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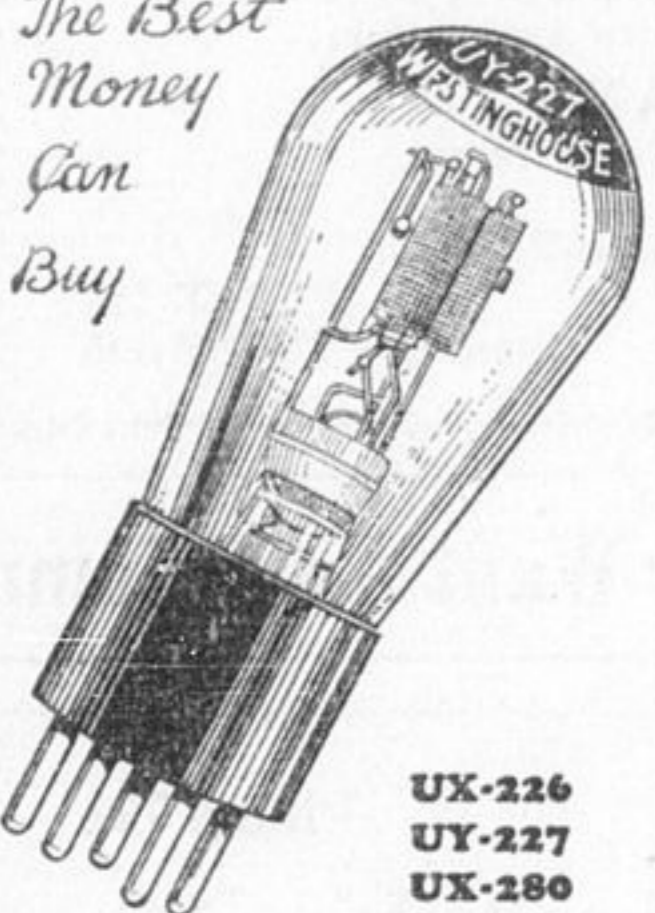
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Writer Describes Geo. W. Lee As "Lord of the North Land"

Geo. W. Lee With the C.P.R. in His Youth. First Position with T. & N. O. was as Claims Agent. Worked his Way Up in Service of the People's Railway on Sheer Merit. Geo. W. Lee is Proud of the North and the North and the North is Proud of Him.

Several have asked The Advance, "Did you see that article on Geo. W. Lee in The Toronto Saturday Night?" Evidently there is more than passing interest in the write-up, some special attention being directed to the article because of the heading, "Lord of the North." It is not a particularly apt heading for an article on Geo. W. Lee, chairman of the T. & N. O. Railway commission, because he is a thoroughly democratic man. A former chairman of the commission would have worn the title with more appropriate relation to lordship. Geo. W. Lee has conducted the commission's affairs on a strictly business basis, making the business style that of the modern type where service, courtesy and kindness are featured and where red tape is dispensed with to the greatest possible extent.

The article in The Toronto Saturday Night is by Bruce M. Pearce and is as follows:—
"If the little town of Calabogie in Renfrew County, Ont., never attains distinction on any other score, it will always retain the honour of having produced one man whose contribution to the advancement of his native province ranks with the greatest in its history.

"It is now 31 years since Geo. W. Lee definitely severed relationship with Calabogie and harkened to the voice of the ages: "Go North, young man." From youth he had been associated with the Canadian Pacific Railway and when he arrived in North Bay shortly before the opening of the twentieth century he was still a valued employee of that great transportation system. But a greater opportunity awaited him in North Bay. A few years later in 1902 to be exact, the first sod was turned in the construction of what is now the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, to mark the beginning of the highly important enterprise which had been visualized for a long time by far-seeing leaders of the Ontario Government.

"The vast, unknown north, with its hidden riches of untold proportions, was to be opened up. And Geo. W. Lee was on the scene. Then he was only Claims Agent for the new railway. Today he is General Manager of the system and Chairman of the T. & N. O. Commission, a position which he has filled with characteristic efficiency

and tremendous energy for the past ten years during which time the railway has been placed on a paying basis in addition to having opened up New Ontario.

"George Lee was on the scene again that eventful day a year or so later when the steam shovels operating one hundred miles north of North Bay began to root up masses of silver and the famous Cobalt silver camp sprang into being almost overnight. And down through the years he has been a silent partner of the mining men and the timber magnates who have sought to open up the fastnesses of the north and bring its fabulous wealth into active production.

