

### Twenty Years Ago

From The Porcupine Advance Files

Dr. J. A. McInnis, mayor of Timmings; J. P. McLaughlin, representing the Board of Trade; and George A. Smith, for the Great War Veterans Association; were a Timmings delegation in Toronto twenty years ago to impress upon the Government the pressing needs of the North. There were also delegates from Iroquois Falls, Smooth Rock Falls, Spruce Falls, Cobalt, Porcupine, Gowganda, Elk Lake, New Liskeard, Cochrane, Englehart and other North Land centres. Indeed, the deputation represented all parts of the North from North Bay to Moose Factory, and from Quebec to Manitoba. It was one of the most important and representative delegations ever visiting the parliament buildings in Toronto.

The delegation was introduced by Capt. Tom Magludery, M.P.P., Major Mac Lang, M.P.P., W. A. Gordon, of Haldenbury, in a comprehensive and clear-cut speech opened the case for the North. He said that the idea of the delegation originated with the Cochrane Board of Trade and was enthusiastically taken up by all the towns, settlements and interests of the North.

Briefly, the proposals were for the extension of the T. & N. O. to James Bay, the construction of branch lines to Kirkland Lake and Gowganda and the construction of good trunk highways through the now partly-developed areas of the great North. Mr. Gordon forcibly pictured for the Cabinet the wonderful possibilities in the North Land when transportation facilities made development possible. It had required great faith on the part of the Government to build the T. & N. O., but that faith had been justified and so would further faith to-day be justified, Mr. Gordon said.

Other speakers included: Archdeacon Woodall, S. J. Dempsey, president Dunston of the Toronto Board of Trade, President A. T. H. Taylor, of the Cochrane Board of Trade; President Geo. A. Smith, of the Timmings G. W. V. A., and James McGuire, of Cobalt. Archdeacon Woodall specially interested all with his graphic account of travels in and around James Bay and Hudson Bay. He said that the climate in the James Bay area is better than a Cochrane or south and that there are no summer frosts. Agriculture, fruit-raising and stock-raising, he said, may be undertaken with success. Mining, fishing and fur-trading he mentioned as other industries that will produce wealth. He also referred to the beauty and advantage of the James Bay district as a summer resort for tourists.

In reply to the delegation Premier Sir William Hearst said that thirty years before he had been one of the directors under charter for a line to Moose Factory, so he had special interest in the proposal for the railway extension. He promised that an exploration and survey party would investigate the resources and possibilities of the country referred to. Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines, assured the deputation that the Government, and particularly his own department, had in mind and under constant consideration the development of the North Land. Hon. T. W.

McGarry reminded the deputation that he himself was a man of the North. After the hearing by the cabinet, the deputation numbering over 100, repaired to the front of the parliament building where they were photographed in a group.

The G. W. V. A. had a "Welcome Home" dance in the Masonic hall on March 3rd, 1919, and the event drew the largest crowd ever at a similar event in Timmings up to that date. It was a particularly pleasing event and all present enjoyed it to the fullest extent. The only difficulty was the fact that the hall was not large enough for the crowd. Colombo's orchestra of five pieces provided the best of music. The Veterans expressed the deepest gratitude to Mrs. H. Webb, Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Faithful who supplied and looked after the luncheon. Mrs. J. K. Moore delighted the big crowd with two vocal solos, one of them, "Welcome Home" being especially enjoyed. The song had the special interest that words and music alike were composed by the gifted Timmings musician, Mrs. R. Sims, who played the accompaniments on the piano for Mrs. Moore's solos that evening. During the singing the soldiers lined up in the centre of the floor. "Sit Down on the Grass," said Sgt. Geo. A. Smith, "but you mustn't smoke." Another feature of the evening was the rousing, "Welcome Home" given to Sgt. Willey, an old-timer of the Porcupine.

