

THE IMPERIAL
PRESS CONFERENCE
IN CANADA

**THE IMPERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE
IN CANADA**

CANADA : A SISTER NATION

“ Canada, like all the other British Dominions, played a very big part in the Great War, and has consequently entered the partnership of nations by affixing her signature to all the Peace Treaties. This means that the old idea of an Empire, a mother country surrounded by daughter states, is entirely obsolete now, and has long been left behind by the British Empire. Our Empire has taken a new and far grander form. It exists as a single state or commonwealth, composed of sister nations of different origins and of different languages. Great Britain, it is true, is the oldest of these nations, but the British Dominions have grown up to be her equals, and Great Britain is only one part of the whole. Consequently I regard myself as belonging to Canada in exactly the same way as I belong to Great Britain and to the other British Dominions.”—*Prince of Wales in address to the Canadian Club at Ottawa, November 8th, 1919.*



J. Russell & Sons, London.

VISCOUNT BURNHAM, C.H.

President of the Second Imperial Press Conference and of the Empire Press Union.

[Frontispiece

**THE IMPERIAL
PRESS CONFERENCE
IN CANADA**

ROBERT DONALD, LL.D.

CHAIRMAN OF THE EMPIRE PRESS UNION

FOREWORD BY

VISCOUNT BURNHAM, C.H.

PRESIDENT OF THE SECOND IMPERIAL PRESS CONFERENCE

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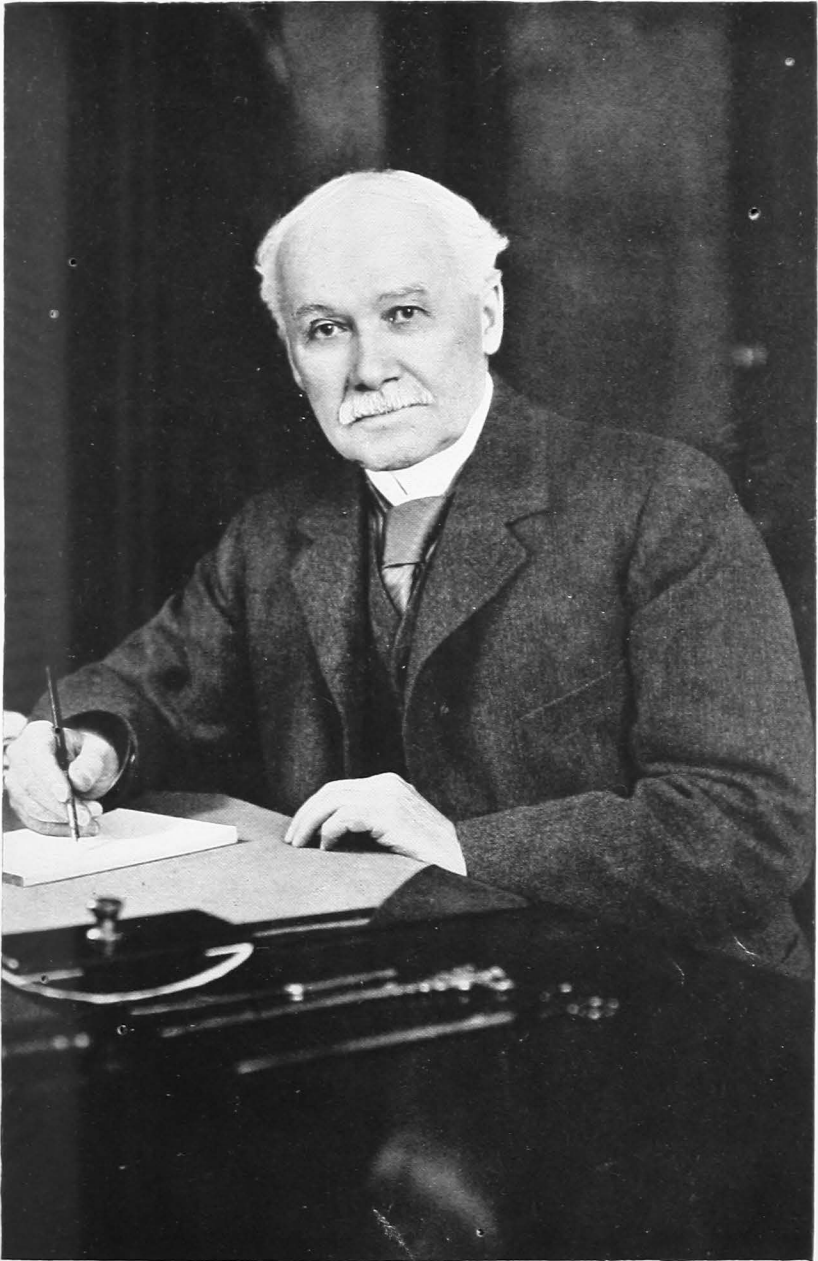
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LORD ATHOLSTAN.
Chairman of the Canadian Press Committee.



