

Correspondent Tells of Fire Ranging in North Country

Over two months is gone since I wrote. At that spring was just showing signs of coming to the North land. The snow laid deep all over the land and we feared big floods, but day after day no rain came and the sunshine was bright and warm and the snow just melted away with no flood whatever. It continued dry overhead which made the frost a long time coming out. Not a bit of rain fell all through April, and only a few showers in early May, but the weather was ideal when the land finally became fit for crop sowing, and gardening. We, like all farmers look forward keenly to this time, and for a few weeks our whole thought and effort is dependent on land preparation and sowing and we got a nice lot in the ground in good shape.

For the past three seasons, during four or five months in the summer, my duty has taken me away from home, so I am separated by force of circumstances to live alone a great deal of the time except for a while during the Holiday season when I have company for a few weeks. I little thought something over 20 years ago while on a visit for a few days to the Canadian National Exhibition, and had the opportunity of seeing a great display of Forestry Fire Fighting equipment, also a large display of wood craft with Indians in charge; also a display by the Civit guides from Algonquin Park, that sometime in the future I myself would be actively engaged with the very articles that were then a source of entertainment. But such is the case. The Ontario Forestry Branch of the Dept. of Lands and Forests is a tremendous undertaking and provides employment for some thousands of our population and covers a great number of occupations. There are the nurseries where seeds for trees are planted and cared for, then the plots where the seedlings are transplanted to grow on before distribution. Then the wide open spaces where trees are introduced by planting to curb soil erosion, and provide future wood and timber areas. Then the Forest Rangers that have charge of all the water ways, portage, erection of protective signs for the prevention of fires; the building and maintenance of cabins in outlying places for patrolmen to take shelter; the marking of look-out towers which are placed on the highest and most strategic locations possible to find after engineers have taken levels. Then the ground crews made up of Chief and Deputy Chief in each location in every district who have charge of the issuance of travel and fire permits, the care and maintenance of all the equipment necessary to fight bush fires economically and efficiently, and a few regular men besides these who are just seasonal employees—but given some preference by means of seniority from year to year as they return to work. From these seasonal employees, men who adapt themselves to the work and show ability, an opportunity is given them to become scalers helpers first, for a season or two, to acquaint them with the different species of pine, white, red or jack, the same of spruce, birch, balsam, poplar, cedar, tamarac, oak hemlock, or any other woods that require measurements from the bush where lumbering operations are carried on. Then examinations are conducted for proficiency and ability and if successful the candidate is given a permit and license to act as a scaler during the winter, and is automatically a Forest Ranger if he so desires in the summer and as promotions take place is raised to a Deputy first and then a Chief.

My part on the staff of the Elk Lake Headquarters of which Matachewan forms a part, the others being Englehart and Gowganda, is Tower Observer at Belle Island Tower. So named because of the island in the centre of the Lake which separates the Tower from the main land and has to be gone around to reach the camp and trail leading to the tower. The camp is right on the Lake shore facing Belle Island to the East and the tower is about 1 and a half miles inland by trail. Half is over fairly level ground but the balance means climbing about 1200 feet in about a quarter of a mile, with the tower another 100 feet perched on top. One man in one of our towers remarked one day that he thought he was about as close to Heaven as he'd ever get and I asked if being high up was his conception of Heaven. He said, "Why yes." Well, I replied, "It isn't like that." But no more was discussed. Each tower is provided where possible with a telephone to their branch headquarters, also a receiving, transmitting 500 Radio set, powered with a 6V. storage A battery, 3.6v. Bz. and 2 1/2 V. C. battery, with a generator to provide volume for transmitting. The A. battery is kept charged by means of a gas driven combined motor and generator and hooked direct to battery, so is D. C. current. The different towers are 30 to 40 miles apart and wave lengths are so arranged that we only have access to towers in our own district and only Forestry business or conversation is permitted, even weather reports are barred. Each observer is also an airplane detection lookout and has forms and guides for observation, and report. Our principal duties while in the tower is fire detection, first with the naked

The Constructive Platform of the PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Approved in General Meeting at Toronto, July 3, 1943

ON July 3rd, an all day organization meeting of Progressive Conservative Party candidates and officials from all over the Province, held at the Royal York Hotel, listened with rising enthusiasm to a highly constructive and inspiring address from the Provincial Leader, George Drew.

Mr. Drew presented a series of pledges to the people of the Province—each one of which was unanimously applauded. The pledges, twenty-two in number, constitute the platform upon which the Progressive Conservative Party enters the general election.

It was this programme which the Leader announced to the public in his radio address last Thursday night. Mr. Drew said:

The programme which the Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario undertakes to put into effect is based upon the conviction that under a strong government the vast resources and producing capacity of this Province can assure employment and good wages for all who will work and security for those who find themselves unable to work because of sickness, unemployment, physical disability or old age. It is based upon the belief that the spiritual and material welfare of our people, now and in the future, can be best assured under British democratic institutions and within the British partnership.

The Progressive Conservative Party undertakes to put the following programme into effect in the Province of Ontario.

Twenty-two Point Programme

1. We will maintain British institutions and strengthen the British partnership by every means within the constitutional power of the Government of Ontario.

