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Crop of 1938 of the Schoolboy Howlers

Culled from Entrance Examination Papers This Year.

(From Perth Courier)

One bright young pupil introduced a classic among howlers in the recent entrance examinations when Dutch cleanser was listed as an export of Holland. Still another said that "the telephone is the most convenient obstacle around in case of emergency."

Geography was responsible for the greatest number of boners. One dandy is that "an important shipping port in Scotland is Glasgow, in Northern Ireland on the Clyde River." London is shifted to Northern Ireland by another pupil who states that the hub of the Empire is an important shipping city in Northern Ireland.

The 1938 edition of howlers from the entrance papers is very good. Nearly all the boners occur in either geography or history. The current crop of howlers was collected by B. L. Bradley and G. R. Michaels during correction of papers.

Visions of a tottering general, who would make Methuselah seem a mere youth, going successfully into battle, are conjured up by this statement:—"Sir Isaac Brock, born in 1608, defeated the Americans near Detroit in 1812."

An unrevealed phase of the life of a great Canadian statesman was brought to light in this howler: "It was brought up in the House that John A. Macdon-

ald receives brides for building the C.P.R." John A. figured in another error—or was it an error?—"John A. Macdonald had much to say in collision government."

Pity the poor Scotch; "Lord Selkirk made a Scotch settlement at the bottom of Lake Winnipeg."

The student who wrote the following will probably become an author if imagination counts for anything: "D'Arcy McGee was shot by a red-haired, Irish, Fenian butcher." Another student said of the Irish-Canadian parliamentarian: "D'Arcy McGee was one of the best fathers in Confederation times."

It is rather difficult to determine what this student was thinking of: "Lord Selkirk took care of the stray people who so often got lost in the great gold rush."

Not a howler, but an instance of how even common words may be misspelled is the student who wrote hoarces for horses.

"The climate of South Africa is the kind you earn your living by mining"—"In Spain it is nearly all desert so they use camels for travelling use, Alexander is the capital."—"The surface of South Africa is simply a red hot desert."

Still other boners include: Maisoneuve founded Ville Marie in 1492.

The people of South Africa are all mixed up.

It is said in some parts that the people live like cannibals in South Africa; this we do not know.

The climate of Newfoundland is affected by the Labour Air.

The climate of Africa is very cold in winter, and the snow makes good roads for lumbermen.

France exports iron horses.

Names of air movements are ocean currents.

The Gulf Stream flows through Newfoundland.

The Pacific Ocean moderates Ireland. Between the Equator is an equal amount of space.

An example of what a mistake in spelling can do is contained in this one: "The people are mostly bores in South Africa."

Another mistake is this one: "The gnats are mountains in India."

This pupil took no chances as witness the answer: "The climate of South Africa is extreme, it being very dry in some places and very wet in others."

On June 21 at the Tropic of Cancer the days and nights are equal, each 24 hours long.

The air moves towards the Equator because it needs it, it is hot there.

South Africa has a suitable climate. Winds blow to the Equator because there is more space there.

Air moves toward the Equator because the cold air wishes to meet the hot air.

The Labrador current creeps down the coast.

Belfast is in Northern Island on the northeast bump.

The sun and moon meet and move to the Equator.

The Union of South Africa has few rivers suitable for agriculture.

In the north surface it is irregular because it is surrounded by water.

Which was the First of the Professions in the World?

(From Bowmanville Statesman)

There is a story, quoted some time ago by Stanley Jones, about three people arguing as to which of their occupations was the most ancient. The surgeon said that his was the oldest profession in the world, for a surgical operation was performed in Eden when a rib was taken out of Adam and made into Eve. An architect claimed that his was older still, for it had created order out of chaos. But it was a politician who won the debate, as he declared that it was politicians who created chaos! There is good ground for the belief that the politicians, as a professional class, did not emerge until after the Age of Innocence.

