

PLEASANT HOMES

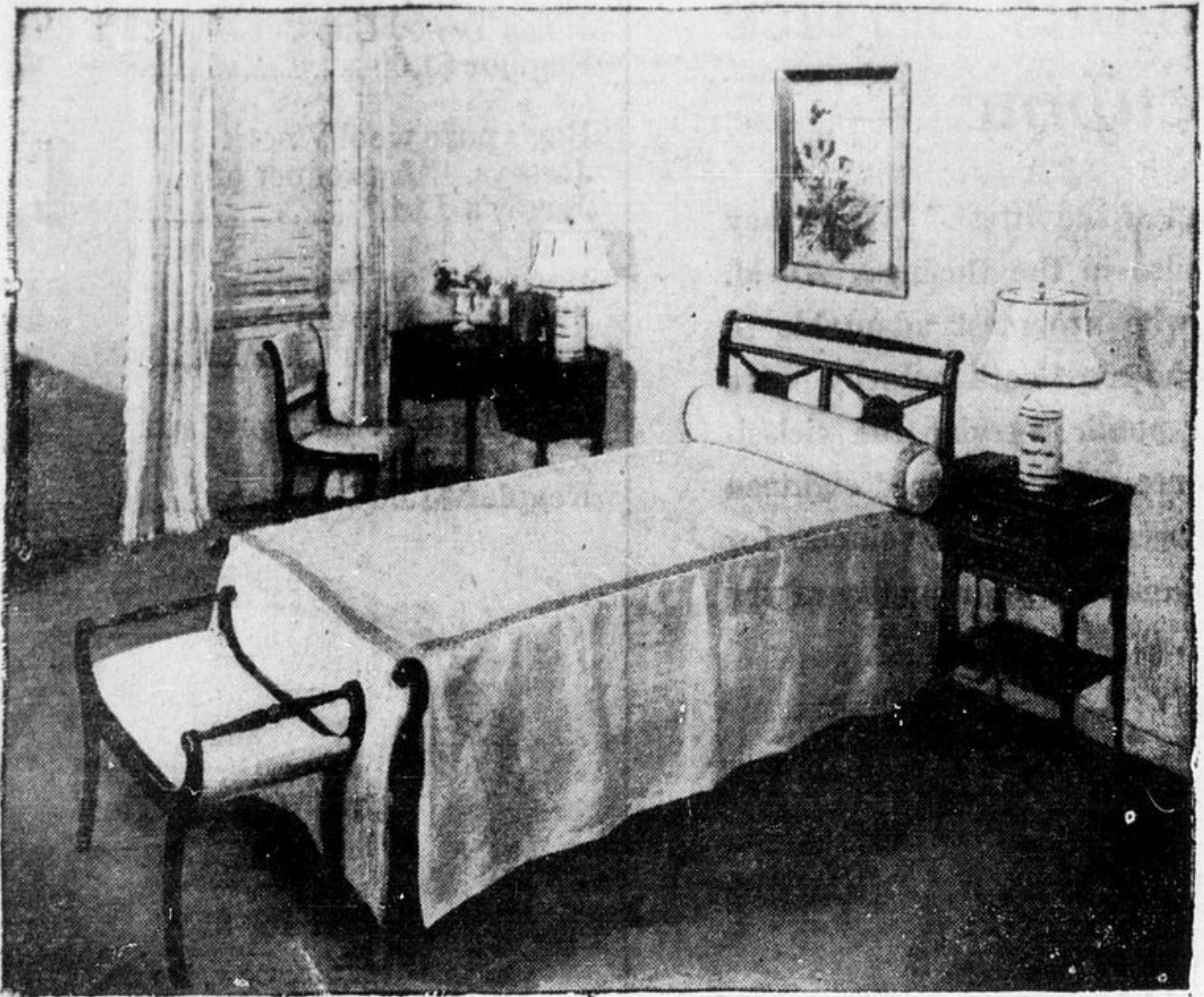
by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

HOW TO REFINISH MAHOGANY, WALNUT AND OTHER HARD WOODS
It Takes Plenty of Elbow Grease—Follow the Rules Religiously — Don't Try to Rush the job.