Twenty years ago while Dr. McInnis, J. P. McLaughlin and Geo. A. Smith were in Toronto attending a deputation gathered to interview the Government on the needs of the North, these Timmings delegates took occasion to specially press on the attention of Hon. G. Howard Ferguson the particular need for a highway from Timmings to Iroquois Falls. Hon. Mr. Ferguson gave encouraging reply to the representations made. In referring to the matter at the time The Advance said: "Other matters of special interest to this district were also taken up and Hon. Mr. Ferguson in each and every case showed an earnest and intelligent interest and an earnest desire to do all possible for the people of this part of the North. In regard to the housing plans for soldiers and working-men generally Hon. Mr. Ferguson said that legislation would be enacted at an early date giving particular benefits to returned soldiers and working-men in the matter of securing homes of their own on easy terms. He also explained that Timmings would have no difficulty in taking advantage of the housing plan for the benefit of the people here. The fact that this was a mining camp would not prejudice this town in entering this particular plan."

### Proof Still Lacking of German Sense of Humor

(Windsor Star)

Recently Propaganda Minister Goebbels became aroused at reports that the German people were not allowed to exercise their sense of humour for fear that they could get clapped into a detention house for any reflection on the Nazi rule. So he decided to show the world that this impression of humorless Germans was false. He staged a joke contest in his newspaper.

The prizes have been awarded. The winning bit of humor is as follows: "I won't perform in this costume," says a scantily clad girl wearing a pre-war army helmet and a sabre, to a paunchy male who is scratching his head in astonishment. "Why not? Does one see too much?" asks the man. "Rubbish, you old fool. Too little," replies the girl.

If this is the best of the thousands of jokes submitted, we still think that the Germans have lost their sense of humor under Nazi rule. It is a weak sample of wit. And it might be worth mentioning that the prize-winner had to insert a helmet and sabre into the joke before he won the award.

Herr Goebbels has proved nothing but that the critics were right in regard to German jokes. But then again, if they are all as poor as the prize-winner's, perhaps it is all to the good that humor in Germany has been discouraged.



## PLEASANT HOMES

by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

### CONSIDERING CHAIRS

Conversation Chairs—Gossip Chairs—Confessional Chairs—Rocking Chairs—Over-stuffed Chairs.

Mankind hasn't been sitting pretty very long. In fact we weren't sitting at all through most of our history... on chairs that is. For up until about the 16th century, you had to be quite somebody to presume to sit on a chair, for a chair then carried something of the prestige of a throne. Before that there were benches, lift-lid chests, stools of various kinds for the common man. It was up into the 18th century before chairs relented of their grim austerity and relaxed into the contours of the human figure and became anything like comfortable.

