

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' BENEFITS.

The course which is being urged upon the Commercial Travellers' Association, as to the alteration of their mortuary scheme, by Mr. Fielding and those members who think with him is not approved by the more careful and thoughtful among the body. Mr. J. C. Black, a shrewd and experienced business man, long treasurer of the Association, has reviewed the changes proposed and shows their unfairness. Not alone the actuary of the society, but the actuary of the Canada Life and the Government actuary have condemned them. And still the canvass for votes in favor of the "new blood" (as the officers are described who hope to carry out Mr. Fielding's or Mr. Hopwood's schemes, or both), goes on. The president of the body, Mr. Thomas McQuillan, has asked that the report of the actuary, dated 7th December, "be read and considered by every member with an open mind, in order that what is best, and that which will make for permanency in our Association, shall be decided upon?" In this report, of which we have seen a copy, Mr. Bradshaw makes the following apt comparison in paragraph 38, a paragraph which ought to commend itself to any business man:

"Mr. Fielding's and Mr. Hopwood's schemes may be likened to a merchant buying goods on the longest possible credit, selling these goods much below cost, and paying off with the proceeds only those creditors who are most pressing and insistent, and making no provision whatever for the others. The mortuary benefits of the Association are bought by your members by annual payments. The creditors, or members of the Association, are depending that when their mortuary benefits will fall due, whenever that may be—1, 5, 10, 20, 30, or even 50 years hence—they will be liquidated in full, and not that the management have improperly taken their monies and misapplied them in order to meet the earliest and most pressing claims which have occurred. Inasmuch, therefore, as both Mr. Fielding's and Mr. Hopwood's schemes propose to sell mortuary benefits materially below cost, the result will be that an unfair preference will be established for those members who die early, at the expense and loss of the rank and file of the membership of the Association."



BOOK REVIEWS.

Principal Grant. By William Lawson Grant and Frederick Hamilton. Toronto: Morang & Co., Limited, 1904.—That there should be a biography of George Monro Grant, Principal of Queen's University, was inevitable. He had borne so large a part in movements of great public moment, and had shown from earlier years so great faith in the future of Canada, and power of inspiring others with that faith, that his friends and admirers felt that here was a life that should be worthily written. And this has been done. The present volume of 521 pages is a satisfying record of his best achievement as well as a comprehensive outline of his character. Of the collaborators in this production one is the Principal's son, the other a Queen's College graduate who understood and loved Grant. This intimacy and insight into the character of the man is what makes the charm of the book. No one who knew Grant well could fail to love him, to respect him, to believe in him. It is stated in the preface that the rule of the writers of this biography was that the subject should speak for himself; and this has been adhered to as far as possible. But elucidation was often necessary, and this has been well done. There is, besides just enough of incident and anecdote to heighten the interest in the subject of the book without detracting from its dignity. To quote from it is a temptation which must be sparingly indulged; but not to quote from it would be to fail to give our readers a notion of its attractiveness. To some, his earlier college scenes and his life in Halifax will appeal; to others, his better known and wider activities in Ontario and beyond.

The writer of this notice recalls how when living in Glasgow, and being invited on one Saturday afternoon of 1875 to go and play cricket in the grounds of the then new

Glasgow University, he was asked, when it was learned that he came from Canada: "Do you know Grant?"—as if there were only one of the name, and he acknowledged with pride that he did. "Man," said the then first man of the year, "I have been hearing of him ever since I studied here. He must have been an extraordinary fellow." The traditions of the University accorded Grant the first place in football, in hare-and-hounds, in anything that proved an outlet for his superabundant physical energy. And, it was learned later, he had left the impress of a generous, helpful, manly spirit in any department of indoor study or of outdoor activity.

In analyzing his personality, Mr. Hamilton says, with much force, that it is easier to state what Grant did than to tell what manner of man he was. In the last chapter, the activities of the Principal are admirably summed up.

"Those activities were extraordinarily numerous. The head of a university, he was keenly interested in politics; a theologian, he was sensitive to the material development of his country; a clergyman, he had singularly accurate views upon military policy; a scholar, he had superb administrative ability. Innumerable were the channels in which his energy flowed. He bequeathed to his country a university; he aided in its crucial days the union of Canada; he fostered the sentiment of imperial organization; he had a large share in welding together the Presbyterian Church; he exerted a rare influence upon public opinion as the work of the development of Canada was prosecuted; he was a leader in the spiritual revolution which has made the religious atmosphere of Canada clearer, more tolerant, more reverent. Behind these achievements was a man; how are we to estimate that nature, with its profound human sympathy, its eager activity, its energy singularly charged with sagacity and charm?"

The chapter on Public Activities shows well the breadth and energy of the man, but the fifteen pages of the chapter headed, "Ocean to Ocean," are among the most delightful of the book. The paragraph about John Glen, on page 141, is a gem. How his yearning, impulsive, eager, but trustful spirit comes out in a passage such as this from a letter written in December, 1901, to Mr. J. S. Willison:

"To-morrow I shall be sixty-five years old, and my heart is full of gratitude and hope. Have I not seen much of what I prayed and worked for come to pass? The rest will come. *Laus Deo!* Here's a hand to you across one hundred and seventy miles. We each have a work to do and we delight in doing it. Life has no greater happiness. Clouds come and thick darkness. What of it? They, too, are needed. We know that all things work together for good to the good."

Canadian Banking. A Series of Lectures by Duncan M. Stewart, General Manager, Sovereign Bank of Canada; Montreal, 1904.—The first of these lectures consists of a historical sketch, embracing English, Scotch, United States and Canadian banking; the second epitomizes the bank acts passed since Confederation; the third discusses the relation of banking to agriculture and manufactures; the fourth deals with Clearing Houses and the internal economy of a bank. They are in no sense intended, the author assures us, to represent a complete treatise on banking, but rather to interest the general public in a topic of importance. It is hoped that they may also be of service to some of the younger officers who have chosen banking as a profession.

Mining in British Columbia; General Review.—This is Bulletin No. 19 of the Government of British Columbia, and is a valuable compend of information, both general and particular, upon the subject of mining in that province. It is printed on excellent paper and contains a considerable number of illustrations which heighten the interest of the text. With commendable forethought, 10,000 out of 15,000 copies printed were, we are told by Mr. Gosnell, sent to the St. Louis Exhibition last summer. We have elsewhere dealt with Mr. Jacobs' paper on smelters, pages 140 to 157 of the pamphlet.