

An independent daily newspaper devoted to the upbuilding of Prince Rupert and Northern and Central British Columbia.

An Unpretentious Man

ALTHOUGH it is impossible to determine just how much the Prime Minister's personal influence affected voting in the federal election, there can be no doubt that this exceptional man is one of the important reasons why the Liberals continue to have such decisive control at Ottawa.

He has three qualifications in particular which explain to some degree his remarkable success as a Canadian leader. The first is that he is a member of the French race who can speak with equal fluency in the country's two principal languages.

There is nothing sinister or unfair about this. The individual voter there carries no more or less weight than anyone else. But it stands to reason the French-speaking inhabitants of that province are apt to favor a leader who can talk their language in every sense of the phrase.

Second on the Prime Minister's list of qualifications is that he is a lawyer with a brilliant trained mind. The politician with legal training has an immediate advantage in that he is doing on the floor of the House almost precisely what he would do in a courtroom.

Third among his qualifications—and perhaps the most important of all—is that he is an unpretentious man who seems as well suited to be father and grandfather as to be Prime Minister. In contrast, his chief opponent, George Drew, does not have this quality.

Although other reasons for Mr. St. Laurent's success undoubtedly can be found, these are sufficient in our opinion to mark him as one of the great Canadian Prime Ministers of all time.

Scripture Passage for Today

"None ... that trust in him shall be desolate." —Psalm 34:22.

Ray REFLECTS and REMINISCES

The world is full of good men who, as boys made plenty of mischief. Only then they had to be assisted in getting rid of what was called wild oats. That's much better than "juvenile delinquency."

COMING AT RIGHT TIME

Near Panama hats or no hats, light clothing and shoes appear to be more frequently worn in Prince Rupert just now, although weather can hardly be called warm. It's pleasant, which is better. But should you fear feeling sticky and itchy before winter just remember that Canberra in Australia is to have a record smashing wool crop.

The latest statement on the population of the United States



LIONEL BERTRAND, Liberal candidate in the Quebec constituency of Terrebonne, smiles happily after receiving word of his election by acclamation into the House of Commons. Mr. Bertrand's only opponent, a Progressive Conservative, withdrew from the federal contest, thus making Mr. Bertrand the first candidate elected in last Monday's federal election.

As a rule, women do not give away secrets. They nearly always trade them.

JUST KEPT ON

L. E. Russell, editor of the Mid-Ocean News of Hamilton, Bermuda, is dead. He had spent about half his lifetime employed on papers in Winnipeg and Montreal—two of Canada's oldest cities. One would think, after making the sort of change Mr. Russell did, he would stick around a while. Imagine the contrasts in climate.

This column last week told about Fred Hardy joining the GTP steamer Prince George when the first war broke out in 1914. The vessel had been converted into a hospital ship. This was correct, except with one grave exception. It was Bill Rance, his business partner who joined the Prince George. These little errors will occur despite everything, and so, with all made clear, we'll pass on to the next order of business.

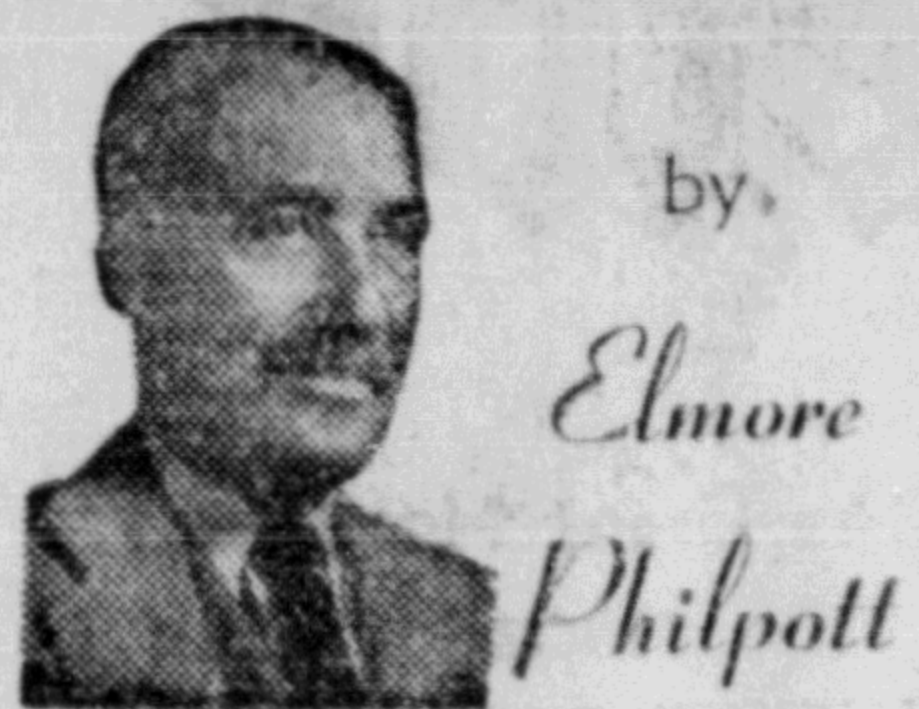
It now appears that periodic "health tests" are recommended for automobiles. But it will not be the pedestrians who will risk becoming run down.