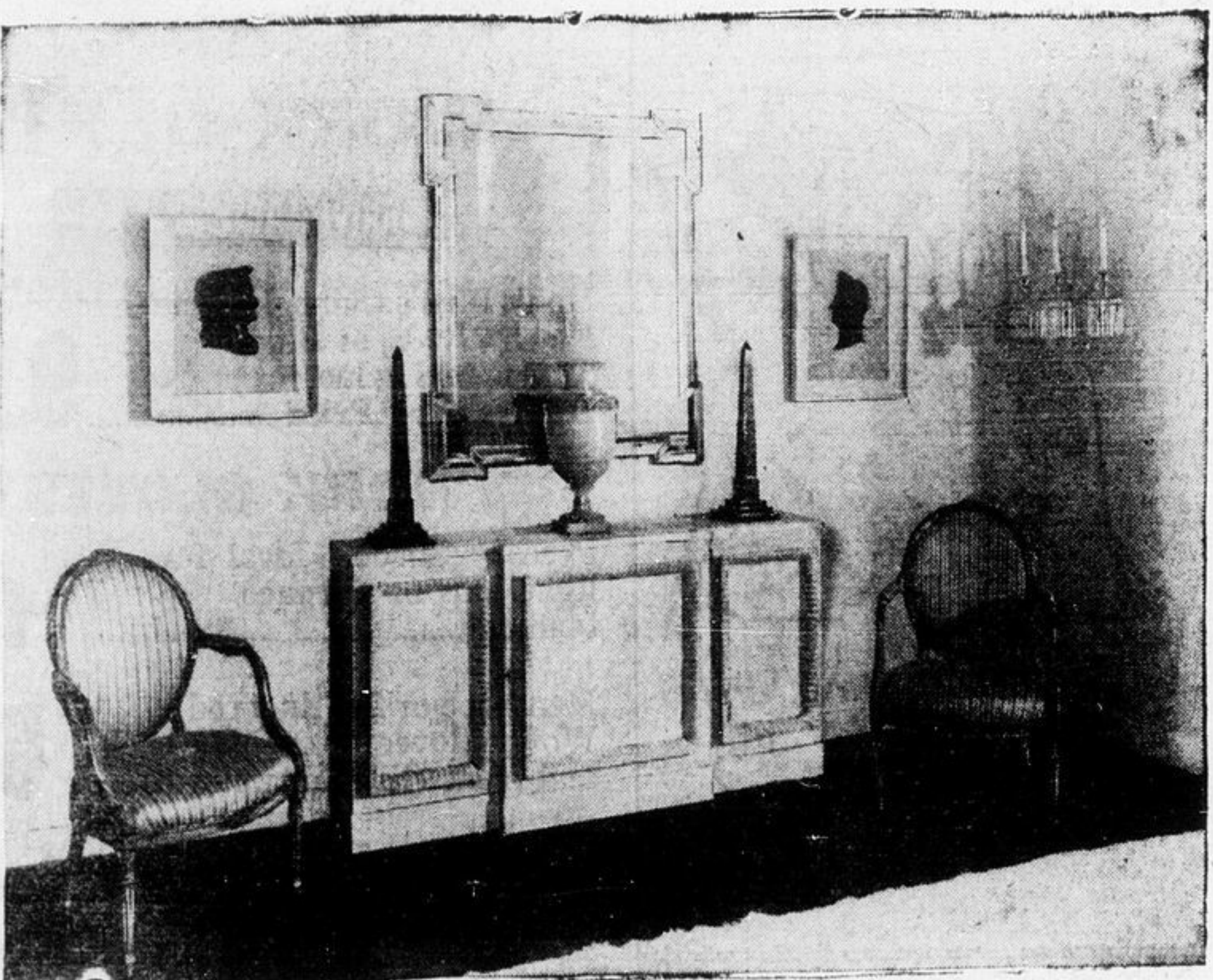
A lady can splash a paint brush around pretty glibly and get some gay effects. But that's the cure for old furniture that doesn't matter much anyway. A lot of us would like to know what to do about fine hardwood furniture whose finish is the worse for wear. And how to change those old-fashioned dark mahogany and walnut finishes in-

good piece of hardwood is worth refinishing — mahogany, walnut, maple, birch, oak, cherry. I personally don't believe in putting so much work on the soft woods such as pine—it's better to paint them.
First of all, take off all the old finish with paint and varnish remover, which you can buy from any good paint

also useful in scraping out blemishes caused by ink, burns or stains that have penetrated the wood too deeply. In most cases the combination of the remover and careful scraping will give you the surface colour you like.
But if you're still not down to the tone of wood you want—and if the wood you're working on is mahogany



If you decide to refinish your old pieces in a dark colour, consider the current vogue for touches of gilt as used in this bedroom furniture.



