



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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## THE CANADIAN SERVICE COLLEGES

An address by Hon. Brooke Claxton,  
Minister of National Defence, at the  
Opening of Royal Military College,  
Kingston, on Monday, September 20, 1948.

The opening of any educational institution is always a great occasion. That this is generally appreciated is shown by the attendance here of heads of universities, the Chiefs of Staff and Chairman of the Defence Research Board, other high ranking officers, outstanding members of this community and particularly graduates of R.M.C.

There is here today also a tie with the foundation of the College in 1876 in the person of the oldest living graduate and the only survivor of the original class of 1876, Major-General A. Bowen Perry, C.M.G. As Number 13 on the College roll, 72 years ago he began here his distinguished career of service and we are happy and honoured to have him with us. At the Royal Military College at Duntroon in Australia I saw the grave of his classmate, Major-General Sir W.T. Bridges, K.C.B., C.M.G., who founded Duntroon. I also saw the Lafferty Cup for athletic competition which Duntroon won in 1938 and which one day you must bring back to Canada.

This is a rebirth as well as the opening of a new educational institution. Until its work as a cadet college was suspended during the war, a total of 2,788 students were numbered on its rolls in these old historic buildings. More than 2,500 saw service on battlefields in every corner of the world. Many gave distinguished service to their country in other ways, in war and in peace.

We renew here a great tradition marked by the resumption of the roll of numbers of the cadets. The last in 1942 was #2828; the first today at Royal Roads is #2829.

I have spoken of tradition. It is something to which we instinctively aspire and which we treasure in our most honoured institutions. You may remember the students' notice board of a western university on which there was this notice, "It is a tradition that freshmen will not walk across the campus. This tradition will begin next Monday". Real traditions are born of steadfast endeavour, and what we want to see here is that all the good and hard-won values that R.M.C. hands down to its newest recruits are cultivated and cherished. The generations of cadets to come will be deeply affected by what you do now.

You are here to continue your education. Education means a good deal more than the acquisition of a skill. Any intelligent person can be taught law, or medicine or military science. This, however,

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