Speight.

VISCOUNTESS BURNHAM.

FOREWORD

BY VISCOUNT BURNHAM, C.H.

President of the Second Imperial Press Conference

My friend and colleague, Mr. Robert Donald, has told in the pages that follow the tale of the Second Imperial Press Conference in so terse and vivid a manner that it needs no preface to condense its meaning. Our experience was so vast and various that it seemed to be the very epitome of Canadian life. Above all, we were able to establish on the best and surest foundations the friendship and solidarity of the Newspaper Press throughout the Empire by close companionship and mutual understanding. In one of his Essays Emerson speaks of the England of his day as being "the vanguard of civility and power." In our time we feel that the compliment has a wider range, and had he been writing now he would surely, for all the patriotic pride of his American citizenship, have extended it to all the self-governing dominions of the British Crown.

• Comradeship and power were the striking notes of our reception from one shore of the far-spread Dominion to the other—the comradeship not only of our profession, but of our common loyalties, and the power, both of the Newspaper Press of Canada and of the strenuous and straining communities that make up its continental state. It is not easy to define the sense of comradeship by which we felt inspired from the very beginning of our grand tour. It was not confined

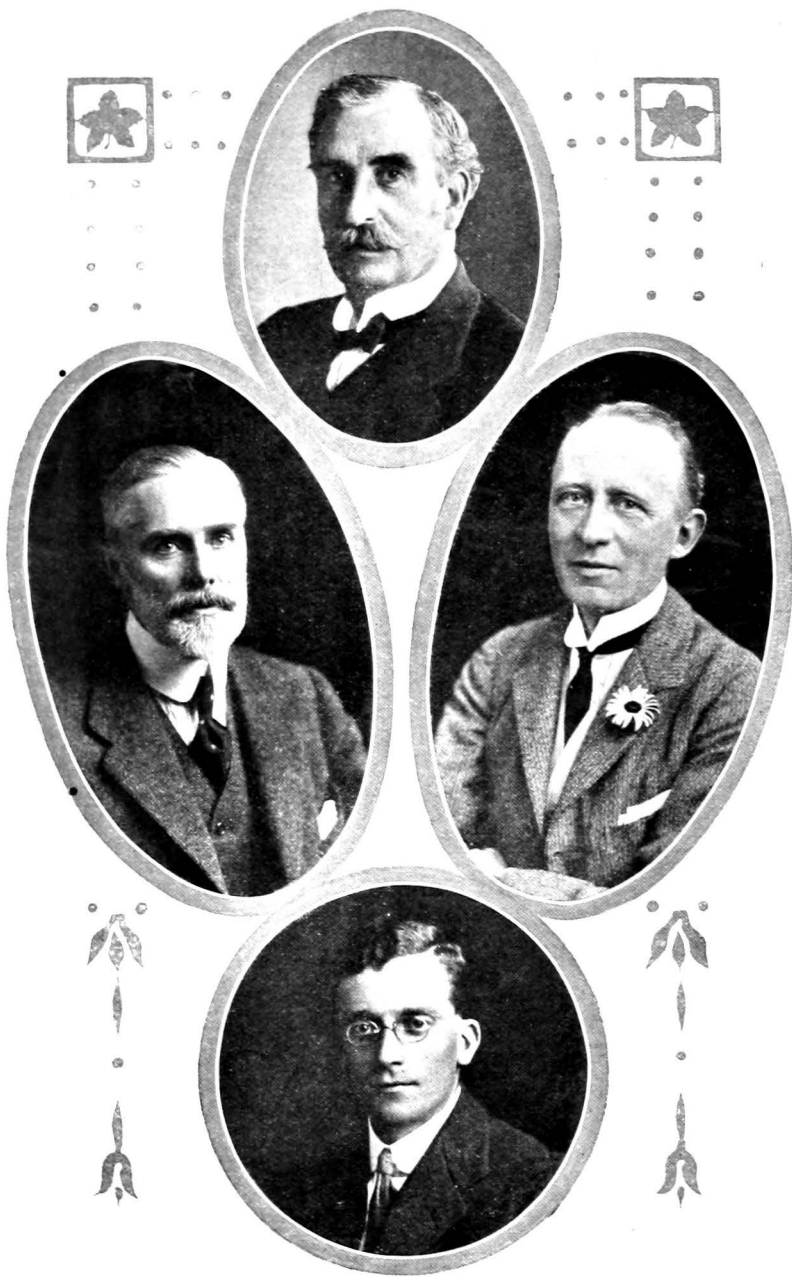
to our fellow journalists and newsmen—to use the old term—who organized it with almost uncanny efficiency. It pervaded the official circles of Dominion and Provincial Governments; it showed itself in the greetings of the civic and academic authorities, who everywhere received us with open arms; it seemed to animate in like measure the constant companies of plain citizens, who met us at every halting-place and spent their time and taste so lavishly in making us enjoy every minute of our train-bound sojourn in their midst. All that we had heard of Canadian hospitality and all that we had been led to expect was far exceeded in the realization. Whilst we were in Canada we were the spoilt children of the Empire, but what impressed itself most upon our minds was that in the warmth of our welcome to all the nine provinces there was no pretence and no pretentiousness. It was everywhere alike hearty, simple, and sincere. We always felt at home, and we nowhere felt away from home. Canada loves its homes, and we learnt to love them too. •