KEEP AN EYE OPEN

A scheme for reducing the power of Niagara Falls after dark is being studied. The power, or regulation of the falling water as we all realize, must be tremendous. In fact, we feel sympathy for the poor engineer, lying awake trying to remember whether he turned off the Falls before he went off duty.

Archimedes is said to have burned the Roman fleet as Syracuse by reflecting the sun's rays from several large mirrors.

As I See It



New Waltari Book

THE FINNISH author Mika Waltari is one of the most prolific of our times.

His novel "The Egyptian" is one of the most powerful written in this century. It is not only a cracking good love story, but its theme is also one of mighty power.

What happens in an empire when the emperor is a reformer too far ahead of his time?

New Waltari has written another fine novel. It is not as good a book as "The Egyptian" by a long shot, but it is better than most of his others of recent years.

It is "THE DARK ANGEL", published by Thomas Allen at \$4.00. It deals with the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks some five centuries ago. But the background of the fall of the city is symbolic of much of the background in the power politics of today.

Waltari is a mystic with a strong belief in re-incarnation. Thus he makes his hero of "The Dark Angel" a man with a conviction that he has known his love-at-first-sight beloved in some previous life.

There is a strong sense of doom through the whole book. You feel the certainty of the fall of the city long before it actually happens. But you feel it above all because of the deadly division inside the ranks of the defenders.

Constantinople of course was the capital of the last Greece. For a long time Rome and Constantinople had been fierce rivals for supremacy. In the end Rome won out and Constantinople lost out. But the story deals with the psychological aftermath of that outcome.

The proud Greek aristocrats were so bitterly resentful at having to bow to Rome that they secretly welcomed the Turkish conquest, and indeed some of them actually acted as its fifth column.

In our own times we have seen nations go down, as France went down in 1940, as a part consequence of the idea "Better Hitler Than Blum." But if Waltari is an accurate portrayer of the fall of Constantinople its top men were saying in 1452 what Vichy-minded Frenchmen said five centuries later. The earlier version was:

"Better the Turkish turban than the Papal Mitre."

All through the book you have the feeling that Waltari is using the jealousy between Rome and Constantinople in the old days to warn of the jealousy between Britain and the U.S.A. today—with Britons now playing the role that the Greeks played in earlier times; and with the less cultured but more powerful Americans now representing the more powerful Romans of earlier centuries.

There were crude signs "Latins Go Home" away back in the last days of Constantinople's glory, just as there are "Yankee Go Home" signs today. Yet the Latins were there to keep out the Turks.

As a patriotic Finn, Waltari may not be able to write as directly about Russia as he might. If his own homeland were thousands of miles removed from the border of the Soviet.

But in this novel one gets the impression that he is saying to the west "Watch Out"—or the fall of Constantinople will be a small scale model of the fall of western Europe.

