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## Even More Houses

THE Chamber of Commerce does some forward looking and realistic thinking when it urges that there be no let-up in the campaign for more housing in Prince Rupert even though 50 new rental units may now have been started or are about to start here.

If further rental projects are to be considered, it might be well to think along more modest lines than the present 50 with lower rents. The \$65 to \$85 rent figure was one of the causes of indifference, if not opposition, to the project which is now under way—although there is no doubt that, once they are built or even before they are, there will be plenty of competition to see who will get them—no matter what the rent.

Possibly more important, however, than more rental housing would be an arrangement whereby houses could be made available for purchase—either by some provision in connection with the rental houses or an amelioration of National Housing. NHA financing in Prince Rupert at present offers little real inducement or opportunity to the ordinary person without much ready capital who might, nevertheless, be an excellent building risk.

And, after all, if a person can buy an automobile, a washing machine, a stove on a five or ten per cent down payment, why cannot the same be done with a home?

## Living Index Up to Date

THE cost of living index, which has been slipping lately, will soon be traded in on a new model. This summer Canadians will get a new official price barometer which will embody several new features including a new name—Consumer Price Index.

The old index has been declining in recent months. As of April, it stood at 188.7, down 4 point from the previous month. This marked the fourth decline in the last five months.

The present index is not being discarded because of its recent record of performance. It has simply grown old and has become outmoded. Its calculations are based on pre-war standards. As everyone knows, conditions have changed since 1939. Living standards are higher, as are prices, and family expenditures cover a wider range of goods and services. The new index will take into account these changes.

The new index will be placed on a postwar footing by using the year 1949 instead of 1935-39 as the base period. That is 1949 prices will equal 100 points.

The new "basket" of goods will include some 225 items considered to be normal necessities in the average home. The present index has 160 items.

The average family now spends about the same percentage of its budget on food as it did before the war. Thus food costs are given a weight of 32 per cent in the new index as against 31 per cent in the present one. Clothing purchases take 11 per cent compared with 12 per cent in 1935-39. The average family now spends only 15 per cent of its income on rent instead of 19 per cent as before. On the other hand fuel, light, furnishings and services now absorb 17 per cent of the budget as compared with 15 per cent in the former base years.

## Scripture Passage for Today

"Mark . . . is profitable to me for the ministry." —St. Luke 24:35.

## Gordon & Anderson For Mother's Day Presents



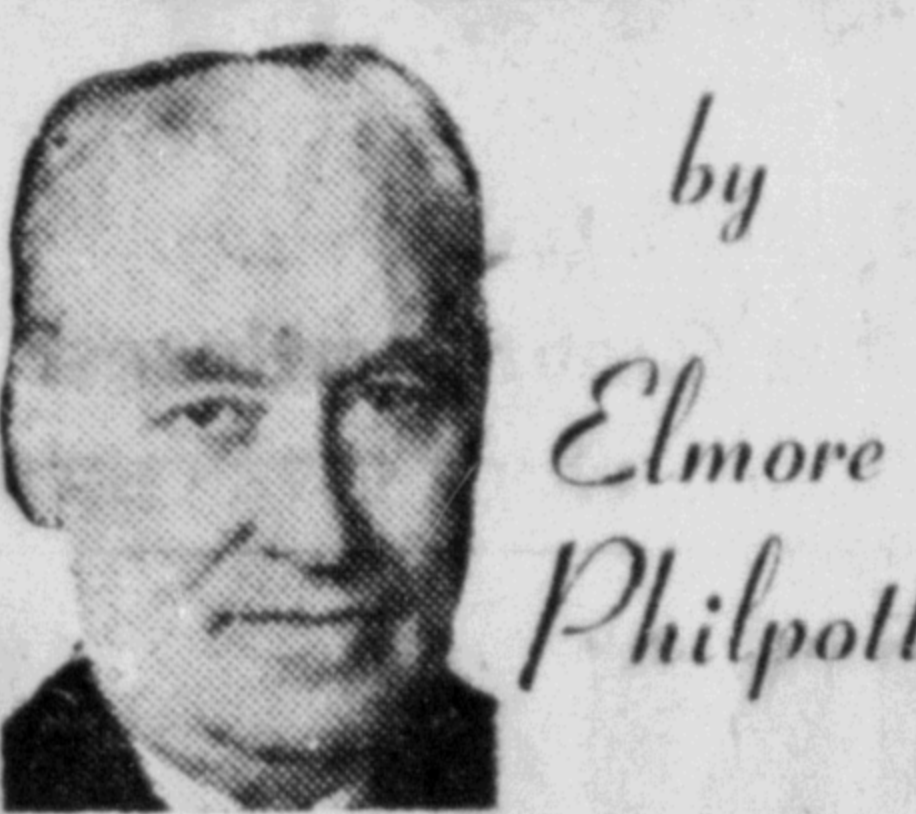
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## As I See It



