



New City Flagpole Goes Up, Crowd Watches Operation

Like a tall, willowy giant the Halifax City flagpole, tallest in Canada, stands proudly in place before City Hall today.

The actual raising of the pole, 126 feet long, took exactly 38½ minutes. Under supervision of maintenance foreman George Hughes of Halifax Shipyards, the 11 workmen aided by a tractor crane, lifted the pole without incident.

More than 600 persons gathered around the Grand Parade while scores more watched from office windows as the tricky task of lifting the pole was accomplished. As it moved slowly upward with an occasional snake-like warp adding to the excitement, a stillness of expectancy hung over the crowd.

When it was over it was like the lifting of a huge burden. It seemed as though every one person had personal responsibility for seeing that the pole was erected without incident.

Placing the pole in position ends a strange tale for the huge Douglas Fir tree that was a proud, straight giant in the B. C. woods nine months ago. Gift of the C. P. R. to Halifax, the pole was transported across Canada on three railways flat-cars fitted with special cradles. At Saint John it was dumped into the Bay of Fundy, placed on a barge and towed across to Digby. From there it was again placed on three flatcars and brought in stages to Halifax where it was dressed and fitted as a flagpole at Halifax Shipyards. Then in the dead hours of an early morning re-

Please Turn to Page 2, Column 1.

MORE ABOUT New Flagpole

Continued From Page 1.

cently it was moved by tractor crane over the cement walls of the Shipyards up to Barrington Street where it was brought downtown to the Parade for the final operation.

The Toronto Canadian National Exhibition flagpole, also a B. C. Douglas fir with an as exciting a tale behind it, can compete with the Halifax City flagpole. Once 185-foot tall, erected on the Exhibition Grounds and standing without the use of guy wires, the pole in 1945 was cut down one-third when dry rot was discovered to have set in at the top.

"Now, by a scant two feet, we have the taller pole," smiles Mayor J. E. Ahern proudly. Incidentally he wasn't on hand this morning to watch the long haul as the pole went up.

Final preparations for the raising took an hour and five minutes. 9:05 George Hughes, in charge, said: "We're ready". News photographers, movie news cameramen and a score of amateur photographers knuckled down.

From there on it went something like this:

9.07—"It moves!" The pole wavers snake-like a few feet off the ground. The workmen examine it.

9.08—Up a little more. Then it is slowly lowered while workmen change the top sling arrangement for the top hoisting blocks.

9.15—Hughes dusts off his hands. They're ready again.

9.16—Up she goes again. "Swing her around square to the base," signals Hughes. The crowd is growing bigger.

9.19—The pole is lowered to three feet off the ground, while workmen examine the base. The pole wavers like a drunken sailor.

9.23—Once more. It gets quarter-way up. "Easy," says Hughes and it continues upward. Almost half-way up, they stop to check the base. They put a rope around the base of the pole and the gin pole at the back to keep the base from slipping.

9.30—Up again. It's half-way up. Three-quarters of the way.

9.31—They stop, change the rope at the base. Hughes walks around and sizes up the situation. Movie cameramen get Hughes to pose at

the base (he smiles broadly) with Dan Scouler, Shipyards' superintendent who is watching proceedings.

9.36—The final lap begins. They stop while workmen tighten that rope at the base.