The Imperial Press Conference rose to the full stature of its importance and its opportunities. Opened by the Governor-General, the Duke of Devonshire, and officially blessed and praised by the Prime Minister of the Dominion and by the leader of His Majesty's Opposition, it transacted its business amid all the circumstantial dignity of the new Parliament House at Ottawa, and with all the proper provisions for useful and orderly discussion of the many subjects with which the Newspaper Press of the Empire is directly and legitimately concerned. Although there were no formal rules of procedure, like the House of Lords we kept our own order, and not once had the President to use the disciplinary powers that in our Parliamentary Empire are customarily assumed to be

vested in the Chair. The resolutions proposed had all been drafted by the different delegations in committee, and the debates were of living interest shaped to the healthiest issues. For its purposes and within its limits the Conference was truly a Federal Parliament, in which groups of representatives from all the Dominions and Colonies took their appointed place, and it was soon found that no resolution would bind the whole unless it had been framed with due safeguards for autonomous arrangements. The main difference between the first and the second Conference was that in the former the matters of most urgent importance were brought before the members from outside, whereas in the second they originated and were dealt with inside by the members themselves. Thus, as a proof of the personal abilities of pressmen the second Conference may possibly be accounted for more in its intrinsic value when the history of the Newspaper Press is adequately written. Wise and eloquent speeches were made by several Canadian Ministers, but these were not to be compared on the same plane with the prophetic utterances of Lord Rosebery and Lord Roberts in 1909. The discussions related more to the technical and vocational interests of the newspapers last year than at the London Conference, and general politics were designedly kept out of the Agenda Paper. This does not mean that the delegates did not have abundant opportunities of hearing, both in public speeches and in private conversation, the views and opinions of the statesmen of Canada on all the problems of Imperial Government and local administration. From the constitutional status of the Privy Council as the final Court of Appeal to the vital necessity of removing the embargo on the importation into this country of Canadian live stock we