Here is a dramatic use of a bleached wood cabinet in a living room in a contemporary style.

final finish is to be lacquer. This will enable you to control the stain that follows.

Water stains are considered "lags" but they take more sanding. Non-grain-raising stains also have fine quality without leaving such a rough surface, so perhaps that's a safer bet for the amateur. After staining do whatever light sanding that seems necessary—you'll want a smooth even surface. Then add another sealer coat of either thin shellac or lacquer sealer.

The Filler
With fine-grained woods like maple or birch, no filler is necessary. With woods such as mahogany and walnut—unless scraping and sanding have been heavy—the pores are still pretty well filled. If, however, you want an absolutely smooth surface, the next step is filling. You'll need a standard paste filler with a silic base, applied with a brush, wiped off across the grain with burrap just as it starts to harden and cleaned thoroughly a few minutes later, wiping with the gain. It is essential to remove all the filler that is not in the pores. Then let the filler dry thoroughly, as proceeding with finishing before the filler is absolutely dry is one of the causes of cloudy or greyish finishes. Sand lightly again, always wiping clean after sanding, and apply another sealer coat of shellac or lacquer sealer, and then sand lightly again.

Now the worst is over. If you have been using shellac as a sealer, you may complete the job either with shellac or varnish as desired. If lacquer sealer has been used, then add one or two coats of water white brushing lacquer, gloss or dull, according to your taste. Remember that you can't use anything but lacquer on lacquer. And never put lacquer on shellac or varnish.

Now the professional way would be to finish off with oil and pumice stone, but we don't blame you if you don't feel quite up to that. Steel wool and wax will give you a bang-up job, so that's what we suggest.

Loving Patience
This can't all be done some night after supper. Like all fine craftsmanship jobs, it takes a lot of loving patience. But so do all things requiring art and skill. Don't try to rush the job, if you want good results. A beautiful furniture finish will be a pleasure the rest of your days — a poor one will look apologetically at you until you decide to do the whole thing over.

These are the directions for refinishing fine wood surfaces—if you have a paint job on your mind that's something else again. Send for our bulletin "How To Paint Furniture" if you want the low-down on that subject. It will be sent on receipt of a stamped, self-addressed long envelope.
(Copyright 1938, by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin).

Still More Mines for Power Company

Quarterly Statement Shows Continued Activity.

The quarterly statement accompanying dividend cheques of the Canada Northern Power Corporation, Limited, shows that new mines continue to cul for the services of the company. The statement, which covers the quarter ending Sept. 30th, 1938, shows that increases in plant and equipment, particularly in Northwestern Quebec, mean the additional use of power. The Canada Northern Power Corporation, Limited, in each case is prepared to serve its customers and thus assist the development of the country.

The quarterly statement, over the signature of B. V. Harrison, vice-president and general manager, is as follows:—

As will be seen by the following comparative statement of the earnings of the company, the volume of business has increased and net earnings are practically equal to those of the preceding 12 months.

	12 months ending August 31st, 1938
Gross Earnings	\$5,103,251.12
Operating and Maintenance	2,244,953.12
Net earnings	\$2,858,298.00
	12 months ending August 31st, 1937
Gross Earnings	\$4,833,241.85
Operating and Maintenance	1,969,992.36
Net earnings	\$2,863,249.49

The main reason for the increase in the quantity of power sold is the addition of considerable new equipment to many of the mines served by the company, mainly in the form of mill extensions.

Excellent progress has been made on the construction of the auxiliary trunk transmission line between Noranda and Blouin Lake, which when completed will considerably improve service by reducing the possibility of interruptions to a minimum.

Arrangements are being made to furnish domestic and commercial service to the new Town of Cadillac in Northern Quebec, where all indications point to the establishment of a thriving community.

Plans have also reached an advanced stage for the installation of a distribution Sub-station in Melartic Township to accommodate the growing load of the mines in that camp.

A new subdivision has been opened up on the outskirts of the town of Noranda, which together with the installation of a Foundry and Machine Shop at that point by Wabi Iron Works will add considerably to the company's load at that town.

At Kirkland Lake similar expansion is indicated by the placing on the market of lots in new subdivision.

