

PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1955.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs today announced the retirement, early in July, of Major General, the Honourable L. R. LaFlèche, Canadian Ambassador to Argentina and Uruguay, and the following transfers within the Canadian Diplomatic Service:

Dr. R. A. MacKay, Associate Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, will succeed Mr. D. M. Johnson as Canadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York, effective August 1. Dr. MacKay will hold the rank of Ambassador. Mr. Johnson will be transferred to another diplomatic post which will be announced later.

Mr. W. D. Matthews, Canadian Minister to Sweden and Finland, will return to Ottawa to become an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs. He will assume his new duties in September. An announcement will be made later regarding Mr. Matthews' successor.

Mr. Benjamin Rogers has been appointed Canadian Ambassador to Peru to succeed Mr. Emile Vaillancourt whose retirement from the Service was announced on March 7, 1955. Mr. Rogers is expected to take up his post in July.

Mr. W. G. Stark has been appointed Consul General in New Orleans and is expected to assume his new duties on September 1. He succeeds Mr. G. A. Newman whose next assignment is to be announced shortly by the Department of Trade and Commerce.

Mr. H. L. E. Priestman has been appointed Consul General in Manila and is expected to take up his post about September 1. He succeeds Mr. F. H. Palmer whose appointment as Consul General in Chicago was announced on February 16.

MAJOR GENERAL THE HONOURABLE LEO RICHER LAFLECHE, D.S.O.

General LaFleche was born in Concordia, Kansas, on April 16, 1888, and was educated at Sorel and Montreal, P.Q. He has received Honorary Degrees from the Universities of Montreal, Ottawa, Athens and Salonika. During the first World War he served in France with the Royal 22nd Regiment and was awarded the D.S.O., and Mentioned in Despatches and was made a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honour. From 1920 to 1939 General LaFleche was a member of the Canadian Government Purchasing Commission. From 1930 to 1932 he served as a member of the Federal Sessions Appeal Court and in 1932 was appointed Deputy Minister of National Defence. In 1940 General LaFleche was appointed Associate Deputy Minister of National War Services, which post he held until he entered the Cabinet as Minister of National War Services in 1942.

General LaFleche became Canada's first Ambassador to Greece in 1945, a post which he held until his appointment as Canadian High Commissioner to Australia in 1949. In April 1952 he was appointed Canadian Ambassador to Argentina and was accredited concurrently as Ambassador to Uruguay in January 1953. He is expected to return to Canada in July. General LaFleche is married and has five children.

ROBERT ALEXANDER MACKAY

Dr. R. A. MacKay was born in Victoria County, Ontario, on January 2, 1894, and graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the University of Toronto in 1920. He obtained a Ph.D. at Princeton University in 1924. During World War I Dr. MacKay served overseas in the Canadian Army, Mentioned in Despatches, 1918. He was an Assistant Professor of Government at Cornell University, 1925-27, and a Professor of Government and Political Science at Dalhousie University, 1927-1943. He served as a member of the Royal Commission on Dominion Provincial Relations from 1937-40. Dr. MacKay was President of the Canadian Political Science Association, 1943-44, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is the author of a number of works on Canadian History and Political Economy, including "The Unreformed Senate of Canada", "Canada Looks Abroad" (with Benjamin Rogers), and "Newfoundland" (with S. A. Saunders, A.M. Fraser and others).

Dr. MacKay joined the Department of External Affairs as a Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1943, was appointed an Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1952, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in January 1954 and Associate Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in August 1954. He served as Deputy Chairman of the committee of officials on Union of Newfoundland with Canada, 1948-49, has attended a number of International Conferences, and has been the External Affairs Member of the Permanent Joint Board on Defence since 1950. Dr. MacKay is married and has four children.

WILMOT DONALD MATTHEWS

Mr. Matthews was born in Toronto on July 2, 1906. He attended the Royal Military College in Kingston, 1923-24, and the University of Toronto, 1925-29, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He attended Osgoode Hall Law School, 1930-33, Mr. Matthews practised law in Toronto between 1933 and 1937 and was a partner of Wills, Bickle and Cayley (Stockbrokers) in Toronto 1937-39. Between 1939 and 1943 he was Supervisor of the Foreign Exchange Control Board in Ottawa.

Mr. Matthews joined the Department of External Affairs as Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1943. He became Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1947 and was appointed Minister at the Canadian Embassy in Washington in 1949 where he served until his appointment as Canadian Minister to Sweden and Finland in October 1952. Mr. Matthews is married and has five children.

EVAN BENJAMIN ROGERS

Mr. Rogers was born at Vernon, British Columbia, on August 3, 1911, and received his early education in Alberton and Charlottetown, P.E.I. He received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1933 and a Master's degree from the University of London (England) in 1935. In 1935-36, he was on the staff of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London. In 1937-38, he was Acting National Secretary of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, Toronto. He joined the Department of External Affairs in 1938 as Third Secretary and has served in diplomatic missions at Canberra, (1939-43), Washington, (1943-44), and Rio de Janeiro, (1944-48). He was Charge d'Affaires at Prague from 1950-52. He has been Head of the Defence Liaison (1) Division of the Department of External Affairs in Ottawa since July 1954.

Mr. Rogers has attended various international conferences and recently headed a small group of officials who visited Canadian diplomatic missions in Asia, Australia and New Zealand. He is co-author, with Dr. R. A. MacKay, of "Canada Looks Abroad" (1938). Mr. Rogers is married and has one child.

WILLIAM GARTHORNE STARK

Mr. Stark was born in Toronto on May 29, 1908, and graduated from the University of Toronto in 1929 as a Bachelor of Commerce. He undertook graduate studies in England and France, 1929-30. He joined the Department of Trade and Commerce as a Trade Commissioner in 1931 and served successively at Brussels (1933-34), London (1934), Rotterdam (1934-38), The Hague (1938-40), and Lima (1940-47). In 1947 Mr. Stark returned to Ottawa as Acting Assistant Director of the Trade Commissioner Service and in April 1948 transferred to the Department of External Affairs. He served as First Secretary at the Canadian Embassy, Rio de Janeiro, from June 1948 until July 1951 when he returned to Ottawa. He has been Head of the Consular Division since November 1953 and prior to that time was in charge of the Latin American Section of the American Division. Mr. Stark is married and has one child.

HENRY LAURENCE EDDEY PRIESTMAN

Mr. Priestman was born in Dublin on January 26, 1894, and is a graduate of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. He served overseas in the Canadian Army during World War I. From 1912 to 1929 Mr. Priestman was employed by the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Vancouver, New York, Trinidad and Ottawa. In 1929 he joined the Trade Commissioner Service and has served abroad at Auckland (1929-36), Sydney (1936-39), London (1945-46), and Dublin (1946-52). During World War II he served on loan with the Foreign Exchange Control Board and the Export Credits Insurance Company. In 1952 Mr. Priestman was appointed Western Representative of the Department of Trade and Commerce in Vancouver. He is married and has three children.