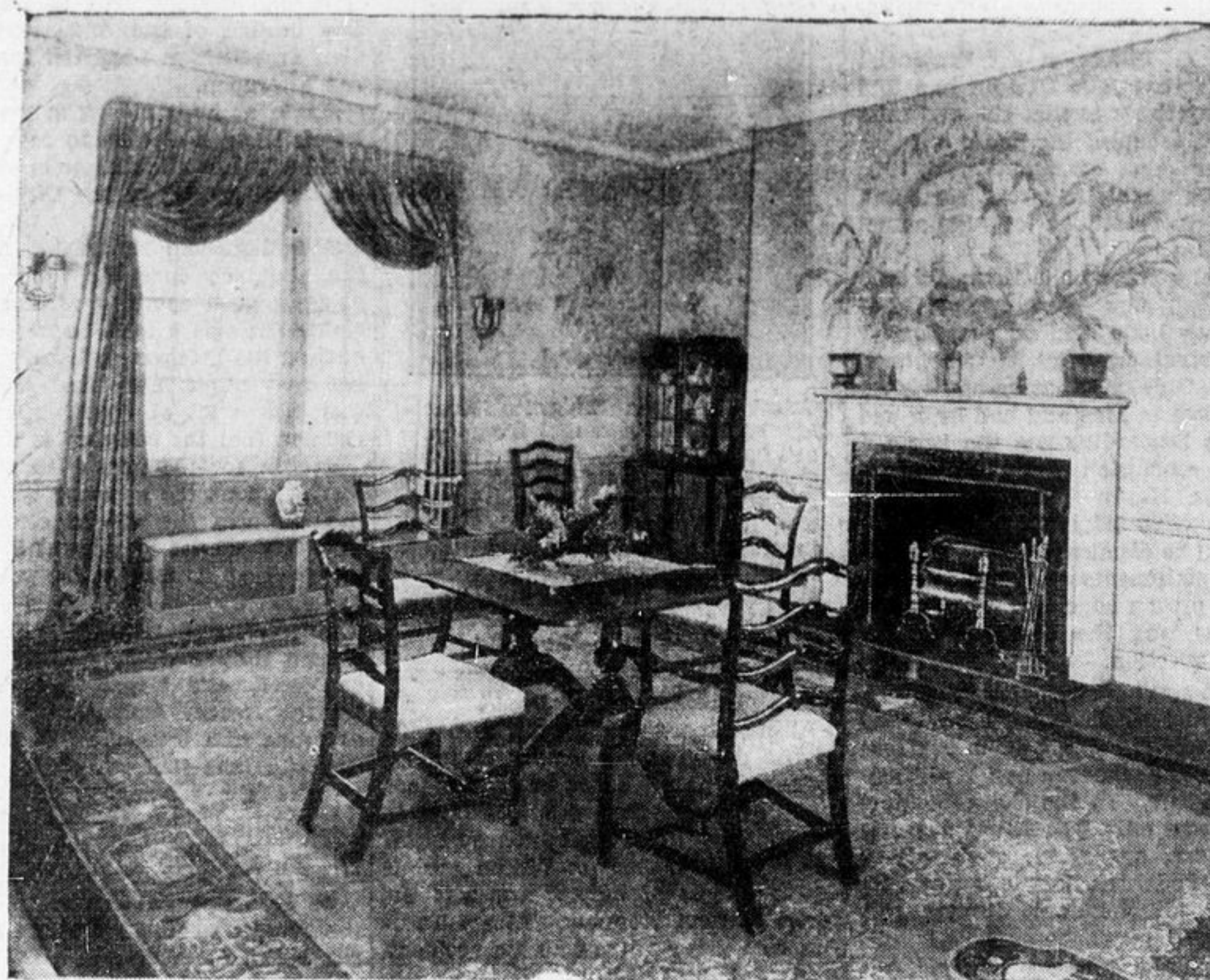


PLEASANT HOMES

by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

DISCOVERING THE FORGOTTEN ROOM—THE DINING ROOM

New Furniture or Old—Colour is the Formula — Decide What Duty Your Dining Room Must Do, Then Decorate to Fit.



Eighteenth Century mahogany furniture is in the end the handsomest thing of all for a dining room of dignity. Here it is shown against walls papered in interesting scenic panels and with a Chinese rug.

