

apprentice in the counting-room at such an early age that no time was left him in which to acquire a general education. By slow steps he learned every detail of the office in which he was employed, but such knowledge was not readily adaptable to another office in the same line of trade. He was trained rigorously in methods, but lacked that knowledge of principles which alone fits men to grapple successfully with the ever-shifting conditions of business life.

There are here and there conservative establishments where the old apprenticeship plan still obtains, but these are few. The revolutionizing of business methods within the past decade, the vast scale on which business is conducted, the necessary attention to details and the division of responsibility call for a degree of intelligence beyond that required in years gone by. Tested knowledge must be carried into the business establishment by the youth just as the lawyer, the doctor, or the clergyman must carry into his profession the acquisitions of his scholastic course. Hence the need of the business school to equip young men and young women for business life.

The extraordinary growth of German trade and commerce is to be attributed to the superior education of the German youth. His education is general and special. If in Canada we may hope to occupy a respectable place in the family of commercial peoples we must see to it that our young men are trained specially as well as generally for their life work.

Some parents think that an Arts

course is ample preparation for a young man entering commercial life. In this they err. The possession of a liberal education to a young man beginning business life is great, but a specialized training in the theory and practice of business is much greater. The ideal would be realized in the union of the two. In some countries three or four years are spent in acquiring a commercial education, while a few Canadian business schools require attendance for as many months.

To broaden commercial education and to raise its standard in Canada there was formed in the City of Hamilton some three or four years ago, by the leading men in the profession, an association known as the Business Educators' Association of Canada. The functions exercised by the organization are akin to those of a university. A standard is set by the association and examinations are held under its authority in a score of affiliated colleges, each of which must provide standard commercial and shorthand courses and submit its students for final examination to a board elected annually by the general association. No school is permitted to issue its own certificate and retain membership. The association reserves to itself this right, and candidates are at stated periods sent up from all parts of Canada to write for the diploma of the association. A board of examiners, composed of the principals of representative business colleges, prepares the examination papers and examines the candidates' work. These examiners report to the registrar (an inde-