Sunday Pictorial: A pessimist is one who for two evils, chooses both.

Britons May Move Industries to Canada

Many in Britain in Favour of Plan.

When, some time ago, a humorous writer in one of the popular dailies suggested Britain's best policy would be to pack up and move out of Europe, he was dealing facetiously with an idea that has many serious adherents, states London "Cavalier." It continues: "There is a school of thought in England which says that if Europe is going to be dominated by totalitarian dictators, the British Isles ought no longer be the heart of the Great British Empire."

"They point out, do these advocates of the 'great removal,' that the centre of Western civilization would shift from the Atlantic to the Pacific if Britain transferred its vital interests to its own great Dominion of Canada.

"By such a move the British Empire and the United States would dominate the world, and European dictatorships would be utterly powerless.

"It is something of a geographical oddity that the very heart of an Empire which extends over five of the world's continents, uniting 500,000,000 people, should be lodged in a tiny island, vulnerable to attack on all sides, and exposed to the deadliest perils of war.

Clamor for Transfer to Canada
"It might be that in a major war the capital of this mighty Empire could be almost obliterated by one smashing blow, severing contact with the overseas possessions, wrecking the whole commonwealth irreparably.

"Thus say the 'quit Europe' party. The Empire can be preserved only if its great metropolis is immune from complete annihilation.

"First, they clamor for the transfer to Canada of the principal manufacturing plants of Britain, especially those engaged in turning out war material. This would not only end the exposure of such plants to enemy attacks, but would require the employ, in Canada, of enormous numbers of workers for the new substitute factories. This, in turn, would justify the wholesale emigration of millions of inhabitants of Britain, who now merely help to overcrowd that densely populated island—and many of whom are unable to find employment there.

"Canada, with an area of 3,700,000 square miles, or more than forty times that of Britain, has only 10,500,000 inhabitants, or less than one-quarter of Britain's population.

Million a Year for a Starter
"Emigration from Britain to Canada totalling 1,000,000 persons yearly, it is estimated, could be maintained for fifteen years, bringing a total of 15,000,000 new inhabitants during that period to Canada—just for a starter.

"The great bulk of these would be settled not part of the Dominion already comparatively well populated, but in the almost empty and unexplored territories of Western Canada.

"This would mean that Canadian farmers, whose huge output of wheat and other necessities are now exported largely to customers in Britain, thousands of miles away, would suddenly find those customers in immense numbers on their very doorstep.

"At the same time, the exodus from

Britain would gradually bring down the crowded population there nearer to a figure at which it could feed itself, thus freeing it more and more from the terrible threat of starvation by submarines and aircraft."

Man Arrested at Val D'Or After Political Speech

(From Val d'Or News)
Arrested on a warrant sworn out by Chief Therrien of Val d'Or. Dr. J. H. Lamarre, vigorous critic of the present improvement programme, is now in the local gaol awaiting a further hearing on charges that he threatened Mr. R. Poisson, assistant town manager.

Taken into custody early Thursday morning, following his speech to the property owners and ratepayers on Wednesday night. Dr. Lamarre, who also publishes a mimeographed sheet called the Open Eye, was brought before Justice of the Peace N. Viel on Thursday night with crown attorney Lucien Ladouceur of Amos conducting the prosecution. Philippe Beauregard appeared for Dr. Lamarre.

The original charges of inciting to riot and threatening to damage property under the Criminal Code, sections 96 and 97, were changed at the hearing on Thursday night to the present charge with no bail being allowed to the accused.

So impressive was the alleged speech of Dr. Lamarre, that word was flashed to Quebec with the result that the provincial police in the entire north country was ordered to stand by in case of emergency. Which was entirely unnecessary as the doctor's outburst on Thursday night was not taken seriously by any of those attending and on the other hand the programme outlined by the committee was quiet and orderly with the result that it conferred with Mr. Poisson on Thursday afternoon for a renewal of predictions on the present sidewalk and roadway programme on Third avenue.

The satisfactory outcome of the committee's meeting was in direct contrast to the incarceration of the vociferous doctor in the local bastille. Which indicates that his drastic methods are not advantageous to the welfare of the community.

Brandon Sun: Some who expect to electrify their audiences merely gas it.

