

1943-4



59

The Constructive Platform of the
**PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE
PARTY**

IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

Approved in General Meeting at Toronto, July 3, 1943

Drew Papers



GEORGE DREW
LEADER

The Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario

George Drew, Speaking Over a Province-Wide Network, July 8th, 1943

As this is the first opportunity I have had to speak to you since the provincial election was announced last week, I feel sure that you would wish me to place before you some of the things which we will do when the Progressive Conservative Party is called upon to form a Government. Before I do that, however, I wish to refer very briefly to statements which I have read in the reports of some speeches in the past few days.

It is said by men who know very much better than neither I nor the Party which I have the honour to lead have offered any constructive proposals but have at all times merely been destructive critics. I think I need hardly remind you that since I became a member of the Provincial Parliament four years ago I have introduced resolution after resolution calling for better organization of our food production, better labour legislation, more efficient control of our forest resources, greater assistance to our mining industry, and proper treatment of the veterans of the last war and those now on active service. At the time at my disposal tonight it is not possible for me to review the many constructive and extremely valuable suggestions which have been placed before the Legislature by the members of the Opposition since the outbreak of the war. The truth is that nearly every one of the points included in the programme which I will read to you in a few minutes has already been placed before the Ontario Legislature by resolution. In each case they were voted down by the Government and its supporters.

But I am not suggesting that I have not been critical. When there is ground for criticism it is the duty of the Opposition to criticize. What our governments in Canada need today is not less criticism but more criticism of their many weaknesses. May I recall these words of that great leader among free men, Winston Churchill. He has defined the place of criticism under our democratic system so clearly that I wish to quote his words:

"We do not resent the well-meant criticism of any man who wishes to win the war. We do not shrink from fair criticism, and that is the most dangerous of all. On the contrary, we take it

earnestly to heart and seek to profit by it. Criticism in the body politic is like pain in the human body. It is not pleasant, but where would the body be without it? No health or sensibility would be possible without continued correctives and warnings of pain."

"It is in this fear of criticism that dictatorships run their great risk. They silence all criticism by the concentration camp, the rubber truncheon, or the firing party. Thus the men at the top must very often only be fed with the facts which are palatable to them. Scandals, corruption, and short-comings are not exposed, because there are no independent voices. Instead of being exposed, they continue to fester behind the pompous frontage of the State."

Those are the words of Mr. Churchill. Let them be the answer to those who try to hide their failures and wrongdoings behind the easy argument that all criticism is destructive.

Yes, I have criticized very vigorously on a number of occasions. Strangely enough, however, I recall that it is not so long ago that it was said that I was not sufficiently critical of the present Government because I had to a considerable extent observed a political truce on all but fundamental issues during the war. I have, however, criticized the weaknesses and worse of the present Government. But now that Government has been dissolved. A snap election has been called at a most difficult time of year for most of our people. Doubtless it was hoped that the Opposition would not have time to place its case before you. However it is the future with which all of us are now concerned. That future can be very bright or the very opposite, depending upon the character of the governments we have in Canada during the most critical years we will ever know.

This is the most important election in Ontario since Canada became a nation. The government you choose on August 4th is almost certain to be responsible for meeting the tremendous problems which will arise during the period of readjustment immediately after the war. And most important of all, they will be called upon to provide work at decent wages for all those splendid

young men and women who are now fighting for everything that we hold dear. When you cast your ballot in this election you will not be determining so much the fate of any candidate or of any political party, but rather you will to a great extent be determining the fate of those whose personal sacrifice has preserved for us the right to live as free people. When you mark your ballot you may well ask yourself what plans this government has made during four years of war for the welfare and future security of those gallant boys and girls whose faces are so clearly in your minds every hour of the day. Neither personal friendships nor old political affiliations can be balanced against that all important fact.

The men and women now in uniform have a right to expect that a Government will be chosen which will put into effect vigorous and progressive measures to make Ontario strong and create new opportunities for employment so that the members of our armed forces who are demobilized and the munition makers who must seek other work, will be able to find steady jobs.

I believe that it is the duty of every voter in Ontario to take a keen interest in this election. The time is short and I do take the liberty of urging each one of you to acquaint yourselves with the issues and then to cast your ballot for the candidate of the Party which you believe can best serve Ontario in the critical days which lie ahead.

Now may I tell you where the Progressive Conservative Party stands in this election: I think I can do that best by reading to you our programme. It is of necessity no more than a summary of what we propose to do. I ask you to bear that in mind. On other occasions between now and the date of the election I will discuss the various points in detail. This is our programme. I will read it to you.

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 also 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.

TWENTY-TWO POINT PROGRAMME

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

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 at all times work in effective co-operation with the Dominion Government and with all other governing bodies in Canada in all activities which will assist in the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion, and in establishing a sound basis of social security, health insurance and protection in their old age for all our people. At the same time we will insist that the constitutional rights of the people of Ontario be preserved and that the Government of Ontario exercise full control of its own provincial affairs.

3. The farms; the factories; the mines; the forests; and personal services which constitute the five major groups of employment will be supported by appropriate legislation in their efforts to increase employment at good wages. In every field of employment individual initiative will be encouraged and hard work rewarded by reducing taxes and removing bureaucratic restrictions.

