

ADDRESS.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I began to think as I heard your Chairman talk that I would be perfectly justified in thinking I was a pretty brave sort of a man, and along with that I could not help but note the admirable manner in which the Chairman covered up my bravery, or audacity, whichever you might name it. Listening to your Chairman you would think I had been invited to come and address this Board this afternoon. What will you think of me when I say I made my own invitation and forced myself upon the Board of Trade? I am glad also to see here some representatives from the French Board of Trade, though not so many as I could wish. I shall take occasion to visit them at some future time.

Well, we are here, and there is not much use my making apologies for having the temerity to ask the business men of Montreal to come together for a few minutes in the busiest part of what must be all busy days, not that I might make a speech or give them an oration—sometime when we have more leisure we may face that possibility—but at the present time I am simply here to have a little talk and become acquainted, to introduce myself, that the members of the Board of Trade of this, one of the foremost if not the foremost city of the Dominion, and a Board that must be very influential may know what my department is doing, and may help in the work.

The object of my asking the members of your Board to meet this afternoon was to see whether or not there was some method by which we could co-operate with each other in attaining a greater measure of success than either could hope for if we were working without that co-operation. To-day the modern boards of trade seem different from the old time boards of trade—they are more practical and they lay more stress upon doing things than on talking about them.