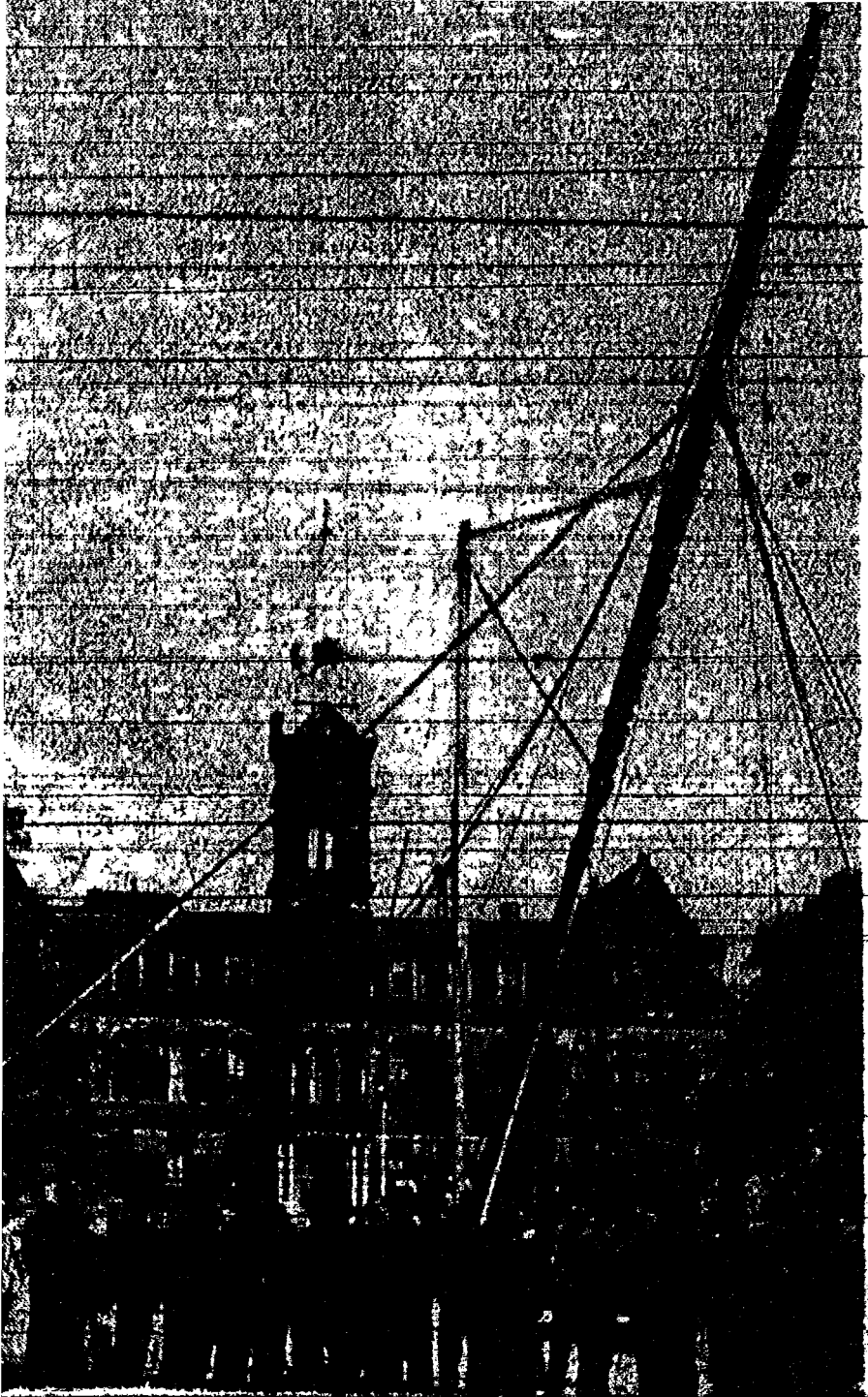
9.41—"Ready," says Hughes. He checks everyone.

9.42—She moves a little.

9.43—A little more. Workmen ease the base with chisels.

9.45—The final heave.

9.45½—"IT'S UP!"



NOW IN PLACE—At 9:45 a.m. today the new Halifax City flagpole stood in place before City Hall to end an exciting career which began nine months ago when it was chopped down in the forests of British Columbia. Gift of the C.P.S. to the city, the Douglas fir, 126 feet long, was raised in 27½ minutes by a crew of 11 men, aided by a tractor crane, while a crowd which grew to about 800 watched. Above is a picture during the raising operations.