

*The Address—Mr. Deslières*

congenial members, Joseph Henry Harris, who passed away last month. He represented the Danforth constituency in the house since 1921; all those who have had occasion, in the course of his active career, to come in contact with him have keenly felt his death, no matter what their political affiliation may be.

Since the last session, Mr. Speaker, many events have taken place on the Canadian political stage; I shall mention only the most significant ones in the national and international field.

We have been informed to our great pleasure of the appointment of the Hon. R. W. Mayhew to the post of first Canadian ambassador to Japan. The Hon. Mr. Mayhew had been Minister of Fisheries since June 11, 1948; he took part in the peace conference with Japan and twice returned to that country as the official representative of Canada. He also contributed to the drawing up of the Colombo plan. Because of his great knowledge of Asia and Asiatic affairs, as well as of the active part he generally took in the nation's business, he is particularly qualified to occupy this important post.

It gives me pleasure to congratulate the member for Coast-Capilano (Mr. Sinclair), who was recently appointed a member of Her Majesty's privy council and Minister of Fisheries. Since 1940, the new Minister of Fisheries has contributed in more ways than one to the good administration of this country, both through his contribution to the debates of the house and in his capacity as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Finance.

I also would like to extend my congratulations to the member for Vancouver Centre (Mr. Campney) who has been made a member of Her Majesty's privy council and appointed Solicitor General of Canada.

Though he is rather a newcomer on the political scene, he brings to his new duties a long experience of public life gained both through the exercise of his profession and as secretary to the Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and the Hon. James Malcolm. He also distinguished himself as chairman of the national harbours board and as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Defence.

I refer with great pleasure to the presence in the house of the newly-elected members for Outremont-St. Jean (Mr. Bourque), and Richelieu-Vercheres (Mr. Cardin). Both have gained an enviable reputation and will I assure be a credit to their constituents.

Together with the other nations of the free world, all Canadians must be proud of our

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soldiers who are fighting so valiantly in Korea, for they stand guard and fight on the United Nations' first line of defence, not only for the immediate protection of the South Koreans, but also for the preservation of our own freedom which is under the constant threat of communist aggression.

People generally do not realize to what extent Canada's armed forces have been increased in my province.

In recent years, the Valcartier camp has become a vast and permanent area for military training.

There are already in Quebec a number of major defence establishments such as the vast stores depot at Longue Pointe, the naval supply depot at Ville La Salle, the fighter bases at Bagotville and St. Hubert, not to mention the great many radar stations, etc.

The admission centre for airmen and airwomen from all parts of Canada has been established in St. Johns.

In Quebec city, our navy has established the Montcalm school where recruits of French descent study together under French-speaking officers and instructors. The number of applicants has exceeded the school's capacity.

We have also witnessed the steady improvement of the Quebec citadel. Repairs were made with imagination and logic, so as to bring out the original characteristics of these ancient structures.

On this splendid historic site we find not only the governor general's residence, but also a whole series of military structures, so that the citadel is second to none among comparable establishments; it is the ideal headquarters, the ideal home of one of the most glorious regiments, the Royal 22nd.

Finally, last week, His Excellency the Governor General officially opened a new college, the St. Johns Royal Military College. Young Canadians from all over Canada are following its courses. A good majority of the students are French-speaking. This is the first really bilingual establishment of the kind on this side of the ocean. One may see in this gesture the acknowledgment of the importance of the French-speaking element in our confederation. This is a step forward in the field of military training in Canada. It is the recognition of the essential unity of our country.

For that initiative and the spirit which inspired their achievement, we must—and the whole province is of that opinion—congratu-