

PLAIN TALK by Bob Herbert

By Our Own Bootstraps

Perhaps the best advice we could all take before voting on June 11, is to remember that the promises of today are the tax bills of tomorrow. The Frost government has always gone easy on promises, but has been long on performance, at a low cost to the taxpayers.

But this week I want to talk plainly about Northern development. We all want to see the North grow and prosper, and my honorable opponents are promising that industry will flourish and the grass grow greener if they represent us at Queens Park.

I don't promise anything, but would like to make a few common sense observations.

So long as we have a free economy, industry will go where it gets the best deal, and finds the best markets. In the North we are hampered by a small population and long distance. If the government tries to order industry to the North, it will settle in some other Province or State.

We can attract industry in two ways. By a co-operative effort between municipalities, chambers of commerce and the like, through the Northeastern Ontario Development Association which was set up under government sponsorship, to try and attract industries. And we can encourage and develop our own industries.

Most industries in the North have been founded by people with imagination, and with faith in the North. To mention a few, Wabi Iron Works, Cobalt Foundry, Northern Telephone, Hill-Clark-Francis. And the new Morissette factory at Haileybury, which could have been built and operated at less expense in the south, but was built here by Northerners for the benefit of the North. All these are Northern companies, and it is our duty to support them and the many others that I have not named.

Industry breeds new industry. When industrialists see Northern industries doing well, they will think of coming North too.

One of the tragedies of the North is that our own people don't always support our own industries. The pea factory at New Liskeard closed down because Northerners wouldn't buy their products. Every time we shop through a mail order house instead of a district merchant, every time a contract goes to an outside firm, it makes it tougher for our own people.

We must have faith in ourselves, and support our own people.

As your member at Queens Park, I can only work as part of the team. It is my job to bring your problems to the attention of the government, and try and encourage local efforts by securing government assistance.

Let's face facts. If we are going to expand it will be because every businessman, every farmer, and every citizen in the North is working together as a team for the benefit of Temiskaming. Any promise of miraculous improvements is so much hogwash.

The government can help by opening up roads, improving communications, and by long range planning, such as the new port at Moosonee, which will have long reaching effects on our economy. As your member for the past eight years, I have done everything possible to assist Northern enterprises, and to try and attract new businesses. But let's remember, we have our own bootstraps to pull on, and if we work as a team, we can pull ourselves as high as we want to go.

**Premier Leslie Frost will speak at the Palace Theatre
Englehart, Tuesday, June 2 at 1:15 p.m.**



VOTE BOB HERBERT