In many homes in America the dining room is the forgotten room! By that we do not mean that homemakers there is more than meets the eye in dining room planning. But there is one certain fact. Whatever the answers to the above questions, there is no reason why you cannot provide a suitable, charming background for dinners en famille, without resorting to unimaginative settings.

First of all, the furniture should be as good as you can afford. Nothing does so much for a hostess as the knowledge that she's well flanked by furniture of dignity and character. Keep style in mind in selecting dining room furniture but don't be carried away by it at the expense of comfort.

And yet we've always felt pretty sentimental about dining rooms, for here it is that the family gather together from all their various fields of activities. Here it is that the keynote of family life is established, whether it is to be gay and genial, sober and sedate. So it deserves more than an it-will-do attitude.

Things are looking up for the dining rooms of the nation, however. More and more ladies are demanding that different touch that unmistakable stamp of individuality in their dining places. And the forgotten room is remembered at last. Many brides are demanding something better than the old combination of rose-and-blue and rust-and-green.

Functional First

If you too have become dining-room conscious, a few suggestions may be in order. At the very outset, however, it is well to remember that a dining room should be the most functional room (with the exception of kitchen or bath) in the house. It is well to take into consideration several items before going forth to re-do the dining room. What is your family's general attitude towards meals? Is the dining-room used three times a day or, as in so many homes with breakfast rooms, only for dinner at night? Do family meals entail the general hub-bub of school children and a gay give-and-take of childish chatter or are they rather sedate affairs with grown-ups taking their food as well as their conversation quite seriously? Must the dining room be considered in relation to the living-room (can much of it be seen from the

living room) or can it be treated as a separate unit in the home? You see, there is more than meets the eye in dining room planning. But there is one certain fact. Whatever the answers to the above questions, there is no reason why you cannot provide a suitable, charming background for dinners en famille, without resorting to unimaginative settings.

First of all, the furniture should be as good as you can afford. Nothing does so much for a hostess as the knowledge that she's well flanked by furniture of dignity and character. Keep style in mind in selecting dining room furniture but don't be carried away by it at the expense of comfort. After all, dining chairs will get a lot of sitting through the years, so they should be easy on the human frame. Then your dining furniture should be staunch to hold the men of the family without sighs and groans.

All things considered, 18th century English mahogany seems to be about the best choice if you want the points stressed above in a wood of some formality. This period has a classic line and a graciousness that isn't likely to go out of style.

If you want something simpler and heartier, then maple in early American design is the answer to your problem. Walnut in either Queen Anne or provincial design has its own appeal. Oak in the heavier styles still has its place—grand if you have a beamed ceiling to contend with and wood paneling.

To Save the Day

In re-doing the dining-room there's one happy fact to remember though. If you can't afford, or don't need, all new furniture, you can still perk up the old picture by variations in arrangement. By color of walls, rugs, draperies and accessories. Sometimes one or two new pieces will save the day. Many an out-of-date set of furniture has been completely rejuvenated by the discarding of the old unwieldy sideboard and adding a pair of corner cupboards. Many times the side pieces are good—the buffet or serving tables—but the table is outmoded. Sometimes it is a matter of new upholstery for the chairs. Or a new mirror for over the buffet... or a new rug. With a little thought and planning, almost any cuts off furniture, provided its lines are basically good, can be made to sit up

and take notice if sufficient effort and imagination are used in the general setting of the room.

Let's consider a room that had a very discouraging beginning but now is fresh and bright and blithe and gay. Nothing could seem more disconsolate than a set of 1900 golden oak dining furniture—squalish table, uncompromising leather-seated chairs, unwieldy sideboard and china closet. With the introduction of a little modern color and imagination a miracle was performed! The walls of the room were papered, using a paper with a beige background and a small lighter beige symmetrical pattern. The floor was carpeted in a deep red-brown shade. The fancy china closet was sold to a grateful second-hand man and a pair of hanging shelves added. The varnish was removed from the rest of the furniture, making it look almost bleached blonde. The chair seats gladly gave up their dull leather coverings and jade green leatherette took their place. The mirror was removed from the sideboard and an old painting of flamboyant flowers took its place. Curtains were plain beige to match the wall paper and then, to add zest, the windows got Venetian blinds in jade green. What happened? For the first time the honey tones of the furniture were appreciated against the dark rug. And the dining room is now a proud place instead of a forgotten corner.