#### Fashions and Furniture

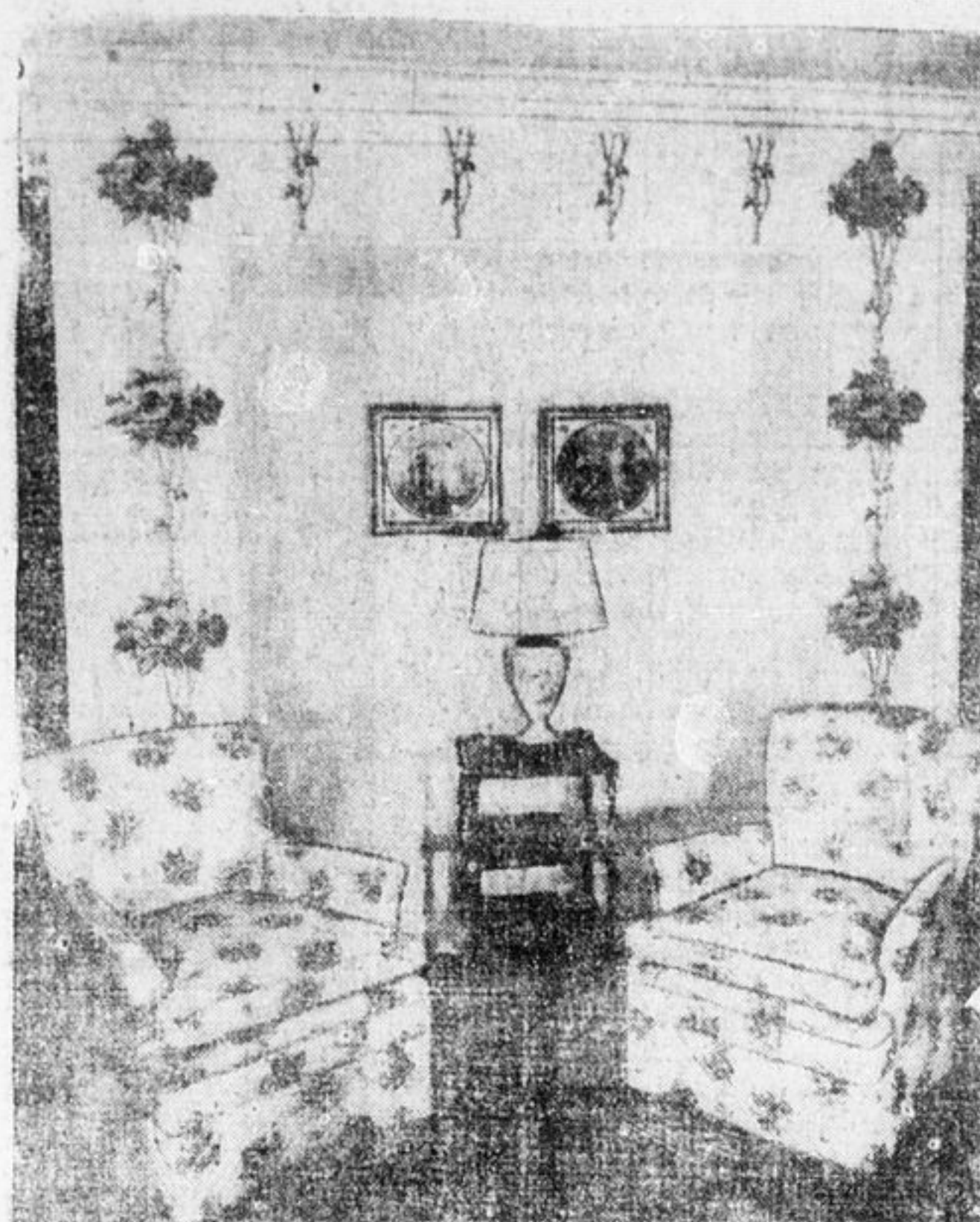
As soon as chairs did come into wide use, they immediately began to reflect fashions of the day—and so when hoop skirts and farthingales were in style, the arms of chairs all but vanished as the chair itself became larger. When men wore expensive laced coats with tails, the conversation chair came in so they could sit "backwards to" with their coat tails hanging safely over the front of the chair.

The 18th century was, of course, the charmed century of chair making. Neither before nor since have such beautiful and practical chairs been devised, and to this day most of our chairs borrow their design from basic forms evolved by 18th century craftsmen. The dining chair came in with the round table, for the benches, heretofore used, wouldn't fit comfortably around a table. As for the Morris chair, well, it is just too bad that its creator, William Morris, the great 19th century designer and exponent of handicraftsmanship, should be best known for this chair which went down to ignominious oblivion in the golden oak and green plush period.

#### The Gossip Chair

The upholstered chair has been on the scene a long time, though comfort never before mattered as much as it does now. Hence the upholstered chair has just come into its own, you might say. The first really comfortable chairs came, as may have been expected, from France... it was known as the gossip-chair. These chairs really got under way when someone thought of springs which, of course, revolutionized the principle of upholstery. The early versions of the wing chair were really confessionals in France. In England the wing chair was developed to shield the sitter from draughts.

But to this day, it's hard to find a really comfortable chair in Europe.



A pair of little bedroom chairs are charming in a quilted chintz covering that complements the more dramatic floral in the wall paper.

a smooth and tailored fit, and when pre-shrunk and fast color fabric came on the market to assure certain permanency for the removable cover.

#### The Current Picture

Washability—is the common denominator of slip cover materials this spring. Even very inexpensive materials can now go into the tub.

Sateens—printed in chintz patterns are the cotton news for slip covers. They have a fine soft sheen and are offered in a wide variety of patterns. Stripes and Plaids—have great style importance. Plaids in formal versions and in formal places look very new and smart.

