



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 31 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 of the battery. 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. Gen 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 that he went to Toronto for a second time, became assistant Master of the Supreme Court of Ontario, three years later, Ontario Executive 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 R.C.A.F. which was condensed by the Commonwealth War 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 a 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 limits 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 was warmly and especially for post-war prosperity endeavored 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 has in the first week of 1944 of the war and complex military projects that would be undertaken this 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 75 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 accommodations throughout the province so that Ontario will truly be the traveler'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 towners 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 same-ness. 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 had 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 "dubs" 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 eight. 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 out and got the other one. One man could not be revived, but the other owes his life to Colonel Drew. Drew has no room or hostile to anyone who indulges in childish or malicious criticism. His opinion is never influenced by this sort of thing and will express a critical opinion of anyone. In some circles Drew is considered a soft touch for a lion and in this connection he never seems to handle an 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 wood 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 discussing 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 of 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.

Halton Garage Operators Favour Industrial Standards for Trade

Highlight of the annual dinner meeting of the Halton Garage Operators, held at the Esplanet in Burlington, on June 5th, was a unanimous declaration in favour of seeking legislation regarding hours of sale under the Industrial Standards Act. On June 1st, government restrictions on hours of sale for gasoline, and motor oil was removed and the evening at Burlington gave Halton dealers an opportunity to talk over the situation. Guest speaker at the dinner was Mr. Ed. Wadhams, of Toronto, who was introduced by A. R. Speight, of Georgetown. Mr. Wadhams spoke at some length on various plans for restricting hours of sale and gave as his opinion that the Industrial Standards Act was the only logical machinery for enforcement. Under the Act, districts large or small can be set up and garage operators "write their own ticket" and have it supported by law. Mr. Wadhams' idea was that county boundaries are most satisfactory, but that this can be further broken down into townships or municipalities if desired. Aim of such a plan is to give the maximum public service consistent with fair working conditions in the trade and provide a harmonious consumer-dealer relationship. Reports were given by Secretary Frank Tuck, of Nelson, and treasurer Art Benton, Limehouse, and George Davis, president of Wentworth County Branch spoke on behalf of the visitors. President Fred Sinclair, Georgetown, introduced four new members, Lorne Peters and Cecil Hardie, of Georgetown, A. C. Patterson, Silvercreek, and George McLeod, Bronte. The latter two were former members who were returning to the garage business after being in war industry and with the armed forces, respectively. I. C. Lynn of Burlington moved the vote of thanks to the speaker and officially welcomed the gathering to Burlington. Taking temporary action on a co-operative basis, the eight Georgetown garage operators have set up a schedule of closing hours for the town. They will be open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturdays in the evening. They will also be open evenings on the day preceding a holiday. On Sunday, one garage will remain open all day, and signs will be displayed in all garages announcing which outlet will be open on the next Sunday.

TERRA COTTA

Real estate is still booming in Terra Cotta. Mrs. W. J. Rutledge has purchased Mr. Jas. Mackie's house and lot on Church St. and Mr. Mackie has purchased a residence in Georgetown, and intends moving there shortly. We are sorry to lose such kind and estimable citizens from our midst, but our loss will be Georgetown's gain. A number of our citizens attended the wedding at Union Church on Saturday afternoon, and all report a very pleasant time. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hayward, and Master A. Hayward of Guelph, spent the week end with Terra Cotta friends. Mr. Leslie Leam, our enterprising merchant, reports trade expeditiously brisk at present. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Vander Vliet and daughter of Toronto spent the week end at their home here. We are sorry to learn that scarlet fever has broken out in our hamlet, Master Billy Zillio is confined to his room with it, but glad to learn, is doing as well as can be expected. We also hope that all precautionary measures will be taken to keep this dreaded disease from spreading and we all hope soon to hear of his complete recovery. Mrs. J. Eaves, we are sorry to learn is now still confined to her room. We also hope soon to hear of her recovery. Miss Wilma Hunter, Toronto, spent Sunday with her brother, Mr. W. F. Hunter of the 5th Line. We understand that Mr. C. Shepherd is going into the poultry business quite extensively. We wish him every success in his new venture. Mrs. Fitch, of Toronto is spending a few days at her new home here. We are pleased to learn that Mr. J. Eaves is now able to be around again as usual. Mr. Albert Dawson has resigned his position at the Interprovincial Brick Plant at Cheltenham, and has secured a lucrative position with the Georgetown Lumber Co. and expects to move to Georgetown shortly. Success to you Albert. There was a large turnout at the church services at Terra Cotta United Church on Sunday afternoon. The services were ably conducted by Misses Carstee and Pardo. Miss Carstee and Miss Pardo are our new S. S. teachers, succeeding Miss Pearl Kennedy our former Terra Cotta S. S. teacher. We wish these young ladies every success in their gospel services here, and also hope that everyone will turnout and thus encourage them in their good work. Mrs. Harold Hancock of Silvercreek spent the week end with her daughter Mrs. C. Shepherd of this place. Mr. Rawlin as purchased a lot from Mr. P. Thompson of Georgetown, and has erected a house on it.