Sad and Drab

Or perhaps your furniture is mahogany of Federal design—good in itself but sad in a drab setting. Why not try an apricot carpet, pale blue walls and deep blue draperies? Or, if you have a conventional old-rose carpet that is too good to discard, try grey walls, curtains of chintz with a grey background and pale pink to old-rose flowers, window shades or blinds of palest pink. This combination does flatter things to mahogany, bringing out the rosey tones to perfection. And with this sort of background, your silver will take on new zest; and importance in the decorative scheme, and you can do imaginative things with table settings.

Or perhaps it's sunlight you need in your dining room. Many times architects place the dining room on the side of the house where little sun shines or where a side porch cuts off

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light and adds gloom. One dining room we've seen had a good solution for this problem. The furniture was an assorted array of Victorian pieces and added to the natural darkness of the room, might have presented a serious problem. Here the walls were painted a pale sunny yellow and the door was carpeted turkey red. Simple silk nylon glass curtains the same colour as the walls were hung at the windows and, instead of draperies, a wall paper border featuring huge cabbage roses was used around each window and as an outline for the doors. Chairs were upholstered in the same pale yellow, silver beamed on the sideboard, and the lady of the house always kept a bright arrangement of flowers either on the buffet or on the dining table. So this room manufactured its own sunlight and colour.

A Little More Formality

Or perhaps it's maple colonial that has you down. Perhaps you want a little more formal feeling in your dining room, but you think that maple commits you indefinitely to a folksy atmosphere, it is true that, with maple, you cannot expect to achieve the dining-in splendour atmosphere of mahogany or walnut. But you don't have to be too cottagey about it, either, unless you want to. Try dark grey walls, a warm brilliant Dubbonet carpet, yellow curtains. Or pale blue walls, red-brown carpet, bright red leather mats for the chair seats, dark blue glazed chintz curtains and a row of potted red geraniums on each window sill.

If your maple dining room must be considered as a part of the living room—where a vista of the dining room is seen from the living room and therefore cannot clash too violently with the latter design—try picking up one of the lighter colours in the living room say the green in the curtains or the blue in a chair. Have the dining-room walls painted a dark tone of the same colour. Dark green walls or dark blue walls can do modern wonders to maple furniture, besides being smart as smart.

Then there are any number of little tricks for little changes that can make all the difference. Be a bit audacious in your dining room, and watch the general family appetite pep up. If your dining room has a fireplace (lucky lady!) decide to treat the room as a half-and-half proposition (as sitting room as well as dining room), thus adding an extra entertaining corner to the house. If your dining table isn't

too large, place it nearer one set of windows instead of right in the middle of the room. Add a pair of comfortable chairs—slip covered in harmony with the dining room curtains or rug—near the fireplace. What could be better for a family that likes privacy for reading or studying now and then. Sometimes a dining room can give up a wall for the muse of music. A small spinnet type or miniature upright piano might fit in very well with a colonial or English dining room—and make a room used only once or twice a day into a more serviceable part of the house.

For a Handy Hand

If discarding an out-moded sideboard cramps your style for drawer space, try having a carpenter build a unit into the room. Take the end wall of the dining room, for instance. A niche formed by two cupboards at each corner can be filled in, buffet height with drawers and cupboards, the remainder outlined with a ply-board valance and the interior lighted indirectly for an unusual effect. Paint the entire arrangement the same colour as the dining room walls and what you will lose in actual room space will be balanced by the advantage of plenty of cupboard space for linen and china. And the indirectly lighted niche is a splendid place to display unusual flower arrangements, a fine picture or a holiday shrinelike decoration.

If real elegance is your forte, you might try dark olive green walls, chartreuse draperies, at least one picture framed in wide old gold and a fine Oriental rug on the floor. This combination with either mahogany or walnut is guaranteed to give that state dinner feeling and will make even a lowly stew into a distinguished chef's specialty ragout.

Let's have a new deal all our own for the forgotten room—the dining room. (Copyright 1938, by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin.)