4. Farming will be organized in every county under committees of outstanding farmers who will be given authority to plan production, and regulate the processing and distribution of their output. Cheese boards, creameries, milk distributors, central produce markets, and other marketing organizations will be under the supervision of outstanding farmers in each line of production.

WILL TAKE OVER STOCK YARDS

Stock yards will be taken over by the Government and operated as a publicly-owned enterprise so that speculation and manipulation may be stopped and fair prices assured.

A conference will be called immediately of leading farmers from the whole Province to assist in drafting effective plans for the organization of food production.

5. Legislation will be introduced assuring the workers and employers of this Province the fairest and most advanced laws governing labour rela-

tions following an enquiry to be undertaken immediately by a committee of at least 15 members to be known as the Ontario Labour Relations Committee upon which there will be equal representation of labour, employers, and the general public. Recognizing at the outset the right to proper and enforceable legislation regarding collective bargaining, this Committee will be asked to examine the laws dealing with labour relations in other countries and draft for Ontario an act which will establish that basis of justice, co-operation and responsibility which is so necessary for the welfare and security of all our people.

6. The mining industry will be assisted in every way possible and placed under the direction of a Minister with practical knowledge of mining. The tax burden will be lightened and there will be a more equitable distribution of the tax between the different taxing bodies. A larger share of the taxes will go to the provincial and municipal treasuries. All restrictive measures which deny prospectors and others the inducement to find and develop new mining properties will be repealed and every encouragement will be given to geologists and prospectors to discover new mineral areas. Every practical measure possible will be adopted to expand this great basic industry so that it may offer the widest opportunities for employment when our armed forces are demobilized.

LONG-TERM FOREST POLICY

7. Our vast forest resources, which under proper administration are capable of creating employment for hundreds of thousands of new workers, will be placed under the control of an Ontario Forest Resources Commission which will operate under long term policies of conservation, reforestation, and soil control. Immediately after its formation it will review all existing contracts and will cancel those which have disposed of great areas of forest resources without proper consideration.

8. An Ontario Housing Commission will be created to plan a great housing programme throughout the whole Province for the purpose of creating employment in the period of readjustment and at the same time bring to an end the unsatisfactory housing conditions in many parts of Ontario.

SCHOOL TAXES TO BE CUT

9. There will be a sweeping revision of our whole system of real estate taxation so that the

owning and improvement of homes and farm land, which are the very foundation of our society, will not be discouraged by excessive taxation. As an initial step in that direction the Provincial Government will assume at least 50% of the school taxes now charged against real estate. It is however to be clearly understood that this change will not affect the authority of the local school boards.

10. Our educational system will be completely revised so that every child in this Province will have an opportunity to be educated to the full extent of their mental capacity, no matter where they live or what the financial circumstances of their parents may be. Vocational training will be made a much more important part of the school work so that children may be prepared to earn a living by practical vocational instruction. The important place of our teachers in each community will be fully recognized.

11. Steps will be taken to assure that every child is given the greatest possible opportunity to face life with a healthy body and mind. Health measures will be established so that medical, dental and other health protection will be available to all.

12. Steps will be taken immediately to prepare plans for great public undertakings which will create employment in the period of readjustment immediately after the war.

TO REVAMP HYDRO

13. The Hydro-Electric Power Commission will be removed from political control. Recognizing that the publicly owned Hydro-Electric resources of this Province belong to all our people, there will be an immediate adjustment of the rates for electric energy upon a just and equitable basis. The service charge in rural areas will be removed. Power will be extended to farms with full recognition of the fact that food production in war is hardly less essential to our success than the military effort.

14. Plans will be made for land reclamation throughout the Province so that all areas which can be brought into production will be fully developed. These plans will be drafted immediately but the actual development of most of the areas will be deferred so that they can be placed under Veterans' organizations in the period of readjustment. This will open wide opportunities for immediate employment when the war is over and will also offer to veterans and their families the

chance to settle in organized groups in areas where their economic security can be assured.

15. Taxation will be reduced and efficiency of government increased by the elimination of all provincial departments and services which duplicate those of the Dominion Government and are not necessary for the purposes of preserving fundamental constitutional rights.

16. An efficient and permanent civil service system will immediately be put into effect which will protect civil servants from political dismissal or interference, thus increasing administrative efficiency by giving to all civil servants a greater sense of security and pride in their work.

17. All legislation will be repealed which denies any individual the right to defend his person and property before the courts.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

18. There will be an immediate increase in mothers' allowances and old age pensions in keeping with the increased cost of living. There will be an immediate repeal of the shameful provision that old people who have a home of their own, which they have established by their savings throughout long years, must dispose of that home before they will be granted the very limited allowances which they are entitled to receive. In future the old people who have played their part so well in making this great Province what it is today must not be forced to mortgage their homes before they can receive their small pensions.

19. Adequate supplies at reasonable prices of fuel, milk and other basic necessities will be assured by effective organization and administrative control. Representatives of labour, veterans' organizations, and the consuming public will be appointed to all boards dealing with these matters.

20. Men and women who have served in the armed forces will be assured priority in the public service and protection in their employment.

21. During the war those who are in military service will be given legal protection against the economic consequences of their service. In all cases where the ability of those in military service and their dependents to meet their financial obligations have been materially reduced by such service, effective legal protection will be given against seizure of property for arrears of taxes, forfeiture of instalment contracts, cancellation of life insurance policies up to \$10,000, judgments or other

legal proceedings for debts incurred before entering military service, and other embarrassing financial obligations. These provisions however will be subject to the express condition that those able to pay will not be permitted to evade their obligations by this device, and that just protection will be assured to creditors under simple and effective procedure before the court. This does not provide for cancellation of obligations but merely deferment with justice to all concerned.

SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN

22. A Rehabilitation and Social Security Committee will be appointed immediately with instructions to draft plans which will assure social security for all our people, and also provide for the rehabilitation and employment of the members of our armed forces and munition workers after the war.

That is our programme. It does not deal with questions of administrative detail, such as the administration of justice, juvenile delinquency, liquor control, highway construction, provincial finances, or a number of other matters which have to do with the enforcement and interpretation of existing laws. I will discuss such subjects at another time.

I pledge myself, as Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario, to carry out each of the proposals contained in this programme when you entrust us with the power to do so. Each of them is practical. Each is based upon careful examination of the facts. May I ask you to examine this programme in detail and if you agree that it would be good for the people of Ontario to have these proposals put into operation, then I urge you to support the Progressive Conservative candidate in your riding.

Other programmes will be placed before you. The Socialists have theirs and I have no doubt that the Liberal Party will announce that there are a number of things which they think should be done.

When you read the Socialist programme I do suggest that you ask yourself these questions. What will happen to your savings in the form of insurance, government bonds, or bank accounts if the industries whose securities create the value behind those insurance policies, bonds and bank accounts, are taken over as they have promised to do if they come to power? Are you satisfied to have more government officials, more interference

with your personal affairs, more forms to fill out, and more taxes to pay? That will certainly happen if the socialists ever have the chance to carry out the promises they have made.

When the Liberal programme is placed before you I suggest that there is a very reasonable question you might ask. If these things are now thought to be so good for the Province, why did the present Premier never once think of them during the quarter of a century that he has been a member of the Parliament of Ontario? Perhaps you might also ask why these things, which are so desirable today, have not already been made law by this Government.

You will also ask whether the proposals I have placed before you can be put into effect. Having in mind the discouraging picture painted by the Socialists, you will perhaps ask if it is possible to assure employment in this Province after the war. My answer is an emphatic "Yes!" I will tell you why I am so sure that our danger in this Province is not unemployment after the war but rather a shortage of workers for the job which lies ahead if only those who direct our affairs have the vision to see the role which Ontario and Canada can play in the postwar world.

Whether we can safely promise employment to the men and women in our armed forces and to munition makers whose present work will end when the war is over, depends entirely upon whether we plan for a static or a dynamic Ontario. If we decide that we already have all the population we can support, then of course we have no choice but to divide what we have to the best of our ability so that all will have their limited share. But if on the other hand we believe that Ontario is about to enter a period during which there will be rapid expansion of the producing capacity of our farms, our factories, our mines and our forests, then we are safe in promising employment not only to those who will be demobilized, but to many others who will also be needed to produce those things which will be required in enormous quantities by the whole world.

Let us look the facts of this war squarely in the face and see what they mean for Ontario and Canada as a whole. When you read in the newspapers or hear over the radio that great cities have been bombed and large numbers of workers' homes have been destroyed, you are not merely hearing the record of a tragic military event. You are being told that many human requirements, made by the hands of man from raw materials,

have been destroyed. In those buildings were tables, chairs, stoves, refrigerators, telephones, glass, wire and all the simple things needed by human beings everywhere to maintain the simple comforts of their daily life. Already three million homes in Britain have been shattered by bombs. Most of the raw materials required to replace those buildings and the things that were in them are not available in the British Isles. When you read of the sinking of ships, those are not merely names to be recorded on the mouldy pages of histories of the future. Those ships were made of iron and steel. They, too, contained thousands of little things made by the hands of man. Destruction of that kind is taking place right around the world today.

What does all this mean to us here in Ontario. It simply means that, apart from the military effect, an enormous demand for replacement after the war is mounting rapidly every day. Those things must be made by men from raw materials. There are three great areas in the world where the raw materials are found from which those things can be made. One is Russia, the other is the United States, and the third is Canada. With all their great resources it will take Russia many years to rebuild their own shattered cities and supply the devastated farming areas with the machinery and other things which they will need. The enormous internal demands of the United States, which increase every year that the war goes on, will absorb a very considerable part of their production. Here in Canada, and right here in the Province of Ontario, are huge reserves of the very raw materials which will be required everywhere throughout the world. Think of what that means to us.

The simple truth is that all this terrible destruction is creating such opportunities for our young men and women as they have never known before. But there must be planning if we are to be ready for the tasks which lie before us. There will be a period of readjustment while the factories are being converted from war to peace production. And during that period many things can be done in preparation for the work ahead. That is the time when governments must create employment. That can be done wastefully or it can be done as part of one great plan. We will need more power. We will need better transportation. We will need new buildings. Plans for all of these should be ready in advance.

We should, for instance, explore the possibility of using the great peat bogs of this Province not only for fuel but also for generating electric energy as has been done so successfully in Europe.

There are so many things of that nature to be done. But the time is all too short to get ready. That is why we have been urging in the Ontario Legislature for three years that plans be made for great public undertakings of this nature which will play their part in the industrial expansion which should follow the period of readjustment. I assure you that if you elect the Progressive Conservative Party on August 4th, steps will be taken immediately to plan great public works for the postwar period which will provide employment and at the same time create new sources of power; a completely modernized highway system of transportation; and other supporting facilities for the period of normal industrial expansion which will follow the full conversion of industry to peace production.