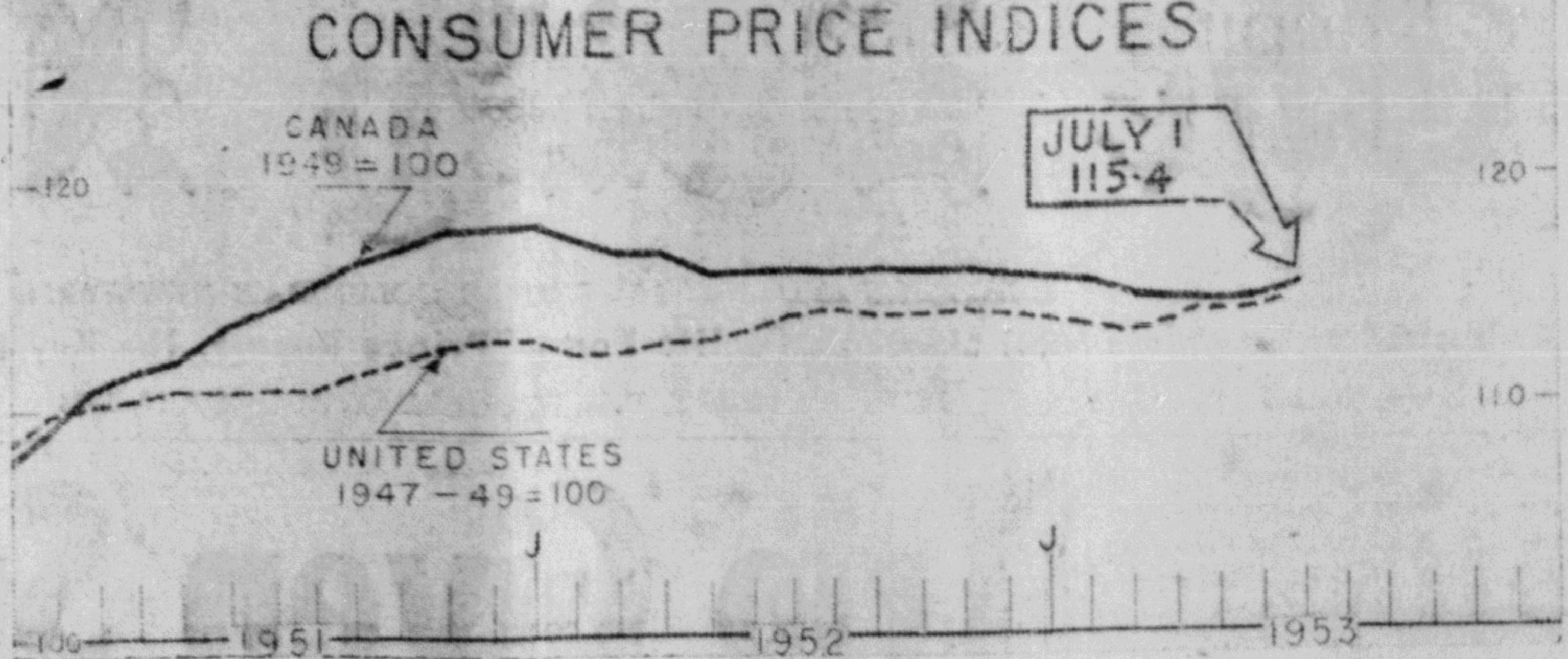
Flea Circus

KITCHENER, Ont. (C)—A policeman's lot is not a happy one, says a Kitchener constable. Visiting a home to check for stolen goods, he picked up so many fleas he needed a change of clothes, a shower and a de-lousing treatment to get rid of them.

Almost all male seasonal workers in the United States are between 14 and 25 years old, while half of the women have been 25 or over.

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THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX rose half a point in June to 115.4 from 114.9 under the impact of a seasonal increase in food costs and higher prices for clothing, rent and other commodities, the bureau of statistics reports. It was the second consecutive monthly rise following a steady half-year of decline. The dotted line shows the United States consumer price index which advanced between mid-May and mid-June to a record 114.5 of the 1947-49 average.

OTTAWA DIARY

By Norman M. MacLeod

Quite early in the recent election campaign it became evident that Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent disdained the more oily arts of the professional politician. He could never

Crisis Developing Between Coal Producers in U.S.

By DON WHITEHEAD

WASHINGTON (AP)—A crisis is building up in the United States coal fields today even while the huge bituminous coal industry is on the doorstep of a glowing future.

The collapse of war-swollen markets, increased mechanization of mines and competition with oil and gas have shaken an industry sprawling across 31 states with its hearts in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky. But one segment has been hit hardest.

The immediate crisis is developing among the high-cost producers and the smaller independents who sell on the open market. They are being squeezed in the fight for markets which have shrunk to a little more than 400,000,000 tons compared to the record 1947 production of 630,000,000 tons.

For the first time in history, coal has been deposited as the major source of energy for the United States. Oil has moved into the lead. Last year, according to U.S. bureau of mines statistics, coal supplied 34 per cent of energy needs (once it supplied 35 per cent) while petroleum supplied 39.4 per cent, natural gas 22.5 per cent and water power 4.1 per cent.

MANY UNEMPLOYED Already thousands of miners are jobless or working only two or three days a week. Some coal regions have reached or are approaching a depression state.

There is bitter and increased grumbling from hard-hit producers that John L. Lewis is "prying coal out of the market" by his successful demands for higher wages and benefits for United Mine Workers members.

