WHO IS THIS MAN DREW?

by

GORDON SINCLAIR

Famous Writer, World Traveller And Radio Commentator Who Is Well Known Throughout The Province

So all right. The man is Premier of Ontario and got that way on his first try at the age of 49.

But that's not enough. You want to know more about George Alexander Drew and this is the story.

The Premier who stands six foot two and weighs 230 pounds was born and raised in Guelph of a family long prominent in the Royal City.

He is a hard man to shush when he has something to say and that was indicated even during his terms at Upper Canada College.

Although still a comparatively young man, Drew has been a soldier for 33 years . . . more than two thirds of his life.

He enlisted with the 16th Battery at Guelph when a high school lad of 16.

That was in 1911 and three years later, when the first world war spread over Europe, the 16th was one of the first batteries to go active and George Drew, from Toronto's Varsity Campus, was the youngest officer.

Early to mobilize this battery he was also one of the first to fight and the very week George Drew went overseas his father died. That made George absentee head of the family which included an only brother and three sisters. John, that only brother, was killed while on active duty with the Royal Canadian Navy during the present war.

During the early battles in France in May, 1916, George Drew was severely wounded. He was invalided home to Canada but instead of accepting his discharge he was named to command the 64th Battery of the Canadian Field Artillery, and was soon promoted to the rank of colonel . . . a colonel at 23. He had already been promoted and decorated on the battlefield.

Colonel Drew has kept up his interest in the ex-service men and women from then until now, and that interest is reciprocated.

Con Smythe, for example, a two-war artillery officer, made his first political speech an endorsement for Drew.

After that last war had ended in victory, Drew picked up his academic studies, graduated from Varsity, was called to the bar, then returned to Guelph to practice law and run for Council.

Drew served four years in the Council of Guelph and was then elected Mayor of his native city. After one term he moved to Toronto for a second time, became assistant Master of the Supreme Court of Ontario, three years later, Ontario Securities Commissioner.

During these years he also found time to write books and magazine features about Canada's part in the war and a comprehensive survey of Canada's contribution to the aerial triumphs of the last conflict, which was condensed by the R.C.A.F. as a gift to all graduates under the commonwealth air training plan.

In 1934, after a series of Conservative governments had ruled for 29 years, Ontario chose a Liberal leader. Soon afterwards, seeking to regain their lost position, the Conservatives named Drew their organizer and he held this post until 1937 when Earl Rowe led the party and was beaten.

Within a few months Mr. Rowe had returned to the Ottawa scene, a new leader was needed for Ontario, and on the first ballot George Drew was chosen. Some of the so-called old guard of the party had not wanted Drew but his majority was tremendous.

Up to this time Drew had never sought a seat in the Legislature, but now he ran for the riding of Simcoe East, was elected and led the opposition in the Legislature until the summer of 1943 when he took full command.

Once more Drew was elected by the people on his first try. As he had become Councillor of Guelph, Mayor of Guelph, Leader of his party and member of the Legislature on his first attempt, so Drew now reached the highest office within the gift of his Province.

Throughout his public life George Drew has steadily and constantly spoken of himself as Canadian first and native of Ontario second. Never, he declared, would he attempt to advance the cause of his Province at the expense of the Dominion. National unity, he has said, must and will be maintained.

This same broad patriotic view took the new Premier to the Motherland soon after his election, and there he has worked energetically for post war prosperity anchored to continuing British connections. He made an intensive study of agriculture, as a result of which Ontario has made more rapid progress in his twenty months in office than at any previous time in history. "Farming must be run by Farmers" is his creed.

The Premier knew in the first week of 1944 of the vast and complex military projects that would be undertaken that year. Today, on the eve of great expansion in Ontario, he knows of vast civil plans to be undertaken here at home.

George Drew is the biggest man, and the first war veteran, to be premier of Ontario. In fact 8 of the 12 men in the Ontario cabinet are war veterans.

In Ontario's 78 years of history there has been only one premier who was younger than Drew, and none whose experience has covered such a wide field.

George Drew is soldier, author, lawyer, speaker and bears many another label of ability. Come to think of it he's also a good cook and one of the things he hopes to see and taste in the post war Ontario, are some native Ontario dishes.

Here in Ontario we grow the finest natural food products on earth but we don't seem to have any specialized Ontario dish.

The Premier hopes to correct that and he plans to improve the tourist accommodation throughout the province so that Ontario will truly be the traveller's paradise it has often been called.

