

One French-speaking battalion will form part of the second army tank brigade. I have here a list of the French-speaking units in Canada and overseas, and a splendid representation it is.

With regard to French-Canadian officers, we have made special provision in order that young French-Canadians may have an opportunity of overcoming any handicap which may exist in connection with their entering the school at Brockville. There were not enough French-Canadian officers in the reserve units who were coming forward. It is well known that our French-Canadian friends were not interested in the militia units to the same extent as men in some of the other districts. This has been so for years. There is no complaint, and there is no reflection whatever because this is a matter of a man's own choice. The result was that French-Canadian officers were not too plentiful. With this in mind we have made special provision for French-Canadian officers by having civilian committees set up—this is all covered in a return which was brought down in the house—in different centres which select young men who are of the calibre that they consider would make good officers. They ask these young men if they would care to come in and take training. A special training school was set up in St. Jerome, Quebec, where these men received thirty days basic training. If they qualify and appear to justify promotion, they are given another month as cadets preparatory to their going to the Brockville school. We expect to have something like 100 men a month going from the St. Jerome school to Brockville. I had the pleasure of being in St. Jerome a week ago last Saturday, and I was extremely pleased with the way they are taking hold and the manner in which this system is working out. It was provided for the purpose of seeing that there was no discouragement of French-Canadian recruiting because of a lack of officers. It was established for the purpose of encouraging French-Canadian officers to feel that when they go to school at Brockville or somewhere else where the atmosphere is English, they will not be under a handicap.

But we do not leave it at that. At Brockville we have a full French-Canadian instructional staff; there is also an English staff, so that these young men are able to receive instruction in their own language and can talk over their problems with instructors who speak their own language. The director of trades training advises that there is an adequate bilingual instructional staff at the

army trades school in Hamilton. With regard to French-Canadian representation on Royal Military College courses, except for the junior war staff course, for which the majority of candidates have been selected overseas, it is the practice to allot vacancies up to one-third of the total attendance of these courses to French-Canadian officers.

I may say with regard to the officers training centre at Brockville that the objective toward which we are working is to provide a quota of up to 125 French-speaking candidates in each month. With regard to staffs and command, the departmental selection committees are constantly—I can say this from personal knowledge—on the look-out for opportunities to recommend the appointment of French-Canadian officers, not only at national defence headquarters but at the appropriate district headquarters. As a matter of fact, I have a complete list of the French-Canadian officers who are appointed at headquarters.

In addition, I have in my hand a list of probably fifty training manuals, pamphlets, regulations and instructional books of different kinds of which French translations have been made by a special French translation bureau which we have at headquarters. I say this because I think it should be said in justice to the officers of the department. I do not think anything from the point of view of our national life is given more careful consideration than this matter of seeing to it that the difficulties which are bound to be found by French Canadians coming into what is predominantly an English army are overcome. I can quite understand that it would be the same for those of us who are English if we had to go into an army which was predominantly French. We would find some difficulty and sometimes would feel a bit lonesome. We would like more than anything else to have an opportunity to talk over our problems with someone of our own race. That is exactly the situation in which officers on national defence try to put themselves in an endeavour to help our fellow French Canadians in their desire to assist in the war.

I mention these matters in detail in order to indicate to the committee that the matter is one which has not escaped our attention by any means. My hon. friend made some remarks about publicity in the United States. He speaks of the poor publicity which is given. There again we endeavour to see to it that there is a proper representation of French Canadians in connection with publicity. At the present moment at national defence headquarters there are three French-speaking men