

Japan before the war and is a specialist in far eastern affairs. He will act in place of Mr. L. B. Pearson, the official Canadian representative on the commission, who will not be able to leave his post as Canadian ambassador in Washington for the time required for this visit to Japan.

Colonel L. M. Cosgrove of the trade commissioner service, has been appointed as economic consultant to the Canadian representative. Colonel Cosgrove served for many years as a trade commissioner in the far east and has more recently been military attache at Canberra.

May I say a word with respect to China. The sense of relief experienced by all the united nations with the final surrender of Japan was surely nowhere felt more profoundly than in long-suffering China. To that great country it brought not only release from over eight years of war—indeed from fourteen years of continuous resistance—but a removal of the shadow of Japanese domination that had marked many more years of uncertainty and fear. We may well recall at this time the debt of gratitude the world owes to China for her resistance in those early days when she was willing to withstand the might of Japan. By a happy coincidence, on the very day when Japan signed the formal surrender terms in Tokyo bay, the Premier of China was the guest of our government, and as Prime Minister I was able to express to Dr. Soong Canada's congratulations and thanks, and to assure him of Canada's continued aid as China addressed herself to her tasks of reconstruction.

Canada with the other united nations looks with expectation and hope to China as she takes up her task of economic reconstruction and political development. Her leaders are fully aware that the task will not be without difficulties. News of recent days indicate a political condition yet unsettled and disturbed. At this stage we can only affirm our confidence that the Chinese people will be able satisfactorily to solve their own internal problems. Good neighbours and far-off friends alike must be united in the hope that she may be completely successful in attaining the unity and strength that will enable her to take her place as a bulwark among the peace-loving and democratic nations of the world.

My hon. friend asks specifically with regard to the regional council in the Pacific. The government's policy has been to keep in touch with all these matters that relate to the Pacific as they have come up for consideration, but we have not thus far decided that it is advisable for us to become members of a regional council. It may be that the develop-

ments which will take place within the next short time will show the wisdom of Canada being a member of the regional council, but I think we have much to gain and nothing to lose by not taking too immediate a step in regard to what is most advisable in the intricate situation which exists at the present time in the Pacific.

Mr. GREEN: I also asked the Prime Minister the attitude of the government toward a united nations trusteeship of Japanese possessions.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: There is really nothing I can say at the present time about it, and it is felt that it would be unwise to make any particular statement on that subject at the present time.

Mr. MacINNIS: I have a few remarks to make on a specific point and, perhaps, a few questions to ask to which, I think, a great many people in Canada would like to get fairly specific answers from the Prime Minister. Before I do that, however, I wish to associate myself with the points made by the hon. member for Vancouver South in regard to the unsatisfactory condition in which we find ourselves with this Department of External Affairs; indeed, it applies also to a great many other departments. We have to go back to our homes without having an opportunity of getting information on many points which we would like to have clarified. Perhaps, however, the blame for this state of affairs does not rest with the government alone. It rests with the government for having failed to take the initiative in arranging the business of this house so that we can deal with matters with more satisfaction and more dispatch; but in my opinion, it must have the support of the opposition side of the house. I hope that when another session comes around, one of the first things we shall do will be so to arrange the work of the house that we shall deal more with practical matters rather than make speeches which in the end do not amount to anything anyway.

The Prime Minister said in another debate the other day that external affairs were of tremendous importance, that almost every subject we discussed to-day touches our affairs with other countries. I agree. May I say here that I was extremely glad when the Prime Minister found time earlier in the session—perhaps he did not find time; he just took it—to go to Great Britain and acquaint himself with many things at first hand. We criticize him, and we are going to continue to do so, but I admit that I felt somewhat relieved when he took that trip, because I

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]