In this case opportunity and duty go hand in hand. It is our humane duty to put the vast resources and rich land which God has given us into full productive use, not only for ourselves but the rest of the world as well. It is also our opportunity to build a strong and prosperous Ontario with a population far beyond what we now have, living in greater comfort and security than they have ever known before. That is a vision which is justified by all the facts. It is a vision worthy of the sacrifice which our young men and women are making for us today. That is the future to which they are entitled. That is the future which I believe can be made a reality by the programme which I have read to you tonight. I believe that no other place in the world offers the opportunities that Ontario does today. For all of us peace will bring the dawn of a better day. It is our duty to be ready for it whenever it comes. For the sake of our splendid youth let each one of us decide to make Ontario strong.

VOTE FOR

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF ONTARIO

AUGUST 4TH, 1943

Published by
THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF ONTARIO

1943
No. 59

Constructive Progressive Conservative Platform of Twenty-two Points



Press and public welcomes party program
outlined by Leader George Drew as
outstanding event in history
of Ontario politics



George Drew, Progressive Conservative Leader for Ontario, on Thursday, July 8, 1943, highlighted his election platform announcement with the promise of a 50 per cent reduction in school taxation now borne by the individual ratepayer.

With the pledge of sweeping municipal tax reform went the undertaking to take over stockyards in the Province as a means of ending speculation and manipulation and assuring fair prices of live stock.

Mr. Drew's 22-point program, announced over the radio, introduced a distinctly constructive note to Ontario elections. Political observers last night stated that there was no parallel for the speech in Ontario politics of the last generation.

As part of his farm program, Mr. Drew undertook to set up a farmer-directed county agricultural production control system which would provide the first real opportunity farm organizations have had to plan farm production. It would be similar to the system which has worked well in Britain.

Additional points in the program include:

Medical, dental and other health protection for all;

Public works to create postwar employment;

Immediate increase in mothers' allowances and old-age pensions;

Advanced labor legislation, following a new inquiry;

Lower mining taxes, and more equitable distribution of revenues from this source;

Establishment of scientific forest control under a commission;

Establishment of an Ontario Housing Commission;

Complete revision of the educational system;

Removal of Hydro from politics, lower rates and rural power extensions;

Land reclamation in favorable areas;

Lower general taxes, elimination of duplicate services;

A more efficient civil service system;

Ensure adequate supplies of milk, fuel, other necessities;

Employment priority for veterans—men and women.

TWENTY-TWO-POINT PROGRAM

In detail, the Progressive Conservative Party's 22-point platform as enunciated by its leader is:

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, at all times, work in effective co-operation with the Dominion Government and with all other governing bodies in Canada in all activities which will assist in the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion, and in establishing a sound basis of social security, health insurance and protection in their old age for all our people. At the same time we will insist that the constitutional rights of the people of Ontario be preserved, and that the Government of Ontario exercise full control of its own Provincial affairs.

3. The farms, the factories, the mines, the forests, and personal services which constitute the five major groups of employment will be supported by appropriate legislation in their efforts to increase employment at good wages. In every field of employment individual initiative will be encouraged and hard work rewarded by reducing taxes and removing bureaucratic restrictions.

4. Farming will be organized in every county under committees of outstanding farmers who will be given authority to plan production, and regulate the processing and distribution of their output. Cheese boards, creameries, milk distributors, central produce markets, and other marketing organizations will be under the supervision of outstanding farmers in each line of production.

Will Take Over Stock Yards.

Stock yards will be taken over by the Government and operated as a publicly owned enterprise so that speculation and manipulation may be stopped and fair prices assured.

A conference will be called immediately of leading farmers from the whole Province to assist in drafting effective plans for the organization of food production.

5. Legislation will be introduced assuring the workers and employers of this Province the fairest and most advanced laws governing labor relations, following an inquiry to be undertaken immediately by a committee of at least 15 members to be known as the Ontario Labor Relations Committee, upon which there will be equal representation of labor, employers, and the general public. Recognizing at the outset the need for proper and enforceable legislation regarding collective bargaining, this committee will be asked to examine the laws dealing with labor relations in other countries and draft for Ontario an act which will establish that basis of justice, co-operation and responsibility

which is so necessary for the welfare and security of all our people.

6. The mining industry will be assisted in every way possible and placed under the direction of a Minister with practical knowledge of mining. The tax burden will be lightened and there will be a more equitable distribution of the tax between the different taxing bodies. A larger share of the taxes will go to the Provincial and municipal treasuries. All restrictive measures which deny prospectors and others the inducement to find and develop new mining properties will be repealed and every encouragement will be given to geologists and prospectors to discover new mineral areas. Every practical measure possible will be adopted to expand this great basic industry so that it may offer the widest opportunities for employment when our armed forces are demobilized.

Long-Term Forest Policy.

7. Our vast forest resources, which under proper administration are capable of creating employment for hundreds of thousands of new workers, will be placed under the control of an Ontario Forest Resources Commission which will operate under long-term policies of conservation, reforestation and soil control. Immediately after its formation it will review all existing contracts and will cancel those which have disposed of great areas of forest resources without proper consideration.

