs All Our Growth

HUNDREDS of millions of people are starving on the verge of starving. Hundreds of millions of other people are getting food than they need to nourish healthy bodies.

Hundreds of millions of other people want more food than they are getting. These three groups of people total almost two billion. They are all in this one world, in Canada must produce and exchange as much health of our people permits if Canada is to be a free nation playing its part in promoting world well-being.

No Canadian is exempt from the duty of doing what he or she can do within the limits of health and the needs of humanity.

The hungry people of the world will pay every penny they can for food. They will deprive themselves of anything else that they can live without to get food to eat for another day.

The alternatives to maximum production and exchange are horrifying. They involve a totalitarian economy in which the work, production and standard of living of every Canadian must be determined by an all-wise bureaucracy.

The one world we are in, as it is, not as we might like it to be, is the world in which we must live, and exchange our goods and services.

An urgent need is to cut our costs by more production per person per day and by better methods, to reduce our prices accordingly. There is plenty of room in this direction to accomplish enough to our agriculture and industry thriving and play part in averting disaster.

Community Building

Twenty-five centuries ago, Themistocles, the Saviour of Athens in the Battle of Salamis, prosecuted in his old age by political enemies the ancient Athenian law that no man might lose his citizenship unless he had acquired a trade.

"I have a trade?" said the rugged old warrior, eyes shining as he answered his accusers. "No, I have no trade—but show me a mean city and I will make it a city."

In a sentence, this dim figure of the past has captured the spirit that should animate every member of every board of trade and chamber of commerce. Strong and progressive communities are the foundation of a strong and progressive country and are few titles that a man can bear so proudly as that of a Community Builder.

In the early days as communities were forced in various parts of this continent, when newspapers were few or entirely non-existent and long before the advent of the radio and telephone, one of the centers of community life was the general store.

It became the town hall and the business men's club of the community. Around the cracker barrel citizens discussed the problems of their community and of their country. Here it was that they discussed candidates for office and exchanged ideas.

It was here that they thrashed out the problems of state. In those days, despite the lack of present day methods of communication, citizens had a sound and personal knowledge of their local problems at least, and it was here that the men who were chosen to represent them in the various legislatures. With the advent of civilization, the old and familiar institution of the general store has almost completely disappeared. But the need which was filled by the discussions which took place around the cracker barrel still remains. We can think of the community chamber of commerce as a replacement for the old and familiar institution. The chamber of commerce provides the opportunity for the forwarding of views and ideas, to discuss problems and to arrive at satisfactory solutions for those problems.

It is here that we should meet each other for months now and we'd like to finish it out together.

The father, Pte. John J. Wheeler, 46, and son, Pte. John, Jr., are serving with the 1st Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. They are from West Selkirk, Man.

District Forester Marc Gormely returned to the city on the Prince George yesterday from a trip to the Ocean Falls and Bella Coola district on official duties.

I don't know what the wife thinks," the father said, "but she will understand. I had and I have been see-

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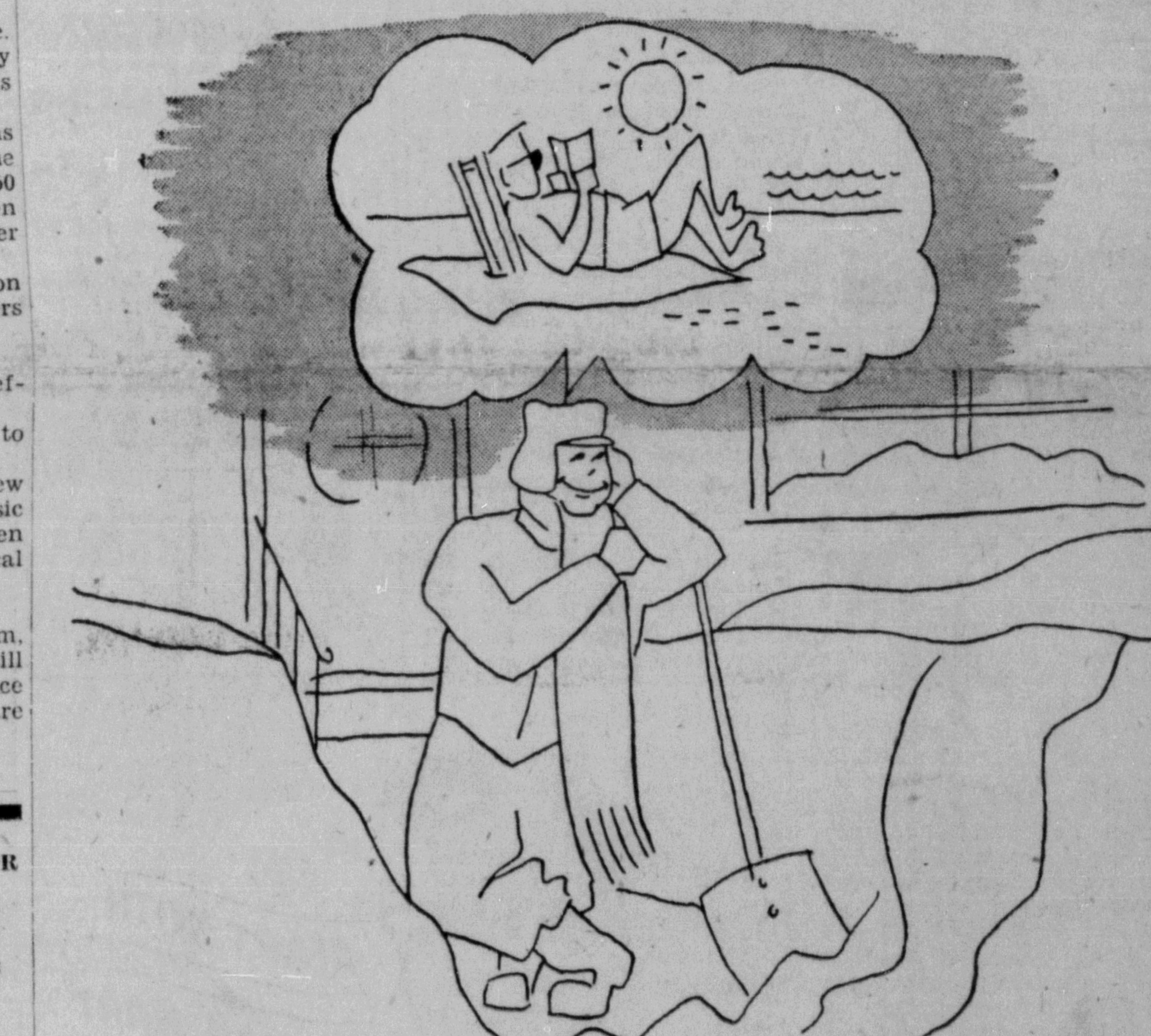
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