### Billion \$ Question

ABOARD CPR EASTBOUND: At Revelstoke our train stops and just opposite us is a westbound cattle train.

The white-faced prairie steers look as if they had not a care in the world. Even the occasional "moo" seems more like a passing of the time of day than a complaint or a call for food or water.

And now, far across the prairies, we have stopped again at the eastern end of Saskatchewan. Around Regina well fed cattle lay chewing their cud in the soft sunshine. Yet the newspapers carry screaming headlines about the billion dollar question mark.

Does the new outbreak of hoof and mouth disease, far south of the original Canadian case, mean that the scourge has "got away from them"?

THE MOST disturbing feature of the new outbreak, near Weyburn, is that nobody knows how the jump was made from Regina, or if it was made.

Up till now there has been a pretty clear chain of circumstantial evidence.

A German immigrant came from an affected farm in Germany and went to a farm in Saskatchewan which shortly thereafter was affected. Some cattle from this farm went to a packing plant which later was affected. The subsequent outbreak near Moose Jaw was traced directly to meat from the original contaminated sources.

But up till now, no connection is shown between the Regina and Weyburn areas.

THE MOST ominous question which farmers hereabouts are asking, in smoking car conversations, and otherwise is this: "Did birds carry the disease from Regina to Weyburn, or how did it get there?"

Looking back over the original debates in Parliament I see that at least one speaker mentioned the fact that deer were seen grazing on the banks of the small river at Regina near the affected packing plant. That was away back at the time of the original outbreak, before the accurate diagnosis of the disease.

Were those deer affected, and if so, where are they now?

THERE is always the possibility that the Saskatchewan outbreak was not imported from Germany but from Mexico—where it has been raging for years.

People laughed about Mr. Gardiner's theory that birds may have carried it from Mexico—for no cases have been discovered in the U.S.A. But there is some motor traffic between Canada and Mexico. There is, of course, a vast amount of hoof and mouth disease even in Britain, Denmark, Switzerland and other countries with which we have considerable coming and going.

NOBODY has been thinking or rather talking as yet about the political affect of this disaster, but it is bound to be considerable. It is exactly the kind of thing which could tilt the bal-

## Hunt For Uranium

OTTAWA (CP)—If you can lay hands on a geiger counter and like outdoor life, you're ready to set up as a uranium prospector.

It helps if you can find your way around in the bush, but it doesn't matter if you can't tell pitchblende from thucholite.

All these ideas of the ease of pursuing radioactive minerals are set out by the Mines Department in a new booklet aimed at stepping up Canada's known reserves of atomic-energy materials by smoothing the way for prospectors.

As the booklet sets out, the geiger counter has become the great leveller among atomic prospectors. The little machine whose clicking betrays nearby radioactivity has put the novice and the veteran almost in the same class.

Anyone, the book says, who can turn a switch and change a battery can operate a counter. It does all the work.

"Perhaps the most important qualifications for a uranium prospector are: that he should have one of these instruments, should enjoy outdoor life and should have some knowledge of bush-craft," says the booklet.

