

ADDRESS
OF
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE CLEMENT R. ATTLEE, C.H., M.P.,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
TO
MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBER, OTTAWA,
ON
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1945

*Mr. Attlee was welcomed by Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada,
and thanked by the Hon. James H. King, Speaker of the Senate, and
Hon. Gaspard Fauteux, Speaker of the House of Commons.*

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister of Canada): Mr. Speaker of the Senate, Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons, honourable members of both Houses of Parliament: Canada is much honoured by the presence in our capital to-day of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the Right Hon. Clement R. Attlee. When in the course of my recent visit to England I learned from Mr. Attlee that he had accepted the invitation of the President of the United States, Mr. Truman, to visit him at Washington, I expressed to Mr. Attlee the hope that he might find it possible, before his return to Britain, to pay a visit also to Ottawa. I was delighted to receive an immediate acceptance of this invitation.

I mentioned to Mr. Attlee our hope that, while in Ottawa, he would be willing to address the members of both houses of parliament. This suggestion he assured me he would also be pleased to meet. Mr. Attlee is with us this afternoon in fulfilment of his promise. His address is to be broadcast to all parts of Canada and overseas.

I have already, on behalf of the Canadian people, extended to Mr. Attlee, as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, a very warm welcome to Canada. I should now like, on behalf of the parliament of Canada, to express to him the great pleasure it affords the members of both houses to have the honour of meeting him and of being addressed by him this afternoon.

Perhaps, before I call on Mr. Attlee to speak, he will permit me to say how pleased I am to be again with my fellow members of parliament, after an absence of seven weeks, and especially after the memorable visits I have just made to England and to the United States.

I should like immediately to express to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom my warm appreciation of the many courtesies extended to me by him and by other members of the British government during my sojourn in London. The exceptional opportunities afforded of conference with Mr. Attlee and his colleagues, as well as with members of the opposition and with others, enabled me to gain a much wider knowledge of existing conditions in the United Kingdom and other parts of Europe, and of to-day's world problems. For Britain and for her people of Britain my visit has given me a greater admiration than ever. The courage and determination they displayed throughout the long years of war have never been surpassed. Their fortitude and endurance in seeking to-day to overcome the privations caused by the devastation of war and to meet situations resulting from its horrors, are equally heroic, and evoke feelings of the deepest sympathy and respect.

I should like also to say to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom how much it meant to me, as Prime Minister of Canada, to share with him in the conferences with the President of the United States on the question of atomic energy and problems which this discovery has presented to the world.

It is too soon to say more than a word of the agreement reached at Washington. I believe the initiative taken by the representatives of the three countries which possess the knowledge essential to the use of atomic energy to see that the new discovery shall be used for the benefit of mankind, and not as a means of destruction, should go far towards creating conditions of mutual trust which alone can rid the world of its worst fears, and secure for nations an enduring peace. I am more than ever convinced that in the continued