After the premier is re-elected there will be a ministry dealing with tourist matters from which all of us, home towner and visitor alike, are sure to benefit in at least, three ways. Also, as you've already been told, highways will be widely extended and improved.

One thing I've often marvelled at in relation to public figures is how they can stand the banquet circuit. You know how it is with mayors and ministers and premiers; it's often one head table after another all around the province and at head tables the food is often of a sameness.

George Drew stands it with full marks. His digestion, in fact, is about as good as you'll find anywhere in Ontario and if he just half tried the Premier could weigh 300 pounds or even more. One thing he really hates is lettuce in sandwiches. Something that gives him quiet pleasure is the realization that his administration definitely closed the gambling "clubs" and bookies joints which were a blot on the Toronto suburban area for almost 20 years.

Although his left arm will never recover from his last war wounds George Drew is a strong swimmer and can circle a golf club in the middle eighties.

About five years ago at Port Colborne he swam out to two men from Buffalo who were in distress, and brought one man in. The Premier then swam and got the other one. One man could not be revived, but the other owes his life to Colonel Drew.

Drew has no time for small gossip and becomes indifferent or hostile to anyone who indulges in childish or malicious criticism. His opinion is never influenced by this sort of thing nor will he express a critical opinion of anyone.

In some circles Drew is considered a soft touch for a loan and in this connection he never seems to harden up even though he's often been let down. In practically all ways Drew is quick to forgive.

His staff consider him a grand guy. You might say that if this were not so it wouldn't be found in these notes. Maybe so, but if you can produce anyone who has ever worked for George Drew and won't back up this statement that he's all wool and a yard wide then the drinks are on me.

When HMCS Otter was lost at sea, and John Drew was lost with her, the Premier was wakened with the sad news at three in the morning. The legislature was in session at the time and when prayer time came around he was in his seat as usual.

As I've said before Drew is a difficult man to shush and was once summoned to court under the Defence of Canada regulations for disclosing that a Canadian force was sent to Hong Kong with insufficient training. These charges, as we all know, were quickly and thoroughly dropped.

Drew is an Anglican who sometimes reads the lesson in his Guelph Church.

His wife is the daughter of Edward Johnson who was Canada's most noted tenor and has, for many years, been general manager of the Metropolitan Opera House. The Drews were married in 1936 and have a son, Edward, and a daughter Sandra.

The Drews have one of the biggest private libraries in any Ontario home and Mrs. Drew, whose people are o pioneer stock, speaks five languages. These are being passed along to Edward although Sandra is still having trouble with English. Edward is also studying the violin.

This is George Drew. I know you'll like him.

BAKED RHUBARB

4 cups cut rhubarb, ½ cup sugar or ¼ cup sugar and ¼ cup honey.

Wash rhubarb and cut into inch lengths. Place in casserole, add sugar and cover. Bake in preheated electric oven for 20 mins., at 350 degrees.

RHUBARB SHORTCAKE

2 cups flour, ½ tsp. soda, 1 cup thick sour milk, 1 tsp. salt, 2 tbsps. shortening.

Cut shortening into measured flour, soda and salt. Add liquid gradually while mixing with a fork to a soft dough . Owing to the difference in sour milk, it is not always possible to determine the exact amount of liquid. Turn dough on lightly floured board and pat out. Cut into circles and bake in electric oven at 450 degs. for 10 mins. Split and serve with thick rhubarb sauce between and on top.

SAUCE: Cook 6 cups of cut washed rhubarb in saucepan placed on electric element turned to Low for 5 mins., then to High. Add about two thirds cup of sugar and cook only a few minutes stirring frequently.

RHUBARB TARTS

2 cups thick rhubarb sauce, 2 eggs separated. 1 tsp. grated orange rind, ¼ cup fine sugar.

Combine the rhubarb sauce, egg yolks and orange peel. Cook in top of double boiler, stirring constantly, until thickened. Pour into tart shells. Beat the egg white till stiff and add sugar gradually, beating until mixture stands in peaks. Place a spoonful in each tart and bake in electric oven (350 degs.) about 12 to 15 mins. or until delicately browned. Makes 8 tarts of fairly large size.