Florals—are still large and the trend is even toward over-sized designs.

Trimings—continue to be used but with discretion. Cords and fringes and mossy welts have a tailored-made look—there's very little frou-frou in trim-

### Explaining Why the Cat Always Comes Back Again

There was nothing extraordinary, in the New York Herald Tribune, in the occurrence which rated an Associated Press despatch from Pennsylvania that a pig which disappeared from a truck, made its way to the farm wren whence it had come. Says the metropolitan commentator:

"Pigs, even very young ones, have a remarkable sense of direction. A pig may be blindfolded and transported in the dead of night over many miles of unfamiliar territory, and the next day, if its nostalgia for its old home is strong enough, it will unerringly find its way back. The late Colonel Charles Goodnight, the famous plainsman, recalled that once, as a young man, he went out in a snowstorm to find an old

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sow which had disappeared. He found her a mile away, hidden in a nest of sagegrass which she had built for herself. She had just given birth to nine pigs. Goodnight put the pigs in a basket and took them home, put them in a pen and went back to bring the mother. When he brought her to the pen he found the pigs had escaped; upon being back to their birthplace he found them already back in bed. Such examples could be multiplied many times over.

"The cat also often exhibits something of the same homing instinct. Moreover, there are astonishing instances of cows and horses returning to their old homes or their favorite ranges, and the cow and the horse are not notable for their intelligence. Back in the last century there was the thoroughly authenticated story of a pony which, taken from its home farm in Missouri and transported to Pennsylvania, found its way back after many weeks. It had travelled alone these hundreds of miles over strange ground, hurdling fences and fording large streams. How did it cross the Mississippi? No one to this day can say for sure. Then there are the tales told by veracious old trail drivers of certain cows and steers which, after having been driven the long journey from South Texas to Montana, over rivers, mountains and deserts, would sometimes escape from the herd and reappear months later on their old home grounds, their hooves worn to the quick.

"Few men possess this instinct. The Indians, perhaps more than any other had it, but, curiously enough, it was noted that after barbed wire came to the Great Plains country even such sure trail riders as the Kiowas and the Comanches became baffled and had to ask directions. In the open country they could not have been lost."

### Britishers Still Have Liberties Left to Them

Victoria Times.—There has been some agitation in Britain over the case of a citizen who took his gas mask, furnished by the government for his protection in air raids, and tossed it into the backyard as a nuisance. The courts have upheld him, deciding it was his mask, and he could do with it what he liked. If he wanted to throw it away and take his chances with air raids, that was his privilege. All this is very Anglo-Saxon and British. Gas masks as home furnishings are things Britishers still seem unwilling to take with becoming seriousness. Recently an air raid warden, making the rounds of some cottages near Manchester to see that all was well with the air raids precaution work, found a housewife wearing her gas mask. She was peeling onions!