Mine union chiefs deny the troubles can be traced to wage increases. They insist coal companies individually will live or die on their own ability to increase efficiency and thus lower production costs.

PREFER LOWER PAY Some union leaders say the steady trend toward mechanization will force out the high-cost and inefficient producers. They say frankly they would prefer a smaller industry with high wage standards to a big industry with low pay.

Against this picture of immediate hardship, there is the contrast of a bright future seen by coal's own economists. These forecasts are based on the expectation that U.S. population will climb from today's 154,000,000 to 190,000,000 by 1975—and that industrial production will double by 1975 to meet the demands of this population.

Much of coal's future is expected to lie in supplying fuel to fire the steel plants and electric utility steam plants. It is estimated steel production will rise from 105,000,000 ingot tons produced in 1951 to 150,000,000 tons in 1975.

Gas and liquid fuel can be made from coal. The processes are not yet economically competitive. However, coal men have estimated that 120,000,000 tons may one day be used in a synthetic liquid fuels industry.

Malenkov Weathers Power Struggle Inside Kremlin

WASHINGTON (AP)—Prime Minister Malenkov has successfully weathered a grim power struggle inside the Kremlin and now stands virtually unchallenged as Russia's ruler.

This is the carefully-considered view of senior U.S. foreign affairs experts who have been watching developments within the Soviet Union since Premier Stalin's death. Active support by powerful Red Army leaders, they said, probably was a deciding factor in maintaining Malenkov's power despite widespread uncertainty after the sudden purge of deputy-premier Lavrenty Beria.

MAY PLEDGE LOYALTY

It would be no surprise to these American experts if in the coming weeks Malenkov's most prominently mentioned rival, Foreign Minister Molotov and his defence minister, Marshal Nicolai Bulganin publicly avow their loyalty to Malenkov.

A closing of ranks within the Soviet high command, in their view, does not rule out potential unrest within Russia and the satellite world later. But it does plainly indicate that Malenkov now is definitely top man at the Kremlin and director of the Communist network stretching throughout the world.

The conclusion that Malenkov has won his battle, at least temporarily, stems partly from the tone and content of his recent speech to the Soviet Parliament. He scolded Communist party chiefs and talked like a man completely confident of his position.

George Kennan, former American ambassador to Moscow, meanwhile predicted in a speech that "revolution eventually would break out" in the Soviet orbit.

He told a university seminar here Russia's structure is "faced today with severe strains and crisis" and said: "It will eventually earn the retribution it so richly deserves."

Kennan cautioned against any American government interference in Soviet affairs at this time, lest it unify the Communist world and prevent the revolt he foresees.

Kennan, author of the Truman administration's "policy of containment" toward Russia, thus took issue with the Eisenhower administration's policy of aid to Russia's satellites by every peaceful means to help them throw off the Communist yoke.

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South Korea To Use Armistice Period To Train For Offensive When Needed

SEOUL (AP)—President Syngman Rhee said today South Korea's army will use the armistice period to train "for an offensive whenever necessary."

The statesman also said in a statement that if the post-war political conference fails to unify Korea in 90 days "the 16 United Nations, including the U.S., will join us in an effort to achieve our unification by other means."

United Nations headquarters in New York announced last Friday that the 16 countries with troops in Korea had agreed to "take up arms again if Red forces break the truce and attack South Korea again. The announcement made no mention of renewing the war to unite Korea or of a time limit on the political conference.

Rhee told his people "there is no definite commitment that they will resume warfare." But he said the countries involved "certainly recognized our right to pursue our objective by our own means and, in such a case, we firmly believe we will have the more effective aid from the United Nations Allies."

U.S. State Secretary Dulles, en route home after negotiating a mutual security pact with Philippines, told newspaper men in Honolulu Thursday that he had "categorical assurance" from Rhee that South Korea would not upset the armistice.

Dulles said that as far as continued peace in Korea is concerned "we have a formal signed agreement."

Baggage Man For Royal Tours On Job 50 Years

MONTREAL (C)—S. A. Blodeau, responsible for handling baggage on two royal tours, has completed 50 years' service with Canadian National Railway.

Mr. Blodeau, now 62 and almost three years away from retirement, joined the CN in 1902. He has risen from call boy to district baggage and mail agent, with headquarters in Montreal.

Described as a man who moves mountains of baggage in Quebec and New England, Mr. Blodeau was chosen to handle the royal baggage during the 1939 tour of the late King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and the 1950 tour of the then Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.