TO CAN RHUBARB

Wash and trim slender stalks. Do not remove skin. Cut into ¾ inch pieces. Use 1 cup of sugar to each quart jar (or ½ cup to a pint). Put a thin layer of sugar with a layer of sugar on top. Pack very tightly, using a wooden spoon or masher. Partially seal and process in boiler by gently boiling on electric element 25 mins.

TO CAN RHUBARB SAUCE

Add enough water to rhubarb to prevent burning. Cook until soft. Add ¾ cup of sugar to 1 quart rhubarb. Fill sterilized jars. Seal tightly.

* * *

TAKE A TIP

1. To prevent rhubarb pies from bolling over, use strips of wet cheesecloth or butter-wrapping cut in 2-inch widths. Press the one edge to rim of pie and let the other edge fall over fluted pie crust. Overlap ends well.

2. Other variations for rhubarb de-serts: Upside-down Cake, Rhubarb Betty, Rhubarb Steamed Pudding, Deep Rhubarb Pie, Rhubarb Sponge.

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THE SUGGESTION BOX

Mr. C. M. says: To protect potatoes against blight soak them for one hour before planting in a solution of one gallon of water and 2 tsps. of Copper H.

Miss G. B. says: Before putting your badminton racket away cover strings with vaseline.

Mrs. K. O. says: Never cool boiled meat in the broth. Remove as soon as it is cooked; cool and store meat broth separately.

Mrs. C. A. says: Any burned food stuck to enamelware should be soaked off the utensil, but never scraped. Javel water helps a lot

A.A. says: Watercress leaves are very tender. If stored with other vegetables they crush and break. Watercress should be washed and stored in a closed sealer in the electric refrigerator.

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Anne Allan invites you to write to her c/o of The Flesherton Advance. Send in your suggestions on homemaking problems and watch this column for replies.

Sergeant — "I'm all in. I've been running around all day trying to get something for my wife."

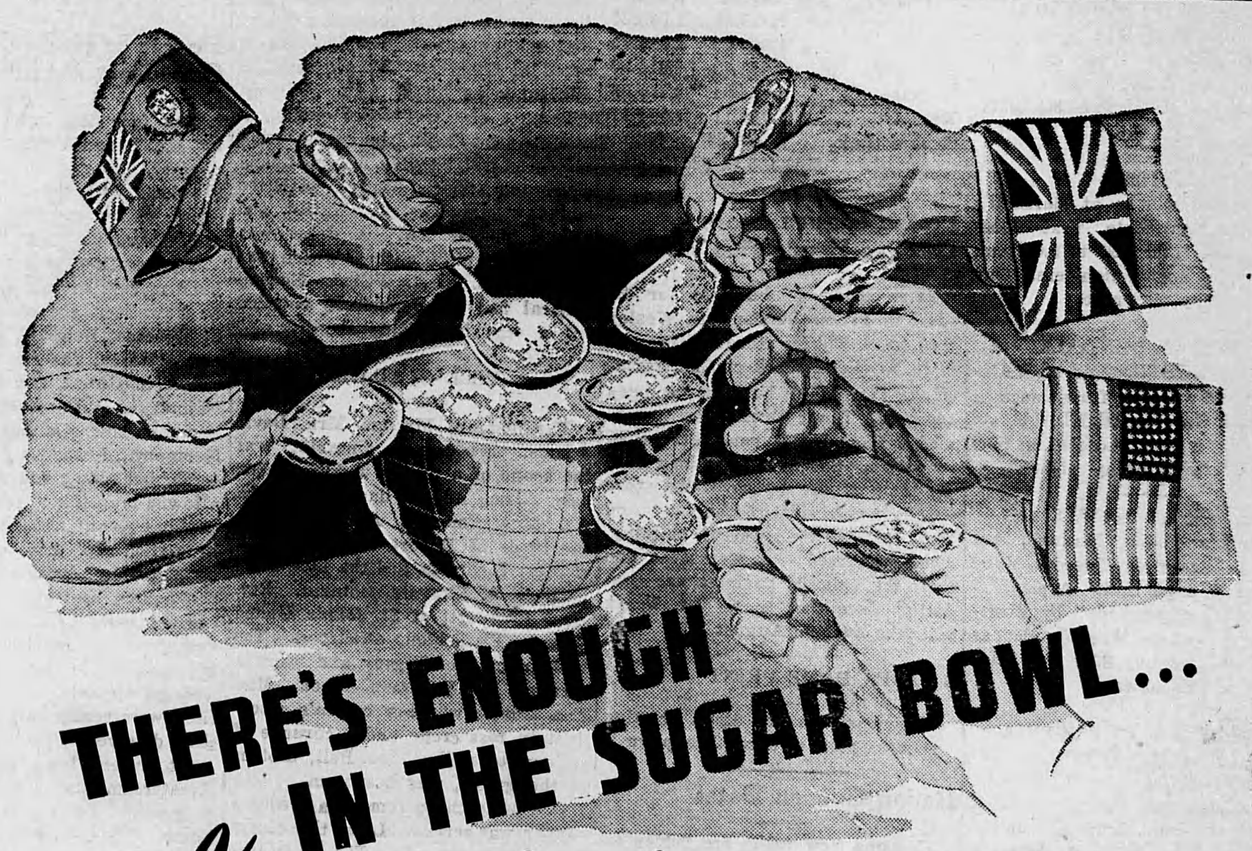
Private — "Well, have you had any offers."