Dr. and Mrs. Magwood, V.S., of Georgetown, have rented a cottage from Mr. W. F. Hunter on the Credit Valley flats and have moved into it. We kindly welcome them to our village.

LIMEHOUSE

(Intended for last week) We are all pleased to welcome Norman McDonald home from overseas looking quite fit, Norman was a prisoner of war for several months. The W. I. ladies are grateful for the response given their recent salvage drive, the proceeds of which went to their war work fund. Mr. W. O. Brownridge reports seeing six deer near the village as he was motoring through last week. About thirty-five persons attended a community meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkpatrick on Monday evening. This meeting was held for the purpose of arranging a welcome home to those local men who have returned from the services. Mrs. Glsby convened a W.I. euchre and dance at the local school on Friday evening, which proved quite a success. Winners at cards were Mrs. Francis Brown and A. W. Benton. Instead of free lunch a booth was in the room which greatly helped to increase the war work fund. Music was provided by Messrs. Kay, Summers and Bennett, with Jos. McDonald floor manager. (This week) A number from Limehouse attended the centennial services of Knox Church, Acton, on Sunday. Nine Limehouse ladies attended the W. M. S. sectional meeting at Union Church last Wednesday. Mrs. A. W. Benton gave the Limehouse W.M.S. report, Mrs. S. Glsby, the Mission Band report and Mrs. A. J. Smethurst the closing prayer. Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Campell visited the Devereaux recently. Miss Shirley Wright won her provincial honour pin, a silver cake plate, and was one of the three highest Esqueving girls, who jointly won the silver cup, when the club girls held their achievement day in Milton on Saturday. Mrs. Harry Smethurst, Mrs. Pat Trainor and little daughter visited Mrs. Smethurst recently the first being guest soloist at Limehouse Presbyterian Church services on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sharpe of Burlington spent the weekend with the Hamiltons. Six boys of this community were officially welcomed home from the army and air force, when a euchre and dance was held in Limehouse school on Friday evening. They included Sam Glsby, Alex Wright, Norman McDonald, Ronald Lalmer, Ronald Davies, and William Summers. Each was presented with a flat fifty of cigarettes. Winners at cards were Mrs. Jno. Scott and Mr. A. W. Benton. After lunch dancing was enjoyed for several hours. Miss Ethel Brownridge is visiting her sister, Mrs. Frank Brown since her return from Guelph hospital.

A BIRTHDAY PARTY

Dennis Hancock, who was 3 years old on Tuesday, June 5th, celebrated his birthday by a party for his playmates. Those at the party included: Wayne Norton, Kenneth Beam, Douglas Ward, Brian Puckering, Keith Peston, Gordon Hancock, Elizabeth Ward, Carolyn Hancock, Marjorie Hancock, Gail Hancock and Dennis's two little cousins who have just arrived from England, Bernard Jr. and Bobby Poole. After spending an afternoon of fun and games together the children sat down to a light lunch, with birthday cake, ice cream and a favour for each child.



TENDERS FOR COAL AND COKE

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