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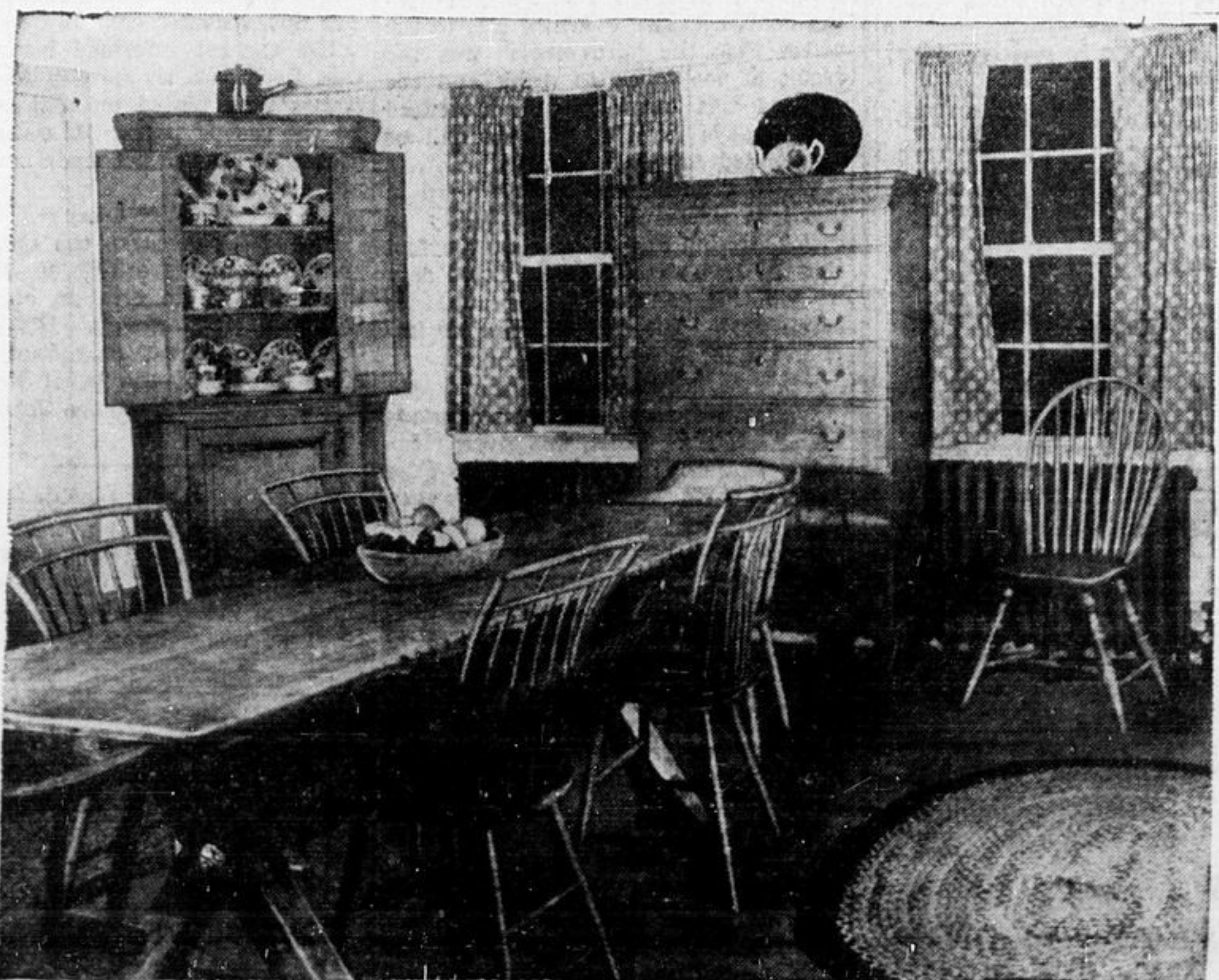
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The simple charm of maple continues to appeal. Here a pleasant dining room emphasizes the sheen of waxed natural woods. The wall paper is yellow polka dotted the curtains red and yellow chintz and the rugs are plain and braided.