

selves and them. As I have said, we are all pleased to see him back, and we shall look forward with interest to a statement from him giving his impressions of the international scene as he has been permitted to view it during the last six or seven weeks.

Mr. M. J. COLDWELL (Rosetown-Biggar): May I just say that in this instance the leader of the opposition speaks on behalf of our party as well.

Mr. SOLON E. LOW (Peace River): This party also joins with the leader of the opposition in his welcome to the Prime Minister.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do thank my hon. friend the leader of the opposition most warmly for his exceedingly kind welcome so felicitously expressed, and may I at the same time thank with equal warmth the leader of the C.C.F. party and the leader of the Social Credit party for joining, as they have, and on behalf of those they represent, with the leader of the opposition in his words of welcome. I thank all hon. members for the hearty manner in which they have responded to the greetings of the leader of the opposition. It is indeed a joy to me to be back in Canada. I should like to take advantage of this first moment to renew my thanks to the members of the House of Commons for having permitted me, while the house was in session, to have the advantages which the trip I have just taken to England and to the United States has afforded. I should also like to express warmest thanks for the greetings which have been extended to me outside the House of Commons as well as within since my return by members of different parties. I do not know which to regard as the greater compliment, the readiness to have me leave or the welcome with which I have been received since my return.

As my hon. friend who was leading the house mentioned last night, I think it would probably best suit the convenience of all were I to give to hon. members some account of the impressions gained in the last few weeks when we are considering the estimates of the Department of External Affairs. That may be arranged for some time in the very near future. Similarly, I think it would be best to speak also at that time on the all-important question of atomic energy. However, I should like to avail myself immediately of the opportunity to express in the presence of my fellow members to-day the thanks which I feel I owe to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and to the British government for the opportunities which they afforded me while in Britain for

[Mr. Bracken.]

conference not only with members of the present administration but with members of the opposition and with others as well. In addition to the Prime Minister I feel particularly grateful to Lord Addison, the leader of the House of Lords and Secretary of State for the Dominions, and to Mr. Ernest Bevin, the Minister of Foreign Affairs. With these gentlemen I was privileged to have very intimate conversations on matters of general and wide interest.

I should also like to express equally warmly my appreciation of the great kindness and many courtesies extended to me by the President of the United States, Mr. Truman, by the Secretary of State, Mr. Byrnes, and other members of the administration, in the course of my visit to Washington, at the same time as that of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. I may say to my hon. friends I do believe the visit which Prime Minister Attlee and I had together at Washington was not only of great service to the three countries represented at the conferences we had with the President of the United States, but will prove to have been of real service to the world itself. Certainly I feel very strongly that the conferences in England and in Washington have helped, if such were needed at this time, to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the peoples of the British commonwealth of nations and of the United States. I am sure that nothing in this world is more needed for the preservation of peace itself than the maintenance of the relations that were so firmly established between those peoples at a time of war, and their continuation throughout the period of post-war reconstruction.

CONDITIONS IN EUROPE

FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER—PLIGHT OF CHILDREN—QUESTION OF REFUGEE IN CANADA

On the orders of the day:

Mrs. GLADYS STRUM (Qu'Appelle): I should like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. I am sorry that I did not have a chance to give him notice of this question. In view of the appalling conditions prevailing in Europe, and the certainty of death from starvation facing millions of children there, what steps are being taken to give refuge to the children of the stricken countries and bring them to this country?

Hon. BROOKE CLAXTON (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I do not know that the question properly falls within the scope of the ministry of National Health