



PRESS RELEASE

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At an informal reception, held in the East Block on September 16th, the Acting Prime Minister, Mr. Louis S. St. Laurent, and members and former members of the Department of External Affairs, paid tribute to Mr. Laurent Beaudry on the occasion of his retirement from the Department.

Mr. Laurent Beaudry, who was appointed Associate Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs on April 1st, 1947 has been absent from the Department on sick leave for some months past, after a period of twenty-one years of service with the Department which he first joined in 1927.

Mr. Beaudry was born in Saint-Hyacinthe in 1886. After graduating from Laval University, he studied at Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship and secured an LL.B. degree from the Sorbonne. From 1913 to 1920, he was Secretary to the Chief Justice of Canada and became assistant secretary in the Prime Minister's Office in 1922. From 1922 until his appointment in 1927 as First Secretary at the Canadian Legation in Washington, Mr. Beaudry was Editor-in-chief of Le Soleil. In 1928, he was promoted to the rank of Counsellor, and filled, from 1935 to 1946, the post of Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Beaudry served on many missions outside of Canada during his 21-year service in the Department. He was a Delegate to the World Radio Conference in Washington in 1927, and headed Canadian Delegations at the North American Radio Conference held in Mexico City in 1933, the Inter-American Radio Conference held in Havana in 1937 and the World Telecommunications Conference in 1938. Mr. Beaudry also served as an Army Lieutenant in the First World War.

At the informal reception the Acting Prime Minister, who spoke both in English and in French drew attention to Mr. Beaudry's long career of public service and to his contribution to the fostering of good relations between English-speaking and French-speaking Canadians.

In their absence from Ottawa messages were read from the Prime Minister, Mr. W.L. Mackenzie King and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. L.B. Pearson, as well as from many of Mr. Beaudry's former colleagues now serving abroad. The Prime Minister's message referred to the long and faithful service which Mr. Beaudry had rendered over many years to the Government and to the people of Canada, and emphasized the courtesy and devotion which had characterized his period of service. Finally, Mr. King's message expressed the hope that in retirement, Mr. Beaudry would find restoration of health, and increasing opportunities in the years to come to enjoy the society of his family and his many friends.