Conference Discusses Place of Padre in RCAF

The first R.C.A.F. chaplains' conference to be held in Canada since outbreak of war took place in Toronto yesterday when sixteen chaplains of No. 1 Air Training Command met to discuss problems peculiar to the chaplain service of the air force. Two guests present were Squadron Leader G. W. J. Gregson, of Rogers Flying School, Kingston, and Squadron Leader A. V. N. Bradshaw, of the Navigation School, Goderich, both members of the R.A.F.

The morning session took the form of a joint conference at the Military Institute, University Avenue, with military chaplains of No. 2 District. Speakers were Major-General C. F. Constantine, Officer Commanding Military District No. 2; Air Commodore G. E. Brookes, and Right Rev. Colonel G. A. Wells, Principal Chaplain, who has just returned from a three-months' tour of Britain.

The R.C.A.F. chaplains held their own session at the Church of England Board Room, Jarvis Street, in the afternoon. Devotions were conducted by the Very Rev. Dr. G. C. Pidgeon. Papers were presented by Flight Lieut. G. O. Lightbourn, No. 1 Manning Depot; Flight Lieut. G. W. Porter, Technical Training School, St. Thomas; Flight Lieut. W. J. Province, Central Flying School, Trenton; and Flight Lieut. Ernest Harston, Camp Borden.

Subjects discussed were "Place of the Padre in the Life of the Station," "Church Parades or Voluntary Services," "Personal Problems," and "Conducting a Service Funeral."

Bishop Wells told the afternoon session of the impressions gathered during his stay in Britain. Everywhere in England he found the spirit of confidence and supreme courage, he said. Canadians are everywhere held in the highest esteem, he declared.

"They have made wonderful preparations to receive unwelcome visitors," said Bishop Wells.

Squadron Leader John McNab, command chaplain, presided at the afternoon session and summed up the discussions in a closing address.