

*Private Bills*

bridge construction, blazed trails through the forest and things of that sort. I suggest that the training syllabus could be made much more interesting by the incorporation of more outdoor manoeuvres enabling people to get to know the geography of the country well, its valleys, mountains, unexplored areas, and so on.

I suggest, also, that there should be more physical training in the program; interesting physical training, not just forming fours in a squad inside an armoury. And I further recommend that a great deal more could be done with respect to map and compass reading, which is a very useful study for any young man and one very necessary to travellers in a country such as ours. I make these few suggestions as a result of a continuing interest in and observation of the activities of the militia units in our district for a number of years. My dad belonged to the Rocky Mountain Rangers.

My final point is this: is the local unit now a successor to the original 54th Kootenay Battalion which was an outgrowth of the Rocky Mountain Rangers? I think it is very worth while to perpetuate the names of the units which have served this country so well overseas. With these few remarks, coming from an amateur and a backwoodsmen and a peasant farmer, I ask the minister, in all sincerity, to be good enough to look into this question about the 54th Kootenay Battalion.

**Mr. Pearkes:** I should like to extend my thanks, first of all, to the hon. gentleman for his remarks and for his continued interest in the militia. And I should like to extend these thanks beyond the hon. member who has just spoken to the very large number of members in this house who do take a keen interest in their own militia units. I believe in those units maintaining their territorial and local connections and the traditions of the units which have preceded them in each particular area. We are making a practice of passing on the battle honours which have been gained by their predecessors operating perhaps under a different name and perhaps with different equipment but, nevertheless, units drawn from a distinct area with all the proud traditions of people who have served in that area before.

**Mr. Hellyer:** I, too, should like to pay tribute to the wonderful work which has been done by the militia throughout the years. As you know, Toronto has been the bulwark of many of the most famous and most illustrious regiments of this great land. Just this week we had a ceremony in front of the exhibition grounds in that city in which the 48th Highlanders of Canada trooped the colour resplendant in their scarlet

uniforms, putting on a show which was magnificent and outstanding in every respect. I think they deserve the honour of a tribute from all who had the pleasure of witnessing both their parades at home and of being grateful for their services overseas during two world wars. Like other Toronto units, they have distinguished themselves on the field of battle and won for themselves many battle honours.

I think it would be unfortunate if this great reserve stream of potential strength were to be diluted or materially diminished. We have been proud of the fact that during two world wars these units provided the nucleus of officers and men around which our armies grew to the proportions necessary to ensure victory, and although it is true that in the concept of modern nuclear warfare it would be impossible to get them battle-trained and ready, as troops must be, to participate from the outset it is not beyond possibility that they could be used again in an encounter of a limited or local nature. Indeed, the suggestion has been made that the militia in this country could be strengthened and trained to a point where, in the light of the air portability which the minister told us he intended to provide, they could be transported anywhere in the world at very short notice. This prospect would give them incentive and encouragement to carry on and I hope the minister will do everything in his power to encourage a continuation of the wonderful contributions they have made throughout the years.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Shall this item carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Five o'clock.

**The Deputy Chairman:** It being five o'clock, pursuant to standing order 15 I do now leave the chair.

Progress reported.

**PRIVATE BILLS**

**Mr. John B. Hamilton (York West):** Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether we might take private bills and then, I believe, we probably could obtain the consent of the whole house to forgo the rest of the private members' hour and return to the discussion of the estimates.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shall we dispose of one private bill and then get the will of the house on the other matter?

(Translation):

DESJARDINS MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE  
COMPANY

**Mr. Noel Dorion (Bellechasse)** moved the second reading of Bill No. S-29 to incorporate the Desjardins Life Insurance Company.