

Imperial Press Conference will be great and lasting; but what are to be the direct results to the newspapers themselves? There is the reduction of the cable rates from Great Britain to India, South Africa and Australia from one shilling to nine pence, which means that there will be a twenty-five per cent. increase in cable news sent to these Dominions. Then there is the creation of a permanent cable committee to secure, where possible, further concessions. The greatest outcome will doubtless be the creation of the Empire Press Association. The first steps to this end were taken at a joint meeting of the executives of the overseas delegation and the British Committee held at the conclusion of the Conference; and a committee is now at work in England reducing the proposal to terms. Every daily newspaper in the Empire will be invited to join; and the papers of each Dominion, thus joining, will be organized into a branch. It is proposed to have permanent headquarters with a paid secretariat in London. This means inevitably an Imperial news service that will be worth while. There will be a governing body which, among other things, will decide where and when the next Imperial Press Conference will be held. It was thoroughly agreed by all that the Imperial Press Conference of 1909 is not to be the last, though in certain respects it is not probable that it will ever be duplicated.

At the meeting, which reached this decision, there was some discussion about the place of future meetings. Many of the overseas representatives favored holding all future conferences in London on the ground that it was the actual centre of the Empire; but the British journalists were all favorable to the idea of meeting in turn in outlying parts of the Empire if suitable arrangements could be made. The possibility of meeting in Winnipeg in 1912 upon the occasion of the International Fair was discussed; and it was agreed that action would have to await the formation of the Canadian branch of the proposed Empire Press Association. If this organization, after looking into the matter, decides that it is practicable to hold such a conference in 1912, it is to make a formal proposition to the governing body of the general association which will deal with it, no doubt, favorably. If the Fair is held in 1912, which is daily becoming more probable, the Imperial Press Conference can doubtless be brought here by the hearty co-operation of the authorities with the Canadian newspapers.