

our Minister in Brazil, Mr. Desy, speaks Portuguese, and that our Minister in Chile, Mr. Chipman, speaks Spanish. That is a good beginning." *

As to encouragement of language study, or facilities provided for the study of these Latin-American languages, Mr. King said: "We are giving all the encouragement we can to the younger men, but, as I have said, most of the young men have been drafted into the armed forces. There has not been the opportunity to get into the service the number of young men we would like. Those who are in the service now are working for all they are worth and do not have much time for extra study. However, such opportunities as can be afforded are being arranged. . . I see no reason why some (scholarship) arrangements could not be made with the universities to encourage students to take up these special languages." (1)

Interest in this question of language proficiency was shown in questions asked in the House of Commons, and also in the Standing Committee of the House. For instance, in the October, 1945, session of the Standing Committee on External Affairs the following dialogue took place:

Mr. Fraser: In picking the ambassadors for those different countries, I suppose you picked an Ambassador for Brazil who could speak Portuguese?

Mr. Wrong: Not necessarily.

Mr. Fraser: How about his staff?

* In fact, in Brazil, L. Glass, the Commercial Secretary, R.A.D. Ford, the Second Secretary, and M. Belanger, the Assistant Commercial Secretary, also quickly acquired a knowledge of Portuguese. In Argentina Mr. Turgeon spoke Spanish, and in his Commercial Counsellor, J.A. Strong, and Second Secretary, Gilles Sicotte, he had two fluent Spanish linguists. In Chile, Jules Leger, Second Secretary, rapidly became a fluent Spanish speaker.

(1) Ibid. p.4668.