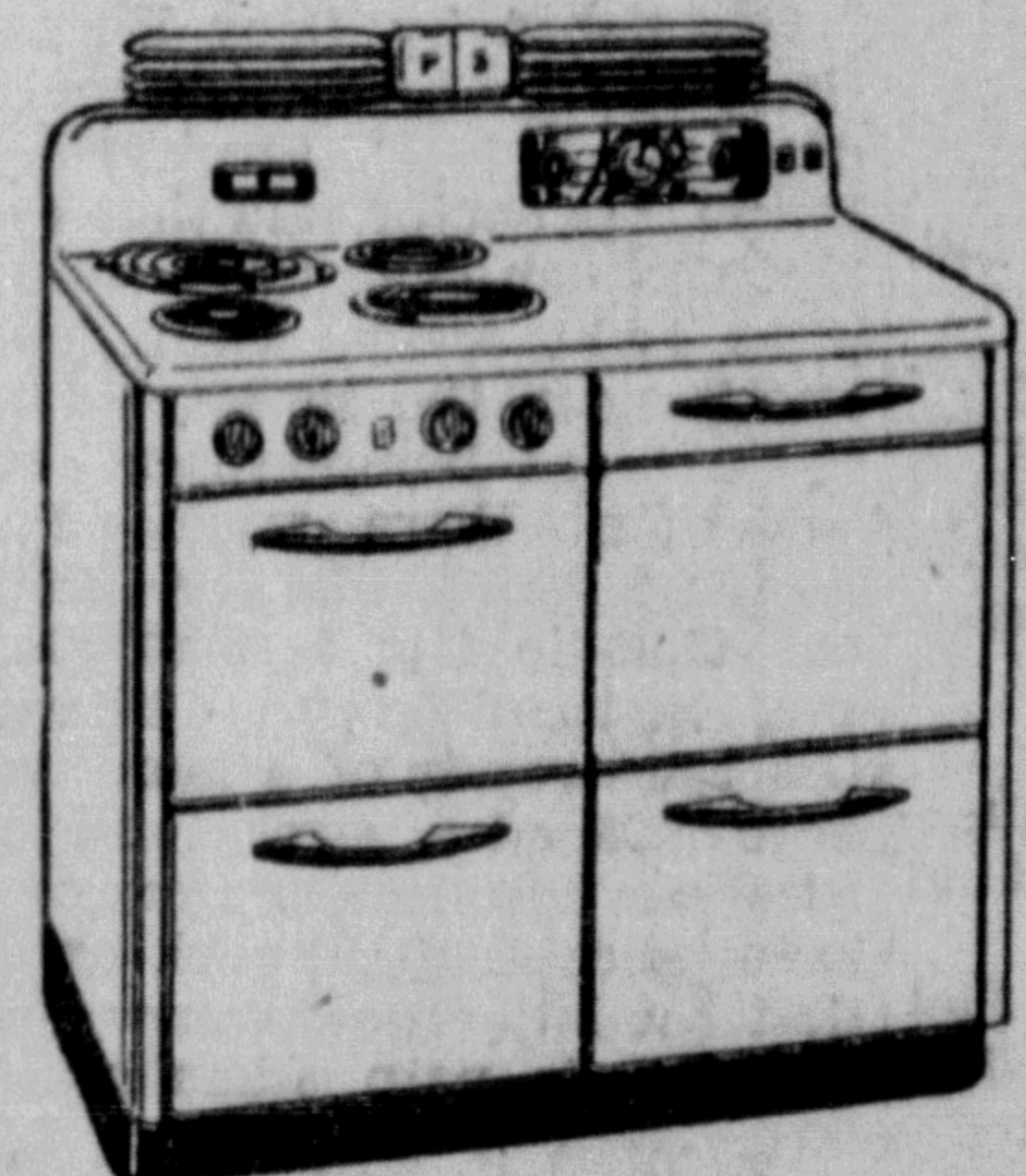
During the 1939 tour, he guarded the royal baggage with his life, sleeping in special quarters in the baggage car throughout the cross-Canada trip.

There were 130 pieces of baggage stored in one half of the car, and clothes were moved to the car of the King and Queen as they were needed.

"We always knew what the King and Queen were going to wear the next day," he recalled. Mr. Blodeau's job now is to supervise the handling of baggage and mail over 3,000 miles of line in Quebec and to Rouss Point, N.Y., and Portland, Me.

He regards his work as his hobby.

Reddy says, "You'll sing all through '52 if you buy"



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