8. An Ontario Housing Commission will be created to plan a great housing program throughout the whole Province for the purpose of creating employment in the period of readjustment and at the same time bring to an end the unsatisfactory housing conditions in many parts of Ontario.

9. There will be a sweeping revision of our whole system of real estate taxation so that the owning and improvement of homes and farm land, which are the very foundation of our society, will not be discouraged by excessive taxation. As an initial step in that direction the Provincial Government will assume at least 50 per cent of the school taxes now charged against real estate. It is, however, to be clearly understood that this change will not affect the authority of the local school boards.

10. Our educational system will be completely revised so that every child in this Province will have an opportunity to be educated to the full extent of their mental capacity, no matter where they live or what the financial circumstances of their parents may be. Vocational training will be made a much more important part of the school work, so that children may be prepared to earn a living by practical vocational instruction. The important place of our teachers in each community will be fully recognized.

11. Steps will be taken to assure that every child is given the greatest possible opportunity to face life with a healthy body and mind. Health measures will be established so that medical, dental and other health protection will be available to all.

12. Steps will be taken immediately to prepare plans for great public undertakings which will create employment in the period of readjustment immediately after the war.

To Revamp Hydro.

13. The Hydro-Electric Power Commission will be removed from political control. Recognizing that the publicly owned Hydro-Electric resources of this Province belong to all our people, there will be an immediate adjustment of the rates for electric energy upon a just and equitable basis. The service charge in rural areas will be removed. Power will be extended to farms with full recognition of the fact that food production in war is hardly less essential to our success than the military effort.

14. Plans will be made for land reclamation throughout the Province, so that all areas which can be brought into production will be fully developed. These plans will be drafted immediately, but the actual development of most of the areas will be deferred so that they can be placed under veterans' organizations in the period of readjustment. This will open wide opportunities for immediate employment when the war is over and will also offer to veterans and their families the chance to settle in organized groups in areas where their economic security can be assured.

15. Taxation will be reduced and efficiency of Government increased by the elimination of all Provincial departments and services which duplicate those of the Dominion Government and are not necessary for the purpose of preserving fundamental constitutional rights.

16. An efficient and permanent civil service system will immediately be put into effect which will protect civil servants from political dismissal or interference, thus increasing administrative efficiency by giving to all civil servants a greater sense of security and pride in their work.

17. All legislation will be repealed which denies any individual the right to defend his person and property before the courts.

Revise Pension Scales.

18. There will be an immediate increase in mothers' allowances and old-age pensions in keeping with the increased cost of living. There will be an immediate repeal of the shameful provision that old people who have a home of their own, which they have established by their savings throughout long years, must dispose of that home before they will be granted the very lim-

ited allowances which they are entitled to receive. In future the old people who have played their part so well in making this great Province what it is today must not be forced to mortgage their homes before they can receive their small pensions.

19. Adequate supplies at reasonable prices of fuel, milk and other basic necessities will be assured by effective organization and administrative control. Representatives of labor, veteran organizations, and the consuming public will be appointed to all boards dealing with these matters.

20. Men and women who have served in the armed forces will be assured priority in the public service and protection in their employment.

21. During the war those who are in military service will be given legal protection against the economic consequences of their service. In all cases where the ability of those in military service and their dependents to meet their financial obligations have been materially reduced by such service, effective legal protection will be given against seizure of property for arrears of taxes, forfeiture of installment contracts, cancellation of life insurance policies up to \$10,000, judgments or other legal proceedings for debts incurred before entering military service, and other embarrassing financial obligations. These provisions, however, will be subject to the express condition that those able to pay will not be permitted to evade their obligations by this device, and that just protection will be assured to creditors under simple and effective procedure before the court. This does not provide for cancellation of obligations, but merely deferment with justice to all concerned.

Social Security Plan.

22. A rehabilitation and social security committee will be appointed immediately with instructions to draft plans which will assure social security for all our people, and also provide for the rehabilitation and employment of the members of our armed forces and munition workers after the war.

"That is our program. It does not deal with questions of administrative detail, such as the administration of justice, juvenile delinquency, liquor control, highway construction, Provincial finances, or a number of other matters which have to do with the enforcement and interpretation of existing laws. I will discuss such subjects at another time," Mr. Drew said.

"I pledge myself, as Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario, to carry out each of the proposals contained in this program when you entrust us with the power to do so. Each of them is practical. Each is based upon careful examination of the facts. May I ask you to examine this program in detail and if you agree that it would be good for the people of Ontario to

have these proposals put into operation, then I urge you to support the Progressive Conservative candidate in your riding."

Make Ontario Strong.

In his broad plan for betterment in a Province which he believed offered greater opportunities than any place else in the world, Mr. Drew declared that "peace will bring the dawn of a better day," and that it was "our duty to be ready for it whenever it comes. For the sake of our splendid youth," he urged, "let us decide to make Ontario strong."

Last night's address was the first talk to all the people of the Province that he had had an opportunity to give since the election was announced, he said in opening his broadcast, which went out from Toronto.

To remarks that members of his party had been "destructive critics," he reminded listeners that during his own four years in the Ontario Legislature "I have introduced resolution after resolution calling for better organization of our food production, better labor legislation, more efficient control of our forest resources, greater assistance to our mining industry and proper treatment of the veterans of the last war, and those now on active service."