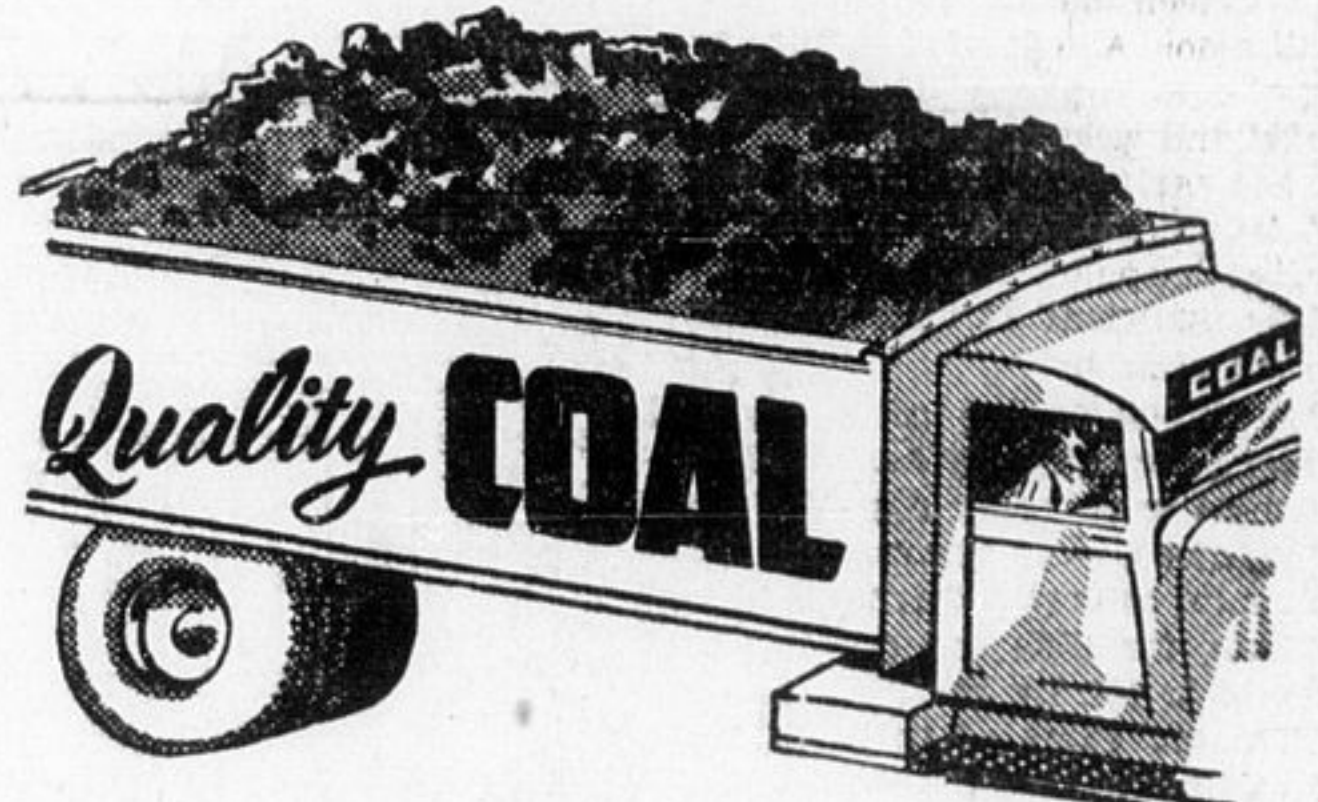
Brampton Conservator.—There were 1038 transients given shelter in Brampton jail in 1932. This is a statement made by the gaoler, W. Partridge. For every one who sought shelter in the jail there were an equal number who asked for a meal or a dime and passed on. If such an estimate be correct it would mean that 40 young men made appeals to Brampton people every week for assistance. Other towns would have corresponding numbers. All of which shows how far even in most favoured places we are from having solved the unemployment problem.

