

C192649 *file n*

Mr. Ilsley's desire to resume private practice as a member of the legal profession has been known to me for some time. His decision to take this step was made months ago, and was contemplated over an even longer period. His willingness to remain in office throughout the present session was due to what he felt he owed to parliament and, in particular, to his colleagues in the government, with whom he had been associated in the preparation of the sessional program. The announcement of his intention to retire at the end of June has been occasioned by circumstances which were unforeseen until the hour of Colonel Ralston's death.

There will be general regret throughout Canada that Mr. Ilsley is finding it necessary to retire as a Minister of the Crown. The severance of his connection with the government will be deeply felt by every member of the administration. It is a loss which, irrespective of their political sympathies, will be shared by all members of Parliament.

It is to be hoped that the loss to the country of the services of one of so great ability and integrity and so exceptionally versed in public affairs as is the present Minister of Justice, may help to make the public at large more conscious of the personal sacrifices which not a few of those who are exceptionally qualified to serve their country are called upon to make when they accept and continue to hold high position in the State. Mr. Ilsley's services to Canada as a Minister of the Crown in Canada are known to many countries as well as our own.

*Mr. Ilesley's statement  
May 31/48*

Referring to newspaper stories which had been appearing at various times since the first of the year to the effect that he would soon be appointed a judge, Mr. Ilesley, the Minister of Justice, said today that these were unfounded. It was true, however, that he would be retiring from the Government at the end of June with a view to resuming the practice of law. He would seek admission to the Bar of Quebec and enter the firm of Ralston, Kearney, Duquet & Mackay, of Montreal. The matter had been under discussion by himself and the partners of the firm over a period of months and a decision became necessary upon Colonel Ralston's sudden death.

Mr. Ilesley said that after twenty-two years in public life it was now necessary for him to give attention to his personal affairs and that this was the sole reason for the step he was taking. He deeply regretted the severance of his long connection with a government whose policies he had taken part in shaping and whole-heartedly approved.

Ottawa, 31st May, 1948.