Nearly every one of the points included in the program he was presenting, he said, "has already been placed before the Ontario Legislature by resolution. In each case they were voted down by the Government, and its supporters."

When there was ground for criticism, Mr. Drew pointed out, "it is the duty of the Opposition to criticize; what our Governments in Canada need today is more criticism of their many weaknesses." He quoted Prime Minister Winston Churchill in support of that stand when he said: "We do not resent the well-meant criticism of any man who wishes to win the war."

Calls It Snap Election.

Mr. Drew recalled that "strangely enough," it had been said that he was not sufficiently critical "because I had, to a considerable extent, observed a political truce on all but fundamental issues during the war. I have, however," he added, "criticized the weaknesses and worse of the present Government."

He said a "snap" election had been called at a most difficult time of year for most people, doubtless with the hope that the Opposition would not have time to place its case before them. He warned that the Government to be chosen on Aug. 4 would almost certainly be responsible for the problems that would arise during the period of readjustment after the war, including the providing of work at good wages for the men and women now fighting for everything Canadians held dear. The ballot would in a great measure determine the fate of those whose personal sacrifice had preserved the right to live as free people.

"Neither personal friendships nor old political affiliations can be balanced against that important fact," Mr. Drew declared.

The men and women now in uniform had a right to expect, he said, a Government that would put into effect "vigorous and progressive measures to make Ontario strong and create new opportunities for employment so that the members of our armed forces who are demobilized and the munition makers who must seek other work, will be able to find steady jobs."

Of the Socialist platform, Mr. Drew asked Ontarians to ask themselves: What will happen to your savings in the form of insurance, Government bonds or bank accounts if the industries whose securities create the value behind them are taken over as they have promised to do if they come to power? He warned that, in such a case, "more Government officials, more interference with your personal affairs and more taxes will certainly happen."

Much Work to Be Done.

As for the Liberal platform, he said: "If these things are now thought to be so good for the Province, why did the present Premier never once think of them during the quarter of a century that he has been a member of the Parliament of Ontario?"

"Our danger in this Province," he said, "is not unemployment after the war, but rather a shortage of workers for the job which lies ahead if only those who direct our affairs have the vision to see the role which Ontario and Canada can play in the postwar world. If we believe Ontario is about to enter a period of rapid expansion of the producing capacity of our farms, our factories, our mines and our forests, then we are safe in promising employment not only to those who will be demobilized, but to many others who will also be needed to produce those things which will be required in enormous quantities by the whole world." This was true especially, he said, in meeting the needs of postwar reconstruction overseas, where destruction must be repaired. The enormous demand for replacement after the war was mounting every day. Ontario's huge reserves of raw materials would be required everywhere.

"The simple truth is," he said, "that all this terrible destruction is creating such opportunities for our young men and women as they have never known before. But there must be planning if we are to be ready for the tasks which lie before us."

"I assure you," he said, "that if you elect the Progressive Conservative Party steps will be taken immediately to plan great public works for the postwar period, a completely modernized highway system and other supporting facilities for industrial expansion to follow conversion of industry to peace production."

(Reprinted from July 9th, 1943,
The Toronto Globe and Mail.)

VICTORY'S GARDEN



Printed by the Globe Printing Company, Commercial Dept., Toronto, Canada.

1443
10-57

Constructive Progressive Conservative Platform of Twenty-two Points



Press and public welcomes party program
outlined by Leader George Drew as
outstanding event in history
of Ontario politics



George Drew, Progressive Conservative Leader for Ontario, on Thursday, July 8, 1943, highlighted his election platform announcement with the promise of a 50 per cent reduction in school taxation now borne by the individual ratepayer.

With the pledge of sweeping municipal tax reform went the undertaking to take over stockyards in the Province as a means of ending speculation and manipulation and assuring fair prices of live stock.

Mr. Drew's 22-point program, announced over the radio, introduced a distinctly constructive note to Ontario elections. Political observers last night stated that there was no parallel for the speech in Ontario politics of the last generation.

As part of his farm program, Mr. Drew undertook to set up a farmer-directed county agricultural production control system which would provide the first real opportunity farm organizations have had to plan farm production. It would be similar to the system which has worked well in Britain.

Additional points in the program include:

Medical, dental and other health protection for all;

Public works to create postwar employment;

Immediate increase in mothers' allowances and old-age pensions;

Advanced labor legislation, following a new inquiry;

Lower mining taxes, and more equitable distribution of revenues from this source;

Establishment of scientific forest control under a commission;

Establishment of an Ontario Housing Commission;

Complete revision of the educational system;

Removal of Hydro from politics, lower rates and rural power extensions;

Land reclamation in favorable areas;

Lower general taxes, elimination of duplicate services;

A more efficient civil service system;

Ensure adequate supplies of milk, fuel, other necessities;

Employment priority for veterans—men and women.

TWENTY-TWO-POINT PROGRAM

In detail, the Progressive Conservative Party's 22-point platform as enunciated by its leader is:

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, at all times, work in effective co-operation with the Dominion Government and with all other governing bodies in Canada in all activities which will assist in the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion, and in establishing a sound basis of social security, health insurance and protection in their old age for all our people. At the same time we will insist that the constitutional rights of the people of Ontario be preserved, and that the Government of Ontario exercise full control of its own Provincial affairs.