"George Lee was on the job when the urgent call came for a spur line into the newly-discovered gold territory in the Timmins and Porcupine districts: The paper-making industry at Iroquois Falls found in him a ready and willing co-operator; under his guidance the T. & N. O. has steadily pushed its way northward until today it is only eighty miles from James Bay a new land of promise and opportunity; when the golden seams in the rocks around Kirkland Lake and in the Rouyn district were uncovered, George Lee was on hand to rush railway facilities for the mining camps; then those strong heated people of the North Country will recall for you the many occasions when George Lee and his railway came to the rescue of the countryside in its hour of peril, how when raging forest fires swept the country whereby hundreds of lives were saved and the sufferings of many other hundreds assuaged.

In the North about three-fourths of the people call him plain "George." They all know him and he knows the majority of them. His competitor and friend, W. B. Hay, divisional manager of the Canadian National Railway in Northern Ontario, recently paid him this tribute in a public address: "George Lee is the first citizen of New Ontario." Certainly he is its best known and most popular one.

"Naturally, coming from Calabogie, he had to be Irish that he is in a pronounced degree. One of the world's greatest story tellers, he has a natural wit and a fund of humour which, together with his wonderful personality have made him a widely sought guest in the North. His abundant store of information about that part of the province has been richly supplemented by his adventures with British lords, counts and duchesses, who have been guests of the T. & N. O. from time to time. He has entertained the Prince of Wales.

"He is an intimate of the Prime Minister of Ontario and, strangely enough his bright eyes twinkling behind his spectacles give him a casual resemblance to the Hon. Howard Ferguson. Thereby hangs a tale. The Premier was touring Northern Ontario with George W. Lee as his host. One morning they visited a small school in one of the rugged settlements along the T. & N. O. where the Premier had promised to stop. The young lady teacher having only seen the Premier in picture and caricature prior to this time, advanced quite assuredly upon the General Manager of the T. & N. O. and addressed him: "We are so glad to welcome you, Mr. Premier. The children have been eagerly awaiting your arrival and I would ask you if you would now say a few words to them." Thereupon the pseudo Premier took the platform, offered a word or two of encouragement to the youngsters and generously, and amid thunderous applause, gave them a holiday for the remainder of the day, all the while Hon. Mr. Ferguson looked on with astonishment at the highly successful impersonation perpetrated by his host.

"Although on the sunnyside of sixty and otherwise young and vigorous in appearance, his hair has turned a silver grey. He has a philosophy which urges him to obtain as much enjoyment as possible from life and at the same time to make life more cheerful and less serious for those with whom he comes in contact.

"Up in North Bay he has been one of the fathers of the city. Mayor, Chairman of the Hospital Board, Master of the Masonic Lodge and a host of other offices he has filled with distinction in bygone years. But he had done more than to execute official duties. His heart would encompass the world and its troubles and on more than one occasion when friction arose in organizations or among individuals, he has been the mediator. The extent of his charity is probably known only to himself.

"But while his home is in North Bay and his family have been raised there, George Lee has spent the biggest part of his time in his private car, "The Temagami," travelling up and down the line, here, there and everywhere, whenever and wherever duty called him. For he is a conscientious, hard-working railwayman who puts duty ahead of pleasure and who places the welfare of the T. & N. O. ahead of everything else. It is his child and he is mighty proud of it. To go from one end of the line to the other three times in one week is no unusual feat for him. With the company's own telegraph and telephone lines at his disposal he is enabled to transact much of his business

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as he moves along the line from place to place.

"During the summer of 1928 he was almost overwhelmed with nobility, having played host to the members of the Empire Parliamentary delegation and to Lord Lovat's party on different occasions. That George Lee left his impress on these outstanding Britishers is indicated by the following telegram which Lord Lovat is said to have wired to Premier Ferguson: "Think North great for mixed farming. Admire efficiency and humour of your man Lee."

"He will tell you he enjoyed hobnobbing with the lords and ladies but he had one rather exasperating experience with a certain Lord Blank. This gentleman was unusually hard of hearing and wore an ear trumpet. He took a great fancy to the General Manager and throughout the two day trip from North Bay to the end of the line, Mr. Lee spent the major part of his time at the mouth of the trumpet. In addition, he found it extremely difficult to understand the Englishman, so that under the double handicap scarcely a thought was conveyed in either direction. With his vocal powers almost exhausted Mr. Lee was happily anticipating the farewells at Cochrane. But Lord Blank ruled otherwise. Evidently captivated with the personality of his host, he decided to leave the party and return to North Bay with him. Since that time the General Manager has not been so eager to pursue his ac-

quaintance with visiting dignitaries from the Old Country.
"If one could spend a week with George Lee, he would hear the most interesting and enlightening history of the North Country that man could tell. For 31 years he has toured and explored its depths. He has seen it grow from an infant to a status approaching manhood. In touch with all the sensational discoveries of fabulous mineral wealth, he could fill a book with incidents of a romantic, adventurous nature. The millionaire timber men and mine owners are his friends; the prospectors look upon him as indispensable; struggling settlers throw him a cheery smile and a wave of the hand as his car speeds along the tracks; in fact he is a regular city directory of New Ontario.

