

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1942

The Cabinet and War Service

The tragedy of war has come close home to two members of the Canadian cabinet. It was announced the other day that Hon. J. G. Gardiner had received no word of his son, an ace pilot, since the raid on Dieppe. A prior announcement noted that nothing had been heard of Hon. C. G. Power's son since the fall of Hong Kong.

If anyone thinks of Ottawa as aloof from the war, such an idea is dispelled by a consideration of the service records of cabinet members and their families. All three defence ministers saw service in the war of 1914-18:

Hon. J. L. Ralston, C.M.G., D.S.O. (with bar), minister of national defence, served Canada with distinction in the Great War. His son, Lieut. S. Ralston, has been overseas for a year, serving with a heavy A.A. battery.

Hon. Charles Gavan Power, M.C., minister of defence for air, was one of the heroes of the Great War, twice wounded and finally invalided home. Besides his son, Lieut. Gavan Power, unaccounted for since Hong Kong, he has another son, Pilot Officer W. P. Power, in the R.C.A.F. radio division overseas.

Hon. Angus L. Macdonald, minister of defence for naval services, served with the 25th battalion in the Great War.

But the defence ministers are not the only ones with records of this kind:

Hon. Ian Alistair Mackenzie served overseas with the 72nd battalion in the Great War and was mentioned in dispatches.

Hon. C. D. Howe's son, Sub-Lieut. W. H. Howe, was serving as midshipman on a

British cruiser which was badly damaged at Singapore; was transferred to the cruiser Dorsetshire, and again escaped with his life when it was sunk in the Indian ocean.

Hon. J. G. Gardiner has had no news of his 23-year-old son, Pilot Officer J. E. Gardiner, since the raid on Dieppe.

Hon. W. P. Mulock served with the ammunition column, C.E.F., in Siberia. His son, A.C.1 William Mulock, is in the R.C.A.F.

Hon. Colin W. G. Gibson, M.C., served overseas with the British army, 1914-19; was seriously wounded in 1915 and 1917. His son, Capt. D. Gibson, is in an engineers' unit overseas, and another son, Lieut. C. Gibson, is completing an officers' training course in Canada.

Hon. J. T. Thorson served in France with the B.E.F.

Hon. Humphrey Mitchell served with the British navy in the Great War. His son, Lieut. Humphrey Mitchell, Jr., is with the Canadian Army Pay Corps, and a younger 17-year-old son, Cadet John Mitchell, is in the sea cadets.

Hon. Louis St. Laurent has two sons in uniform, and also his daughter, Captain Madeline St. Laurent, of the Canadian Women's Army Corps. Lieut. Renault St. Laurent is in the R.C.N. corvette service, and Lieut. Jean Paul St. Laurent is in the reserves.

It is fitting to add that Capt. H. Lapointe, M.P., on active service with the Chaudiere regiment, is a son of the late Rt. Hon. Ernest Lapointe, so long a distinguished member of the administration.

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