

and speedy transfer of, and dealing with, property. The conference, which was held at Liverpool, was one of the most successful on record—the president's address, and the seventeen papers that followed it, covering a wide range of subjects, exciting a considerable amount of discussion. The writer then proceeds:—

“The Council Chamber at the Town Hall, where the conference was held, was crowded when the Lord Mayor rose to welcome the members of the society to Liverpool. His lordship, who had committed his remarks to paper, referred to lawyers in terms far more complimentary than laymen are accustomed to use, and took advantage of the opportunity to trace the history of Liverpool and to dilate upon its greatness.

The presidential address delivered by Mr. Budd—who, as a commercial lawyer, made a most fitting chairman of a gathering of lawyers in a mercantile centre like Liverpool—was unusually long; its delivery occupied an hour and twenty minutes, but its lucidity and suggestiveness fully atoned for its exceptional length. His brief reference to the legislation of the past year was distinguished by an expression of a desire that the day was not far distant when there would be a general codification of the law. He summarized the arguments that may be urged against a compulsory system of registration of land, and repeated the demand, made last year by Mr. John Hunter at Bristol, that the Government should appoint a committee to consider the whole subject of the transfer of land—a demand the reasonableness of which nobody has ever been found to question. Referring to the report of the committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the working of the Companies Acts, Mr. Budd expressed a general approval of its recommendations, and, amid the applause of the assembly, singled out for approbation the proposal that directors should be made personally liable if, on behalf of their company, they incurred debts which they had no reasonable prospect of meeting. He alluded with special satisfaction to the growing numbers of university men in the ranks of solicitors. But the part of his address which attracted the greatest amount of attention was that dealing with the subject of legal procedure, his remarks upon which were frequently interrupted by cheers, and were occasionally productive of laughter. It was noticeable that the president's references to “the unedifying spectacle of counsel holding briefs in cases they cannot possibly give atten-