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COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

Mr. C. E. Town, president of the Education Department of the London Chamber of Commerce, recently delivered an address on the subject of the practical aspects of education, which will bear repetition, and we take a few excerpts from it, therefore, as reported in "Commercial Intelligence":

Commercial education in the United States has been carried on, through its business training colleges, for a very much longer period than in this country, one school in Cincinnati dating back to 1834, and now, at the present day, while in this country there are not more than a dozen business colleges of any status, there are in New York State alone 500 organized business colleges, and in every other city and State throughout America similar institutions. Most of these colleges make a great feature of practical work, and part of their buildings are fitted up as model business houses.

The progress of commercial education in the German Empire is very marked. In the past twelve years the number of commercial schools of all descriptions has increased from 125 with 12,000 pupils to 429 with 48,000 students. The increase in the number and attendance at the commercial schools for women is still more pronounced. In 1892 there existed but three schools with 325 pupils but in 1904 these had increased to 79 schools with 5,000 pupils. On a perusal of the curricula of these schools it is truly remarkable how all the branches of knowledge are condensed and focussed upon the one central and prevailing purpose of commercial utility, and the special attention devoted to foreign languages, particularly to English.

The little kingdom of Saxony stands in the front rank of nations, as far as commercial education is concerned. With a population less than London, we find fifty-one finely-organized schools. In these more is done for the encouragement of Oriental languages than is done in the whole of the United Kingdom, although, as all will admit, our responsibilities in the East are much greater.

In Switzerland, commercial education has very rapidly developed during the past ten years. This advancement, Mr. Town reminded the members of the Ashford Chamber of Commerce, has

been mainly due to the activity of the Merchants' Unions of that country. The first commercial school in Switzerland was established at Zurich in 1855. In 1900, seven commercial schools were established, and now similar schools are being established in all the cities of importance throughout that country.

The same activity with regard to commercial education is being carried on in the Netherlands, Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, and France. As an illustration of the practical application and character of the commercial education given in Belgium, Mr. Town referred to the practice of the Institute of Commerce at Antwerp, from which students who have passed their final examinations with credit may offer themselves as candidates for a stipend, which permits them to remain for three years in some foreign country for the purpose of studying economic conditions, and acquiring a practical knowledge of business methods and of the language. The Belgian Government requires such students to report from time to time the results of their observations. Over 100 students, at a stipend of \$1,000 a year, have gone out in this way in the interests of Belgian commerce to Brazil, China, Japan, Mexico, Philippine Islands, Australia, New Zealand, India, United States, and Canada. Some of these have made permanent homes in the countries to which they went, some have become merchants, others commercial agents, whilst others have entered the service of the Japanese and Chinese Governments as educators. To Belgium, however, they remain the pioneers of her commerce, and the money thus spent on their commercial training draws ample interest in the far-reaching re-

sults, whilst the wisdom of such a policy is self-evident.

In Paris there are three of the finest Continental Schools of Commerce. One is a preparatory school for boys up to 15 years and the others are higher schools for boys up to 16 or 18.

ITEMS FROM B.C. MINES.

According to the "Kootenaiian," published at Kaslo, B.C., Mr. S. S. Fowler, of Nelson, was in that city last week on his way to the Whitewater mine. The same paper adds that work has commenced on the lease of the Whitewater and Whitewater Deep mines, which has been taken for two years by S. S. Fowler and W. E. Koch, of Nelson and John L. Retallack, of Kaslo. "The lowest level of the Whitewater is to be driven ahead, and a contract will shortly be let to drive the main tunnel of the 'Deep' mine. There are two or three sets of sub-lessees in the old workings, and the outlook for continued and profitable working of this old producer is very favorable."

There are sixty tons of zinc ore and thirty tons of lead ore ready for shipment at the Goodenough. The new exploratory tunnel to tap the ore at depth is in 170 feet, and is being run through the Grey Copper to reach the main ore body under the Goodenough.

Bert Wright (Whitewater Camp) has just completed a shipment of twenty-three tons of zinc ore to the Frank smelter from the Charleston and Sunset. Fifteen and a half tons were taken from the Charleston and seven and a half tons from the Sunset.

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