Any resident of Canada, including non-citizens, can get on the hunt, and he has a big field to pick from. The best prospects are in the pre-Cambrian rocks of the Canadian Shield, a huge horseshoe curving through sections of the Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and Québec. There are too, some radioactive occurrences in British Columbia and Nova Scotia.

Once the geiger machine points to what may be a strike, the government goes to work for the prospector. He gets free assays on radioactive materials, and usually the results are mailed out to him the same day the samples are received.

If he's in a hurry, he can even get the results telephoned. But there the official beneficence ends. The government reverses the charges.

ance against the government, in favor of the opposition.

Actually, the Liberal government seems to me to be responsible for only one fault—and that only indirectly. The civil servants handled this very badly. The experts were slow in making the correct diagnosis.

But once the outbreak was discovered the government has handled the disaster just as efficiently as was possible.

## Arthritis Campaign

TORONTO (CP)—The Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society plans to spend \$130,000 this year on research into the diseases which have attacked 600,000 Canadians.

The money will be part of the \$700,000 it hopes to raise in a campaign which starts in most Canadian cities on May 5 but in Ontario May 12.

The society serves patients in all provinces but Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.

Of the Canadians affected by the disease, 100,000 are totally or partly disabled with 15,000 confined to beds or wheel chairs.

The money for research will be allocated in the form of grants and fellowships.

Leading the study of rheumatic diseases in children is Dr. John Keith of Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children who is conducting a five-year research on his little patients.

Once the leading cause of death among children of school age, the diseases now are rated in fourth place.

Worst of the rheumatic diseases are rheumatoid arthritis which affects three times as many women as men and arthritis of the spine which is basically a man's disease.

But the former is not just a disease of old age. One of Dr. Keith's patients is a two-year-old girl. Most victims of rheumatoid arthritis are between the ages of 20 and 50 years.

### FINAL TOUCH

DEBIDEN, Sask. (P)—Fire destroyed 40 acres of swathed grain, valued at about \$1,000 on the farm of Joseph Dumais. He had been forced to leave it in the fields all winter when bad weather halted harvesting last autumn.

## ray ...

### Reflects and Reminisces

Becoming acquainted, in Prince Rupert, is an easy enough process. Strangers notice it. Forming a friendship may take a little longer. Other things are noticed as well. The better a pal likes you, the more sure he will give you the devil to eat every now and then.

### THE ECONOMIC SIDE

Observes the St. Thomas Times-Journal: "It has become increasingly apparent in the past few years that we in Canada have become aware of the potentialities of the natural resources of the country that a gradual shift in Canadian nationalism from the political sphere into the economic has taken place. We are no longer so proud of Canada's political role in the concert of nations as we are of Canada's buried treasure in copper, oil, coal and iron. It may be that we have become accustomed to our political maturity but have not yet learned to live with the fact that our natural resources make us one of the potentially richest nations in the world. We can face the political implications of joint fishing rights, U.S. aid for the seaway and American troops in the Canadian Arctic with an equanimity born of maturity, but the mere hint of American encroachment on our coal or oil raises a tempest from Halifax to the Yukon."

### FINALLY FINISHED

At last, sidewalk reconstruction on Third Avenue between Second and Third Streets is nearing the finished job. Further replacement elsewhere in the business area would also be welcome. For Prince Rupert's sidewalks, assuming they are in good



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## ELECTRIC APPLIANCE REPAIRS