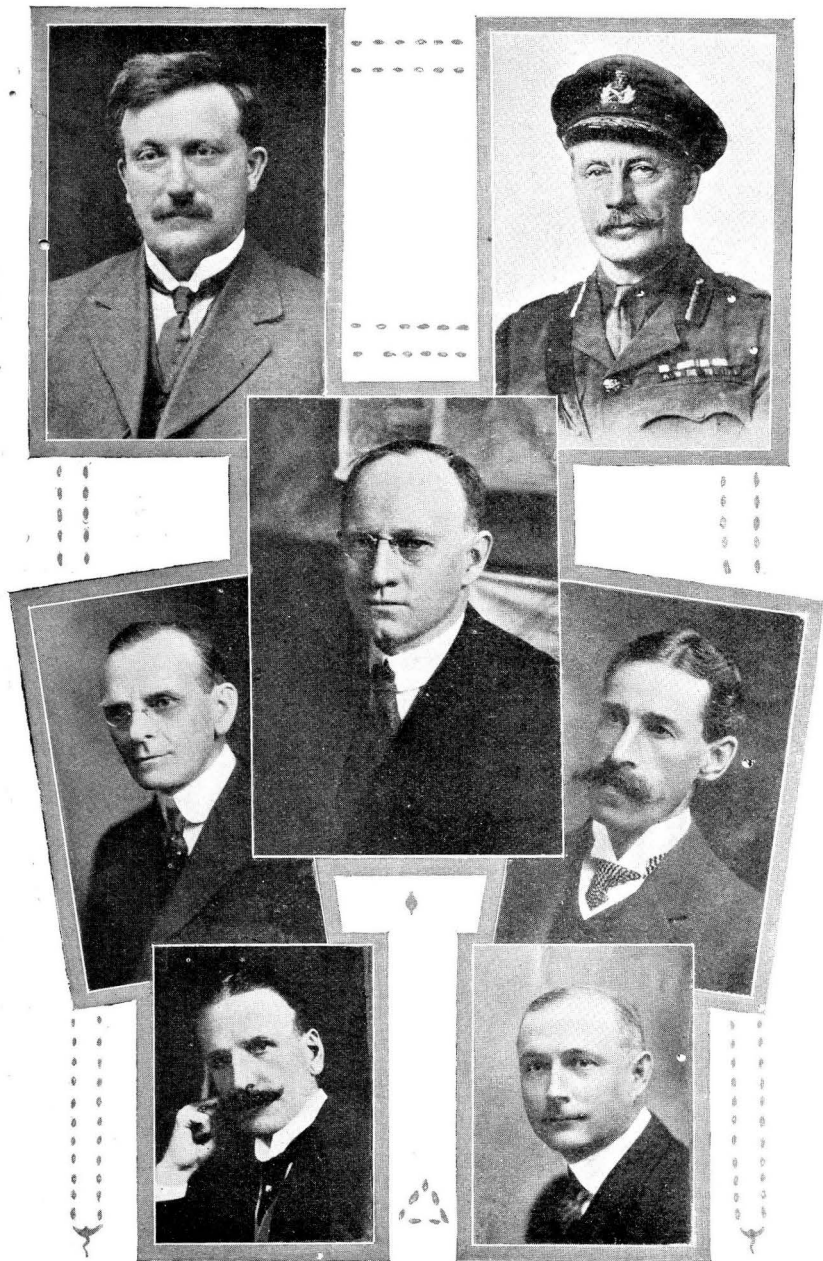
thrashed out all the public questions of the day *usque ad unguem*. But this went on outside the four walls of the Conference, and the deliberations of the Conference began and ended with the freedom and progress of the Press.

No doubt the success of the Conference and of the pilgrimage was only made possible by the finest art of organization on the part of all concerned—the newspapers, the railroads, and the Governments of the Dominion; yet to us who were its passive agents it seemed to be the very soul of spontaneity. Such a combination of goodwill centred on a common purpose was irresistible. It was the perfection of kindness and fellow-feeling in the moulding of fate that excelled itself and established a record which is not likely to be matched. We tender our heartiest thanks to Lord Atholstan and all his associates, first and foremost; but we do not forget to offer our tribute of grateful admiration to the rulers and to the people, both of British Canada and of French Canada, to that Canadian nation in fine which embraces them both in its ample and sustaining bosom and draws from both its illimitable strength. Thanks and again much thanks.



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1. MR. ROBERT DONALD, LL.D. (Chairman of Empire Press Union). 2. MR. F. CROSBIE ROLES (Hon. Secretary, Chairman, India and Far East Delegation). 3. SIR HARRY BRITAIN, LL.D., M.P. (Hon. Life Member of Empire Press Union, Chairman of Union's Arrangements Committee). 4. MR. H. E. TURNER (Secretary of Empire Press Union and Secretary of Conference).



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1. MR. J. W. DAFOE ("Manitoba Free Press"). 2. MAJOR-GENERAL SIR DAVID WATSON, K.C.B., C.M.G., etc. ("Quebec Chronicle"). 3. MR. J. E. ATKINSON ("Toronto Daily Star"). 4. MR. C. F. CRANDALL ("Montreal Star," Hon. Secretary of Canadian Press Executive Committee and Organizer of Tour). 5. MR. P. D. ROSS ("Ottawa Journal"). 6. HON. FRANK CARREL ("Quebec Telegraph"). 7. MR. W. J. TAYLOR ("Sentinel-Review," Woodstock, Ontario).

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