3. The farms, the factories, the mines, the forests, and personal services which constitute the five major groups of employment will be supported by appropriate legislation in their efforts to increase employment at good wages. In every field of employment individual initiative will be encouraged and hard work rewarded by reducing taxes and removing bureaucratic restrictions.

4. Farming will be organized in every county under committees of outstanding farmers who will be given authority to plan production, and regulate the processing and distribution of their output. Cheese boards, creameries, milk distributors, central produce markets, and other marketing organizations will be under the supervision of outstanding farmers in each line of production.

Will Take Over Stock Yards.

Stock yards will be taken over by the Government and operated as a publicly owned enterprise so that speculation and manipulation may be stopped and fair prices assured.

A conference will be called immediately of leading farmers from the whole Province to assist in drafting effective plans for the organization of food production.

5. Legislation will be introduced assuring the workers and employers of this Province the fairest and most advanced laws governing labor relations, following an inquiry to be undertaken immediately by a committee of at least 15 members to be known as the Ontario Labor Relations Committee, upon which there will be equal representation of labor, employers, and the general public. Recognizing at the outset the right to proper and enforceable legislation regarding collective bargaining, this committee will be asked to examine the laws dealing with labor relations in other countries and draft for Ontario an act which will establish that basis of justice, co-operation and responsibility

which is so necessary for the welfare and security of all our people.

6. The mining industry will be assisted in every way possible and placed under the direction of a Minister with practical knowledge of mining. The tax burden will be lightened and there will be a more equitable distribution of the tax between the different taxing bodies. A larger share of the taxes will go to the Provincial and municipal treasuries. All restrictive measures which deny prospectors and others the inducement to find and develop new mining properties will be repealed and every encouragement will be given to geologists and prospectors to discover new mineral areas. Every practical measure possible will be adopted to expand this great basic industry so that it may offer the widest opportunities for employment when our armed forces are demobilized.

Long-Term Forest Policy.

7. Our vast forest resources, which under proper administration are capable of creating employment for hundreds of thousands of new workers, will be placed under the control of an Ontario Forest Resources Commission which will operate under long-term policies of conservation, reforestation and soil control. Immediately after its formation it will review all existing contracts and will cancel those which have disposed of great areas of forest resources without proper consideration.

8. An Ontario Housing Commission will be created to plan a great housing program throughout the whole Province for the purpose of creating employment in the period of readjustment and at the same time bring to an end the unsatisfactory housing conditions in many parts of Ontario.

9. There will be a sweeping revision of our whole system of real estate taxation so that the owning and improvement of homes and farm land, which are the very foundation of our society, will not be discouraged by excessive taxation. As an initial step in that direction the Provincial Government will assume at least 50 per cent of the school taxes now charged against real estate. It is, however, to be clearly understood that this change will not affect the authority of the local school boards.

10. Our educational system will be completely revised so that every child in this Province will have an opportunity to be educated to the full extent of their mental capacity, no matter where they live or what the financial circumstances of their parents may be. Vocational training will be made a much more important part of the school work, so that children may be prepared to earn a living by practical vocational instruction. The important place of our teachers in each community will be fully recognized.

11. Steps will be taken to assure that every child is given the greatest possible opportunity to face life with a healthy body and mind. Health measures will be established so that medical, dental and other health protection will be available to all.

12. Steps will be taken immediately to prepare plans for great public undertakings which will create employment in the period of readjustment immediately after the war.

To Revamp Hydro.

13. The Hydro-Electric Power Commission will be removed from political control. Recognizing that the publicly owned Hydro-Electric resources of this Province belong to all our people, there will be an immediate adjustment of the rates for electric energy upon a just and equitable basis. The service charge in rural areas will be removed. Power will be extended to farms with full recognition of the fact that food production in war is hardly less essential to our success than the military effort.

14. Plans will be made for land reclamation throughout the Province, so that all areas which can be brought into production will be fully developed. These plans will be drafted immediately, but the actual development of most of the areas will be deferred so that they can be placed under veterans' organizations in the period of readjustment. This will open wide opportunities for immediate employment when the war is over and will also offer to veterans and their families the chance to settle in organized groups in areas where their economic security can be assured.

15. Taxation will be reduced and efficiency of Government increased by the elimination of all Provincial departments and services which duplicate those of the Dominion Government and are not necessary for the purpose of preserving fundamental constitutional rights.

16. An efficient and permanent civil service system will immediately be put into effect which will protect civil servants from political dismissal or interference, thus increasing administrative efficiency by giving to all civil servants a greater sense of security and pride in their work.

17. All legislation will be repealed which denies any individual the right to defend his person and property before the courts.

Revise Pension Scales.

18. There will be an immediate increase in mothers' allowances and old-age pensions in keeping with the increased cost of living. There will be an immediate repeal of the shameful provision that old people who have a home of their own, which they have established by their savings throughout long years, must dispose of that home before they will be granted the very lim-

ited allowances which they are entitled to receive. In future the old people who have played their part so well in making this great Province what it is today must not be forced to mortgage their homes before they can receive their small pensions.

19. Adequate supplies at reasonable prices of fuel, milk and other basic necessities will be assured by effective organization and administrative control. Representatives of labor, veteran organizations, and the consuming public will be appointed to all boards dealing with these matters.

20. Men and women who have served in the armed forces will be assured priority in the public service and protection in their employment.