"Without the T. & N. O. the North Country would still be a virgin wilderness. Without Geo. Lee, in the opinion of his friends, the T. & N. O. would never have attained such prosperity as has followed it. The T. & N. O. will some day touch the shore of James Bay and it is safe to say that George Lee will be given the honour, and deservedly, of driving that last spike."

SHOULD NOT FEAR NEW YORK AFTER SURVIVING COBALT

The New Liskeard Speaker last week says:—
"Mr. E. F. Stephenson, of The Speaker, who is visiting in Schneckady, arrived safely. Friends here were enquiring of us. His address is 154 Brandywine Ave., Schneckady, N.Y. He says the city is 270 years old, and thinks that brady and wine were more in evidence in the long ago than at present. He also said he has given up the idea of visiting New York City because he saw in the morning paper that a man of his exact age and belonging to a neighbouring city left home to visit New York one day last week, and now the police are scouring the great city to find him. Mr. Stephenson says he thinks New York must be a city which men who are 83 years old should keep away from."



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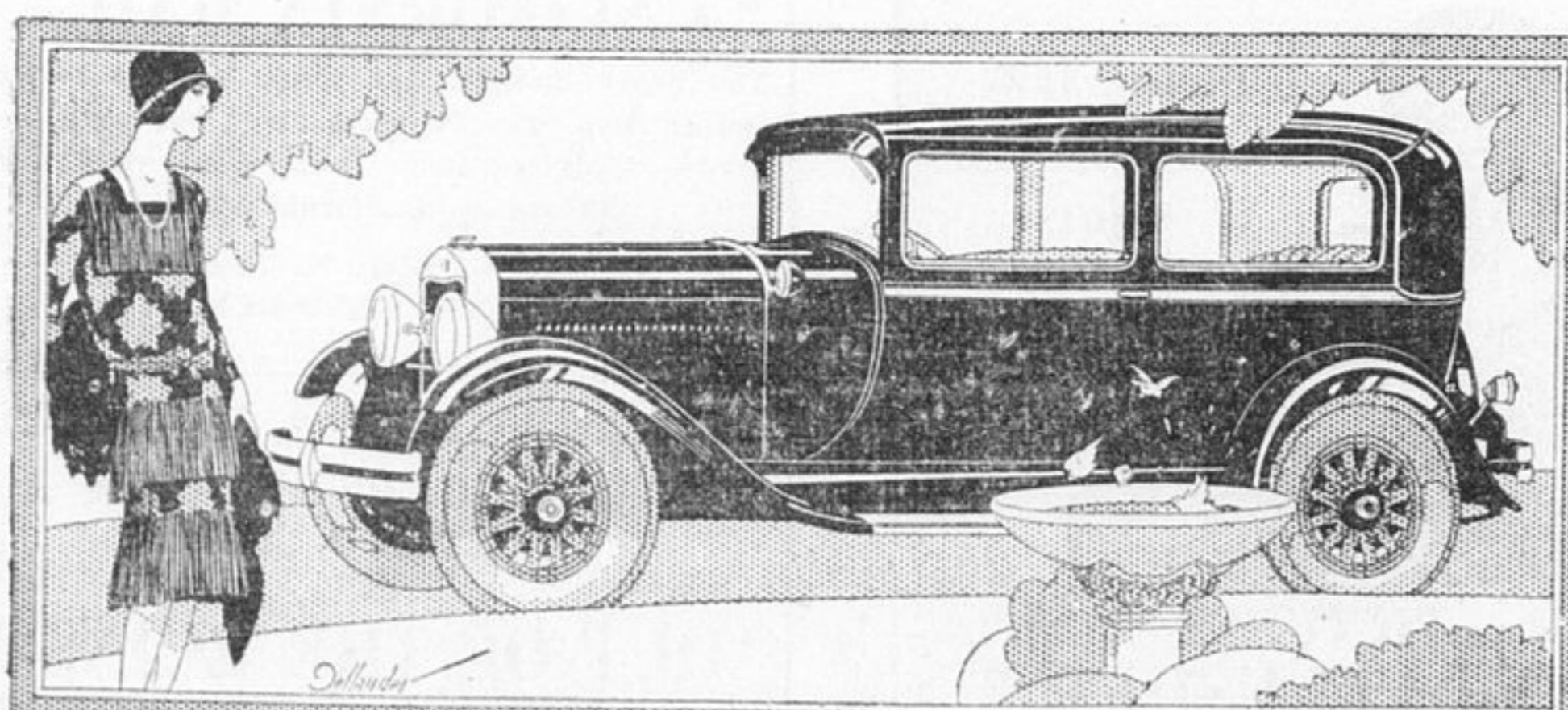


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