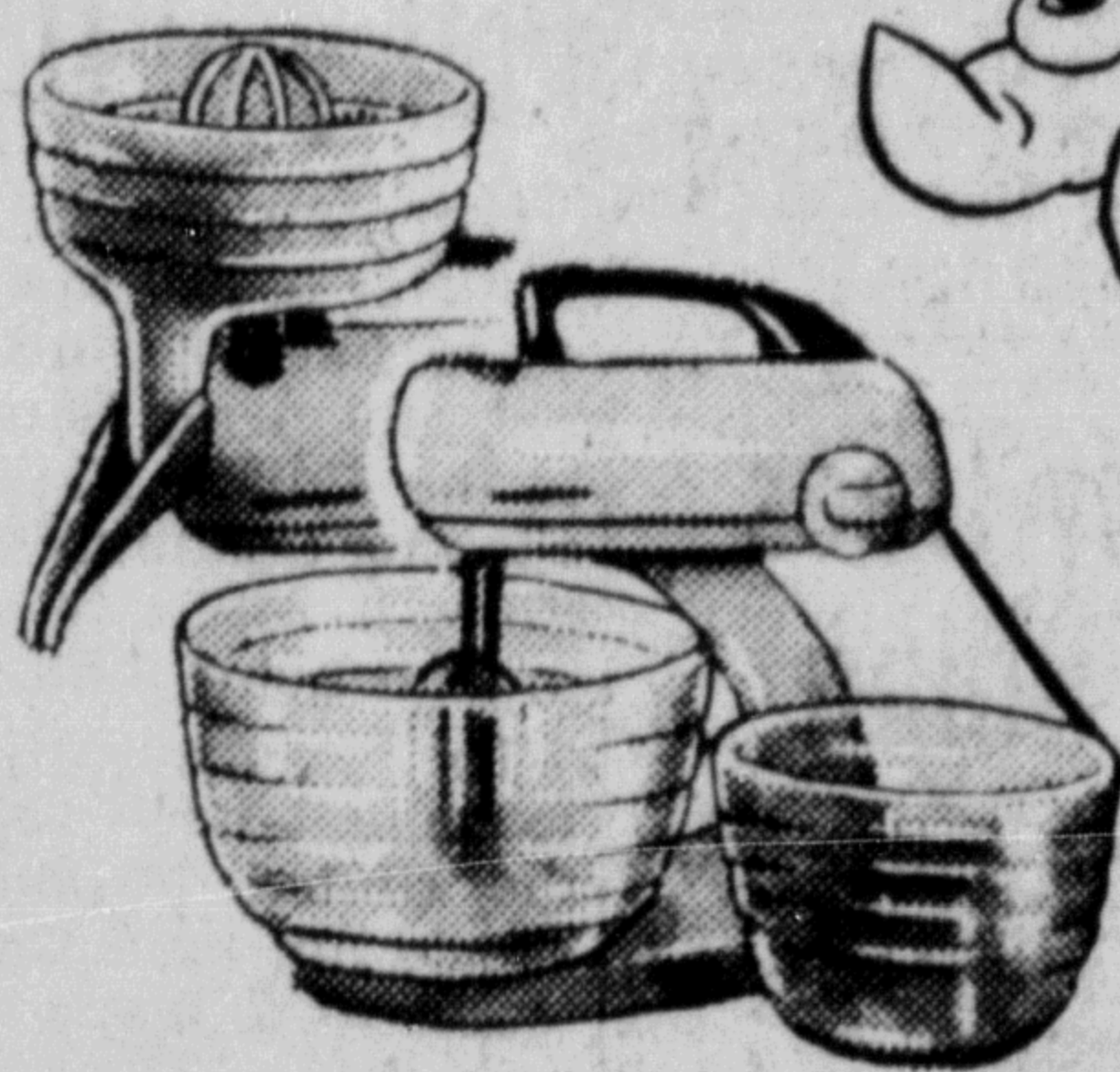
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