

Dominion match won were the work of Mr. H. Blatchley.

The best of feeling existed amongst all the service bowlers during the tournament.

President Urquhart was a delighted man at the success of the C. S.

THE PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE EMPIRE.

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the society of our Parliament and of our legislators for a single month, much less than the 18 months which I contemplate in my trip. But there would be a counterbalancing advantage in regard to acquaintance with the Empire with which they have to deal.

The Work of the Conference.

To pass from that, I notice that you have—of course I know that you have—solid and practical topics to deal with on this occasion. You come here on no coffee-housing tour. You have come to see the old home and to do much practical work. I have looked at the list of your topics, and I must say it is with a feeling of sensible relief that I saw that tariff reform was not among them. It is not, of course, that I doubt that that interesting topic would have been exhaustively dealt with; but I understand it is desired that this should be a peaceful Conference, and perhaps it is as well with that object that that particular topic should be eliminated. Then we come to the question of the closer communication between the Empire. That is one of the most vital of all. It is perfectly certain that if you are to build up the Empire or a triple Empire

bound up in one, as I think it is — if you are to build up an Empire you can only do it by the freest knowledge of each other's wants and ideas; that the whole opinion and the thought of the Empire, which should circulate like blood through the body politic, should, like blood, chiefly circulate from the heart. I remember when I was travelling about trying to make myself acquainted with these great dominions; when I was in Australia, which I am sorry to say I computed to-day was 25 years ago, I thought that cricket bulked a little too largely in the news that reached me from the ancient country; and I remember when I was in Canada, which I am ashamed to say is even a longer time ago, some 30 years, I thought that the news that reached Canada from the Mother Country did not somehow pass through a wholly favorable and friendly channel. Well, of course, all that is changed now. I do not know the existing state of things, but I am quite certain that no such abuse exists as I remember on that occasion. But if you want to bind the Empire close together your first and your main means must be by the cheapest methods of communication. The unwearied Mr. Henniker Heaton has sent me some very interesting papers bearing on this subject, but I do not think they are suited for an occasion such as this, but are more for your serious discussions in conference. I pass, then, from the question of communication, merely making this remark in passing—no one can have lived as long as I have without seeing the enormous improvement in our British Press with regard to news from the Empire beyond the seas. Thirty or forty years ago you were satisfied with the jejune announcement that some Prime Minister, whose name you had never heard of, in some place