2. We will do all that is possible to relieve unemployment and to create new jobs in the Province. We will do this by increasing employment in the public service, by increasing employment in the private sector, and by creating new jobs in the public sector.

3. We will do all that is possible to improve the standard of living of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the wages of workers, by increasing the benefits of workers, and by increasing the benefits of the retired.

4. We will do all that is possible to improve the education of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on education, by increasing the quality of education, and by increasing the accessibility of education.

5. We will do all that is possible to improve the health of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on health care, by increasing the quality of health care, and by increasing the accessibility of health care.

6. We will do all that is possible to improve the housing of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on housing, by increasing the quality of housing, and by increasing the accessibility of housing.

7. We will do all that is possible to improve the transportation of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on transportation, by increasing the quality of transportation, and by increasing the accessibility of transportation.

8. We will do all that is possible to improve the environment of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on environmental protection, by increasing the quality of environmental protection, and by increasing the accessibility of environmental protection.

9. We will do all that is possible to improve the culture of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on culture, by increasing the quality of culture, and by increasing the accessibility of culture.

10. We will do all that is possible to improve the social services of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on social services, by increasing the quality of social services, and by increasing the accessibility of social services.

11. We will do all that is possible to improve the economic conditions of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on economic development, by increasing the quality of economic development, and by increasing the accessibility of economic development.

12. We will do all that is possible to improve the infrastructure of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on infrastructure, by increasing the quality of infrastructure, and by increasing the accessibility of infrastructure.

13. We will do all that is possible to improve the public services of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on public services, by increasing the quality of public services, and by increasing the accessibility of public services.

14. We will do all that is possible to improve the private services of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on private services, by increasing the quality of private services, and by increasing the accessibility of private services.

15. We will do all that is possible to improve the social justice of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on social justice, by increasing the quality of social justice, and by increasing the accessibility of social justice.

16. We will do all that is possible to improve the social equality of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on social equality, by increasing the quality of social equality, and by increasing the accessibility of social equality.

17. We will do all that is possible to improve the social harmony of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on social harmony, by increasing the quality of social harmony, and by increasing the accessibility of social harmony.

18. We will do all that is possible to improve the social stability of the people of Ontario. We will do this by increasing the expenditure on social stability, by increasing the quality of social stability, and by increasing the accessibility of social stability.



George Drew as I knew him

By George W. James Editor, Canadian Business Magazine, Ontario

An Ontario provincial election is to be held on August the fourth. A date soon falls upon the country. That it is to be a close one is beyond question. It is a contest between two men who have both served the people of Ontario well and who have both shown a high degree of leadership.

Let us then introduce George A. Drew, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of the Province of Ontario.

The political opponents have sought to picture George Drew as a person aloof and unapproachable. Those of us who have come to know George as well as I do, can say that this is not true. He is a man of a high character, one who has demonstrated that he is a man of high character and high ability.

George Drew is first and foremost a Canadian, deep and strong and true for the British crown. He is 49 years of age. His grandfather was a member of Canada's first cabinet in 1867. George was an officer in the Gurkha Battalion at 20 years of age, and served in the Gallipoli campaign.

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VOTE AUGUST 4 FOR THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF ONTARIO



eye, then with powerful binoculars, then location is determined with a sighting broom. Pivoted on that tower's location, on a circular map marked in degrees. The broom is also marked in miles so a fairly accurate location can be reported if the smoke is plainly visible and given from 2 or 3 points so a cross section reading is possible. In this way ground crews can reach the location with the least possible delay. Either by road in trucks or by water routes in motor boats and canoes.

out the fire and it rained ever since off and on. Seventeen of the 27 days so far in June have been wet with over 5 inches of rain so far caught in official water catcher and measured in 100th inches for record purposes. We also keep wind direction and velocity and visibility as records. There is such a variety of equipment, duffel, territory, and other subjects that might be of interest, but space won't permit the description. To those with sufficient interest, a trip to this North Country and a visit to some location of this kind is the easiest and best way to get accurate knowledge.

of times already and one day had a particularly good view in a marsh close to the tower, of a fight between a big bull moose and a monstrous black bear which was trying to separate the moose calf from its mother. All four were visible at once but the moose family were still victors the last I saw of them and all going strong. Fish have been exceptionally plentiful here this year, for just what reason I have no way of knowing. But I can go out anytime regardless of the right time of the moon and get more than I can use. I have seen others with extra good catches just in a few hours. Two lads came here one wet day with 18 big pickerel weighing 3 to 4 lbs. each and a big Northern Pike weighing 14 lbs. and had caught them all just casting off the shore in a little lake just above me here in about two hours they said. Both were wet and thought they had enough for a few days. There are no trout streams in this whole district, but the larger fish, pike, pickerel, lake trout and bass are plentiful. I'm not able to get far enough away for the bass and lake trout but pickerel are just as good any way only not quite the sport catching and landing them. The pike is more people can't have some of this abundant source of food to supplement the most supply these days, because I know fish is terribly scarce and always expensive. Now I feel this letter has reached

original Montreal Grand Trunk station from which point on October 27, 1856 left the first train for Toronto to begin a service which has remained in continuous operation for eighty-seven years.

CUT COARSE FOR THE PIPE OLD CHUM CUT FINE FOR CIGARETTES

The World's News Seen Through THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR An International Daily Newspaper