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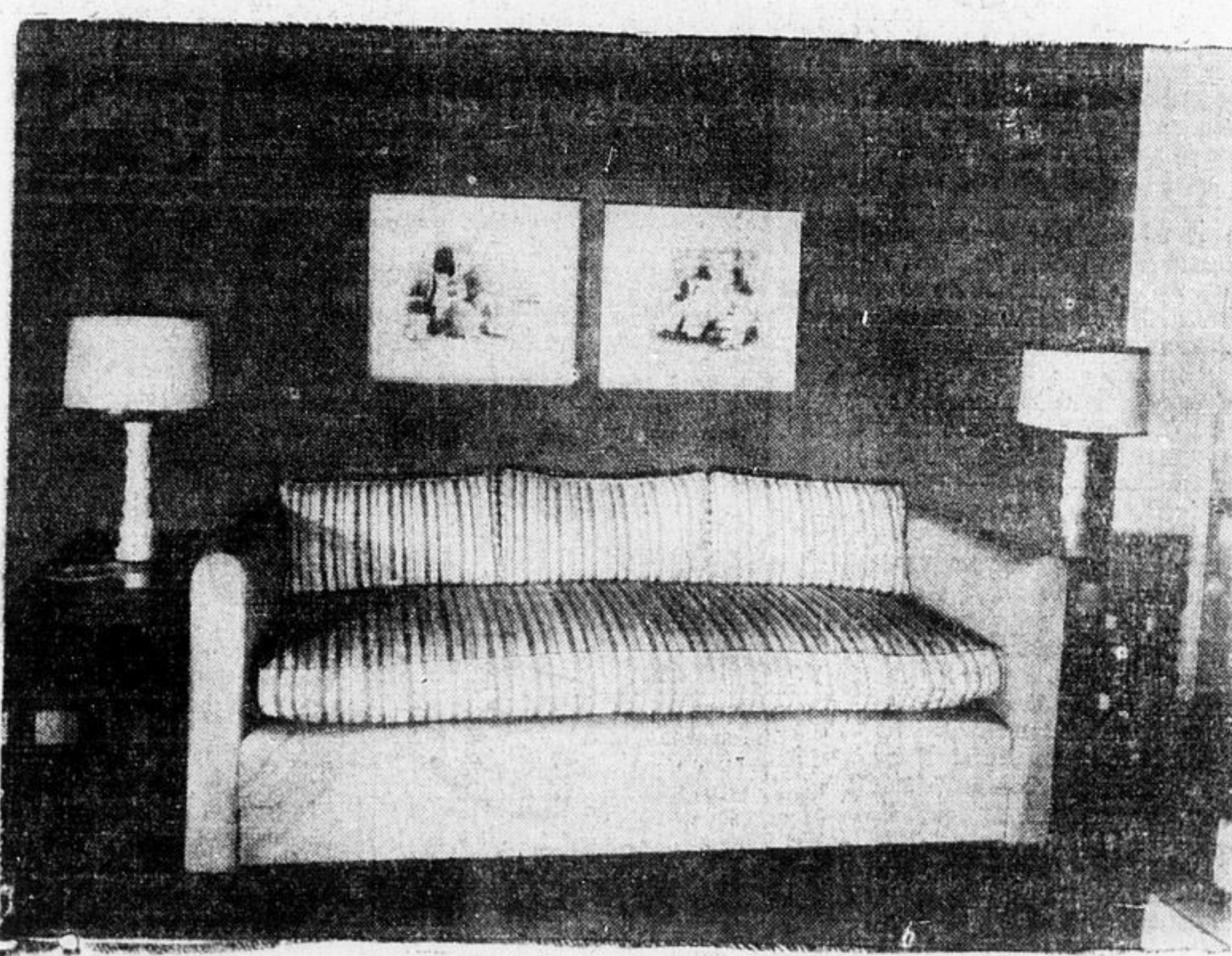
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judged by American standards of sitting. But this American tradition of comfort goes back to Benjamin Franklin, who invented the rocker. The rocker had its heyday; then came the over-stuffed chair... which, true to form, reflected an era of narrow short dresses. The obese examples of the over-stuffed chair are out now along with the too brief dress, and upholstered furniture has settled down to a gracious and reasonable scale, with enough padding to be comfortable but not so much that we get lost in the cushions. The best traditional type of upholstered furniture today has lines of the frame after period themes.

#### Something New

This tale of chairs wouldn't be up-to-date without a word over our shoulder about modern contribution to chair form. The tubular metal chair and the bent-wood chair are new and radical departures in elemental design of chairs. All our other chairs are evolutions of earlier forms.

As for seasonal styles in chairs, they shouldn't be passed by too glibly, even by the person who takes his sitting seriously. For variations in coverings and trimmings from season to season are what keep traditional basic forms looking like today and part of the fashion picture. And all things considered, slip covers probably settle that matter most satisfactorily. Actually, slip covers came into their own when zippers and snaps were developed to give them

### Larder Lake Now Asking for Liquor Store There

A delegation from Larder Lake recently visited Toronto to ask the establishment of a liquor store at Larder Lake. It was pointed out to the authorities a Toronto that the business of buying liquor in connection with Larder Lake needs was now going to Kirkland Lake, and that this was not only a loss to Larder Lake but it was also a serious inconvenience for the people of Larder Lake. Reports from Larder Lake suggest that there is a good chance that a liquor store will be established in that thriving town.

Brandon Sun.—Of course, those who think patriotism vulgar can't attract attention any other way.

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