Some Prescriptions from the House Doctor

For moths . . . if they are in your carpet . . . take a coarse towel . . . wring out of clean water . . . spread smooth on the carpet and iron dry with a hot iron. Pressure is not necessary. It is the steam which does the work . . . and will not injure the fabric. Before laying carpet . . . wash cracks in floors and about one-half a yard around the edges of the room with spirits of turpentine, benzine, or strong alum water. To protect carpets . . . sprinkle often with salt and work it into the nap. Enough will adhere after use of the vacuum to prevent moths from working in.

To get rid of rats and mice . . . put pieces of hard soap into the holes and leave there. They will not attempt to enter more than once.

Paint spots on windows yield to a strong solution of soda.
To stop creaking hinges rub lead pencil into the crevices.

Remove match marks from wood by rubbing with lemon.

To drive nails into hardwoods easily . . . dip ends in lard or tallow.

A piece of cellophane, fitted over your electric light chandelier and pasted at the edges, will protect the wallpaper.

To draw a rusty nail or screw apply a hot poker to the head till heated through. Then the nail will come out easily.

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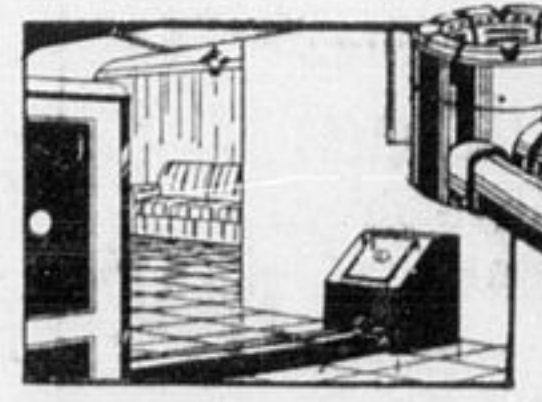
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can't be to casual about a job like that for this is our best furniture and must turn out well—or else.

I've been talking to the experts on that question and following their advice in my own experiments. So here is the story.

To Lend a Hand

A lady at home can refinish her old furniture—even the nicest pieces. But it's a lot of work, so if the budget permits it's smart to call in a competent and experienced craftsman and have him do the job. But if there's no money to spare for the purpose—then by all means do it yourself. And try to lure the man of the house to lend you a hand. Generally speaking, any

dealer. Or mix your own, using the proportion of four ounces of benzole, three ounces Fusil oil, and one ounce alcohol.

Apply the remover with a brush or rag (rubber gloves will save your hands), and when the finish begins to ruffle up, remove by wiping and scraping. Steel wool will be a help here too to get to old finish off. Often you'll have to apply the remover a second or third time, but don't try to cover too much area at one time. This is a tedious job, but when you get down to the results of your efforts.

If It Pleases

For you may well find that the wood as you find it pleases you, and if it does, you can go right from there to the refinishing. But often, the colour of the wood will still be too dark, so you'll want to take a wood scraper to work. This is a flat piece of steel with a sharp square working edge. Hold it at an angle and always use with the grain and not across it. This tool is

you'll often be confronted with some of the old red stain—then get one of the very potent wood bleaches that are on the market now and available through leading paint dealers. Apply a commercial wood bleach in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This bleach will do the trick when all else has failed. Now you can either keep the light colour or give the wood one of the smart light brown stains in vogue right now.

A Smooth lean Surface

Next, prepare the surface for refinishing. The basis of a good finish is always a smooth clean surface. Send a lot of time on this process, using plenty of elbow grease and fine sandpaper (7-0 or 8-0). If you now have a wood colour that appeals, you need only add a thin coat of white shellac, then sand lightly with 8-0 sandpaper, wipe clean and add another coat of white shellac cut 4 to 1 with alcohol. Sand lightly again, wax and the job is done! If you've minded your p's and q's, it ought to be a beauty.

Another final surface finish consists in applying boiled linseed oil, rubbing till kingdom come, allowing to dry, then waxing. And always in waxing, rub for all you're worth. This treatment will darken the wood a bit more than the application of the shellac suggested above. If you want to keep the surface as light as possible use water white brushing lacquer instead of shellac. Sometimes a coat of plain white paint is applied, allowed to dry partially, then wiped off. This leaves that lovely old, old look. Finish with clear light shellac, sand, then wax.

The Stains

Now for staining—if you decide it's necessary. Staining is tricky so better stain and finish a sample drawer front or end panel to see if you have the right colour and effect. If the new finish requires some stain, it is a good idea to give the surface a light coat of shellac first—or lacquer sealer if the



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