

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



INFORMATION DIVISION  
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No. 50/35 An address delivered by Mr. L.S. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Royal Military College Club, at Kingston, Ontario, on September 30, 1950.

I considered it a great honour to be invited to speak at the annual meeting of the Royal Military College Club, and it is a genuine satisfaction to be here in the company of a group of men who have such a fine record of service to our country.

I know your annual meeting is primarily an occasion for renewing old friendships in an enjoyable weekend, away from your usual daily worries and cares. I hope, therefore, what I have to say this evening will not mar that enjoyment. At the same time I have to assume that you did not invite me here simply to utter a succession of platitudes - though I confess that like other men in public life I have at times resorted to platitudes on polite occasions, but somehow I don't think that would do tonight.

I notice that Article II of your constitution says: "The objects of the Club are: The bringing together of its members for mutual benefit and support; the encouragement and maintenance of that brotherly and friendly feeling which has always existed among cadets; and the advancement of the welfare of its members, the Cadets and the Royal Military College generally". These are worthy aims, and I know the R.M.C. Club has upheld them worthily.

The Royal Military College Club is one of our oldest national institutions. Since its birth in 1876 the College has made a most notable contribution to the life of our country, both in peace and in war. Its graduates - the Agnews, the Crerars, the Drurys, the Gibsons, the Panets, the Tremblays, the Simonds, the Youngs, and a host of others, have rendered service to this nation for which their fellow-Canadians have good reason to be proud and thankful. Anything which its old members can do to promote the welfare of an institution which can produce such men as these is all to the good.

R.M.C. has recently been transformed to meet what are believed to be urgent military requirements of the present period. I imagine some of you may have viewed the transformation with some misgivings. It is always difficult to feel altogether happy about major new developments in any institution to which one is attached. But from what I can learn, most of what is best in the old traditions of R.M.C. is being carefully - one might almost say lovingly - preserved. And at the same time new life