HOW TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF HAY

In producing quality hay, the time of harvest is very important, because as the plants mature there is a decrease in the percentage of protein and an increase of the fibre content. This decrease in protein in young alfalfa goes from over 20 per cent, and in clover to less than 10 per cent when fully matured. The same is true of timothy, except that the decrease starts at 10 per cent and is reduced to below 5 per cent when ripe. Protein is the expensive part of the ration nd fibre is practically indigestible, so why not harvest the crop when the percentage of protein is high and the fibre low?

The proper time to cut alfalfa is when between 10 to 20 per cent of the plants are in bloom, says W. S. Richardson, Dominion Experimental Station, Lennoxville, P.Q. Red clover should be cut when about 50 per cent in bloom, and timothy at the first bloom. As all the hay cannot be cut on the same day, it is advisable to start before these stages of maturity are reached, in order that the last fields will not be left too late. By cutting hay early this year, live-stock production will be improved next winter.

Unlike most other animal pests, the rat has not a single saving quality. Even as a scavenger, the filth it leaves behind may be more infective than the offal it may consume.



THERE'S ENOUGH IN THE SUGAR BOWL...

If we all share equally

We Canadians, together with the citizens of the United States and Great Britain, will eat less sugar during the balance of 1945.

To meet our own needs and the urgent requirements of our Allies and the liberated countries, our share of the reduction must total nearly 200,000,000 pounds of sugar during the rest of the year.

To assure fair distribution of what is left, the sugar ration is to be cut by five pounds during the next seven months by reducing the monthly allotment to one pound in June, July, August, October and December. In September and November, the allowance will remain unchanged at two pounds.

The ten pound sugar allotment for home canning, represented by twenty extra preserves coupons, remains unchanged. Two regular preserves coupons will continue to become valid each month.

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT SUGAR

Q. How does Canada get its share of world sugar supplies?

A. World stocks are pooled by the Combined Food Board of the United Nations which allots sugar to Canada, United States and Great Britain on a uniform per capita basis.

Q. Where does the rest of the world sugar supply go?

A. To other claimants, including liberated areas, European neutrals, Russia, the Middle East, New Zealand and other sugar-importing countries. Approximately one-half of this total is destined for liberated areas.

Q. Is there less sugar in the world today?

A. Yes. Because needs are up and production is down, world sugar stocks reached a new low at the beginning of 1945. By the end of the year, they will be down again, this time to a dangerous minimum.

Q. Why is there more demand for sugar?

A. The rising demand largely reflects the needs of liberated areas.

Q. Why is there less production?

A. World sugar output is lower for these reasons:

1. Enemy occupation of some sources such as Java and the Philippines. Java, of course, is still in Japanese hands and, although the Philippines are liberated, production is not expected to be restored until late in 1946.
2. Other export countries have experienced serious shortages of labour and fertilizer.
3. Record drought conditions and hurricanes have also cut into production in the important West Indian area.

INDUSTRIAL AND QUOTA USERS WILL ALSO GET LESS

Effective July 1, 1945, sugar made available to industrial users, such as bakers, biscuit and breakfast cereal manufacturers, makers of soft drinks, confectionery and candy, and jam and wine manufacturers, will again be reduced.

A further cut is also being made in the allotment to quota users, such as public eating places, while similar reductions are being made by the Armed Forces in the sugar quotas for service personnel.

RATION ADMINISTRATION

THE WARTIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD

SUGAR IS SCARCE — USE IT SPARINGLY