21. During the war those who are in military service will be given legal protection against the economic consequences of their service. In all cases where the ability of those in military service and their dependents to meet their financial obligations have been materially reduced by such service, effective legal protection will be given against seizure of property for arrears of taxes, forfeiture of installment contracts, cancellation of life insurance policies up to \$10,000, judgments or other legal proceedings for debts incurred before entering military service, and other embarrassing financial obligations. These provisions, however, will be subject to the express condition that those able to pay will not be permitted to evade their obligations by this device, and that just protection will be assured to creditors under simple and effective procedure before the court. This does not provide for cancellation of obligations, but merely deferment with justice to all concerned.

Social Security Plan.

22. A rehabilitation and social security committee will be appointed immediately with instructions to draft plans which will assure social security for all our people, and also provide for the rehabilitation and employment of the members of our armed forces and munition workers after the war.

"That is our program. It does not deal with questions of administrative detail, such as the administration of justice, juvenile delinquency, liquor control, highway construction, Provincial finances, or a number of other matters which have to do with the enforcement and interpretation of existing laws. I will discuss such subjects at another time," Mr. Drew said.

"I pledge myself, as Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party in Ontario, to carry out each of the proposals contained in this program when you entrust us with the power to do so. Each of them is practical. Each is based upon careful examination of the facts. May I ask you to examine this program in detail and if you agree that it would be good for the people of Ontario to

have these proposals put into operation, then I urge you to support the Progressive Conservative candidate in your riding."

Make Ontario Strong.

In his broad plan for betterment in a Province which he believed offered greater opportunities than any place else in the world, Mr. Drew declared that "peace will bring the dawn of a better day," and that it was "our duty to be ready for it whenever it comes. For the sake of our splendid youth," he urged, "let us decide to make Ontario strong."

Last night's address was the first talk to all the people of the Province that he had had an opportunity to give since the election was announced, he said in opening his broadcast, which went out from Toronto.

To remarks that members of his party had been "destructive critics," he reminded listeners that during his own four years in the Ontario Legislature "I have introduced resolution after resolution calling for better organization of our food production, better labor legislation, more efficient control of our forest resources, greater assistance to our mining industry and proper treatment of the veterans of the last war, and those now on active service."

Nearly every one of the points included in the program he was presenting, he said, "has already been placed before the Ontario Legislature by resolution. In each case they were voted down by the Government, and its supporters."

When there was ground for criticism, Mr. Drew pointed out, "it is the duty of the Opposition to criticize; what our Governments in Canada need today is more criticism of their many weaknesses." He quoted Prime Minister Winston Churchill in support of that stand when he said: "We do not resent the well-meant criticism of any man who wishes to win the war."

Calls It Snap Election.

Mr. Drew recalled that "strangely enough," it had been said that he was not sufficiently critical "because I had, to a considerable extent, observed a political truce on all but fundamental issues during the war. I have, however," he added, "criticized the weaknesses and worse of the present Government."

He said a "snap" election had been called at a most difficult time of year for most people, doubtless with the hope that the Opposition would not have time to place its case before them. He warned that the Government to be chosen on Aug. 4 would almost certainly be responsible for the problems that would arise during the period of readjustment after the war, including the providing of work at good wages for the men and women now fighting for everything Canadians held dear. The ballot would in a great measure determine the fate of those whose personal sacrifice had preserved the right to live as free people.

"Neither personal friendships nor old political affiliations can be balanced against that important fact," Mr. Drew declared.

The men and women now in uniform had a right to expect, he said, a Government that would put into effect "vigorous and progressive measures to make Ontario strong and create new opportunities for employment so that the members of our armed forces who are demobilized and the munition makers who must seek other work, will be able to find steady jobs."

Of the Socialist platform, Mr. Drew asked Ontarians to ask themselves: What will happen to your savings in the form of insurance, Government bonds or bank accounts if the industries whose securities create the value behind them are taken over as they have promised to do if they come to power? He warned that, in such a case, "more Government officials, more interference with your personal affairs and more taxes will certainly happen."

Much Work to Be Done.

As for the Liberal platform, he said: "If these things are now thought to be so good for the Province, why did the present Premier never once think of them during the quarter of a century that he has been a member of the Parliament of Ontario?"

"Our danger in this Province," he said, "is not unemployment after the war, but rather a shortage of workers for the job which lies ahead if only those who direct our affairs have the vision to see the role which Ontario and Canada can play in the postwar world. If we believe Ontario is about to enter a period of rapid expansion of the producing capacity of our farms, our factories, our mines and our forests, then we are safe in promising employment not only to those who will be demobilized, but to many others who will also be needed to produce those things which will be required in enormous quantities by the whole world." This was true especially, he said, in meeting the needs of postwar reconstruction overseas, where destruction must be repaired. The enormous demand for replacement after the war was mounting every day. Ontario's huge reserves of raw materials would be required everywhere.

"The simple truth is," he said, "that all this terrible destruction is creating such opportunities for our young men and women as they have never known before. But there must be planning if we are to be ready for the tasks which lie before us."

"I assure you," he said, "that if you elect the Progressive Conservative Party steps will be taken immediately to plan great public works for the postwar period, a completely modernized highway system and other supporting facilities for industrial expansion to follow conversion of industry to peace production."

(Reprinted from July 9th, 1943,
The Toronto Globe and Mail.)

VICTORY'S GARDEN



Printed by the Globe Printing Company, Commercial Dept., Toronto, Canada.