

# THE IMPERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE.

## SIR HARRY BRITTAIN'S TRIBUTE TO CANADA.

The happiest impressions of the Imperial Press Conference in Canada have been brought home by Sir Harry Brittain, M.P. Sir Harry was the originator and organiser of the first Imperial Press Conference in 1909 and is the only honorary member of the Empire Press Union. He went to the second Conference as Chairman of the Arrangements Committee, returning to London after the completion of the business of the Conference at Ottawa.

In an interview yesterday with a representative of THE OBSERVER he said: "What impressed me most of all was the absolutely overwhelming welcome which was given to us not only by the entire Press of Canada but also by every section of citizens from the Premier downwards. This great welcome commenced in Sydney, Nova Scotia, where not only the town but every ship in the harbour was beflagged in our honour, and was continued if possible on an ever-increasing scale as the journey went on. From what I learned before I left the West has prepared an equally wonderful celebration on the Pacific slope, and Quebec is going to see to it that the final send-off in September will be a magnificent wind up to a most notable tour.

"Editors of Canada's leading papers came from such distances as Vancouver and Winnipeg to greet us on the Atlantic seaboard, the distance in the one case being farther than we had come from England. At every station at which we stopped, even for a few minutes, half the town seemed to be assembled, and dozens of motor cars were waiting to run the delegates round, if only for a ten minutes' tour.

"The Premier returned especially from the West to greet us at Ottawa, and no one was more interested in the proceedings than his Excellency the Governor-General, who had acted on two occasions—at Chatsworth and Buxton—as the host of the first conference in 1909.

"Lord Burnham made an absolutely ideal president of the delegation, and his tact and genial personality won golden opinions on every side. The perfect arrangements made by the Canadian committee, under Lord Atholstan, and by all taking part was on the very highest scale of Canadian organisation and hospitality.

"The conference was carried through in the most businesslike manner, and many results most useful to the Press and the Empire will undoubtedly accrue from it. And, as was the case in the first conference, the indirect results will be far more important even than those of a direct character. The knowledge gained of the Dominion by a hundred leading newspaper men from every part of the Empire will be invaluable in the future, and the conference, besides, will of necessity tend to a closer co-operation between the moulders of opinion in every part of the Empire who during this wonderful tour will have so thoroughly learned to know one another.

"Then again the enormous enthusiasm which has been aroused and is being aroused by the tour from the Atlantic to the Pacific will bring home to the minds of all taking part in it as well as to the whole of Canada, what the Empire really means.

"Naturally I appreciated very deeply the great honour conferred upon me by the University of McGill, in the form of an honorary degree of LL.D., for services in connection with the creation of the first conference. This ceremony at Montreal was rendered especially interesting by the fact that it was the first at McGill over which General Sir Arthur Currie, the new Principal, had presided.

"There is no doubt," Sir Harry added, "that these conferences under the ægis of the Empire Press Union, will become a permanent institution. Whether they will be held in one Dominion after the other, or alternately in a Dominion and in the Mother Country is a point to be decided, but succeeding conferences will now undoubtedly follow and will probably take place every four years."