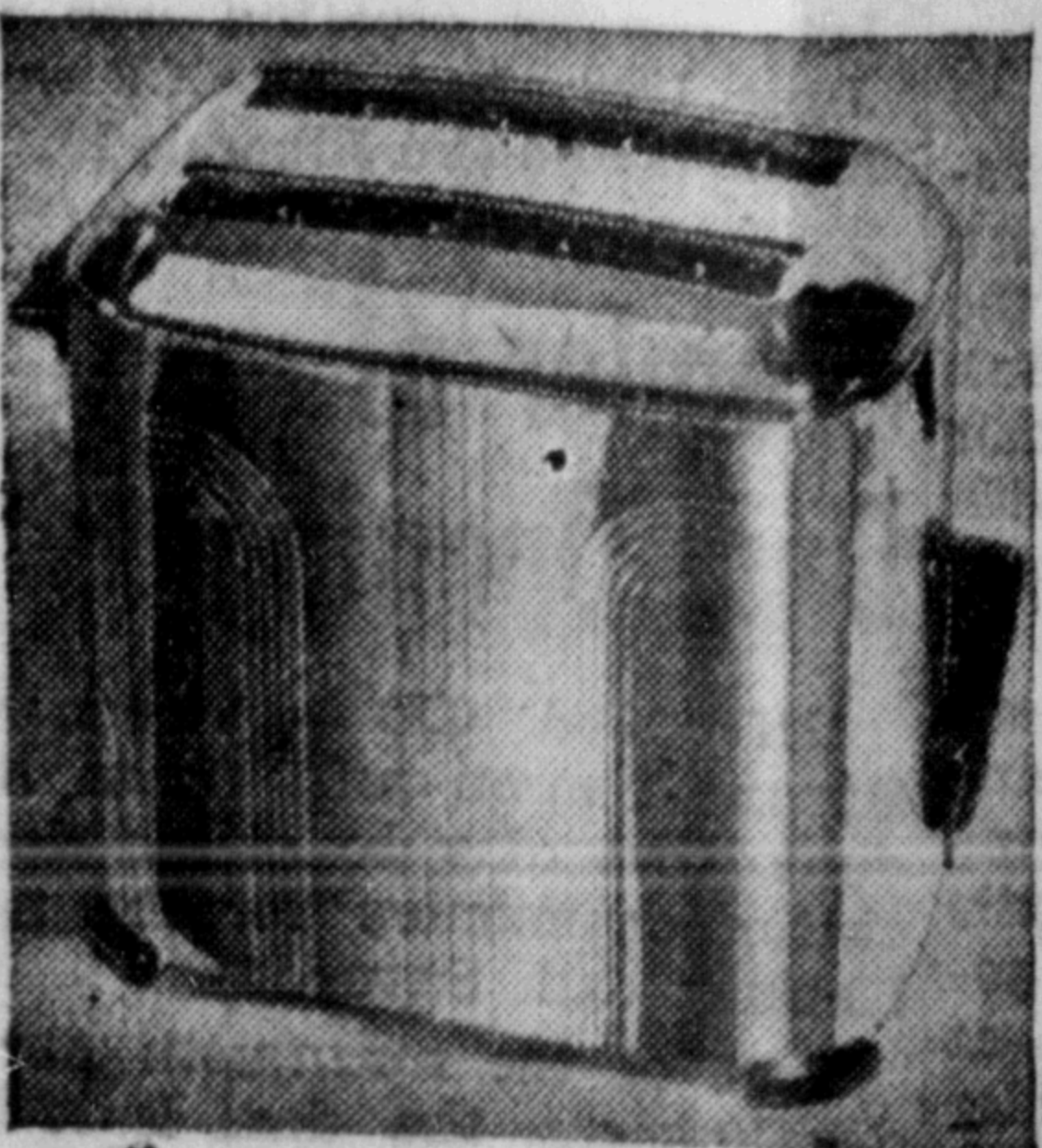


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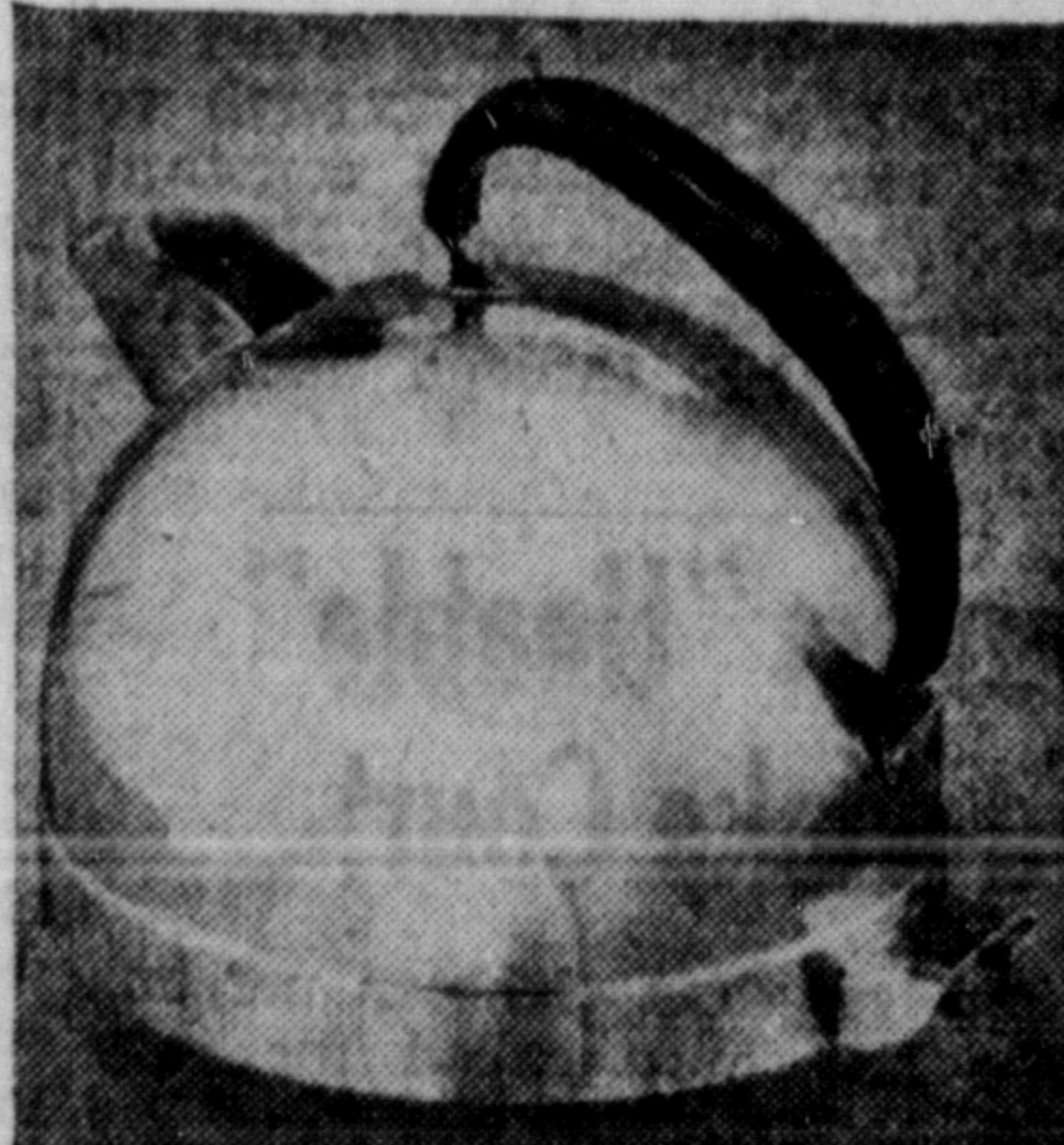


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shape, can arouse pride. For one thing, they have ample width. By way of contrast, take a stroll in Juneau, capital city of the vast land of Alaska.

Canada's chief city, Montreal, a community of prestige and dignity, has of late been doing a bit of stepping out. A major strike was called in one of her leading stores, which, still carrying on, slashed prices so low that the crush of buyers almost cleaned out the premises. At the same time, the prisoners in the

Bordeaux jail staged an attempted fire. The result was that what had happened in Michigan might have been their thoughts original.

How come? During the fading of December, good old front page 4. A new hostility was later than April or May be repeated—but with of peevishness—How

## APPLICATIONS

will be received by the undersigned for the position of Secretary of the Prince Rupert Civic Centre. Applications should state age, qualifications, experience and references, and be addressed to: DR. R. G. LARGE, Chairman, Civic Centre Association.

Envelopes bearing applications should be clearly marked: APPLICATION—CONFIDENTIAL and addressed to: DR. R. G. LARGE, Chairman, Civic Centre Association.

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