

Business law could be placed before a commercial student in a manner to be serviceable throughout a business career. The experience that is gained by merchants and bankers enables even instructing and assisting the lawyer. General lectures on the subject would, I believe, be of high value to the young man on the threshold of a business career.

Public speaking is one of the weak points with business men generally. The brightest man—at the desk—within office routine, as a manufacturer, as a banker, in any of the walks of business life, in fact, is often the most stupid when called upon to address a meeting. He will tell you that he is “not accustomed to public speaking, that he has nothing to say, and that with these few remarks he will resume his seat; or else he will try ineffectually to convey his thoughts and ideas to his hearers incoherently and without effect, and the next day will remember, perhaps, all he desired to say or should have said the day before. Training in speaking is well worth a place in a commercial course. It would supply a most apparent want. It would render men engaged in mercantile pursuit far more useful to the community in which they lived and as well would it multiply the effective advocates for the progress and protection of commerce.

The principles of government and the government of municipalities should be earlier understood by those to be engaged in commercial life. We have in this city a “Good Government Association,” for instance. For some years it has sought to educate the taxpayers of this city in regard to municipal government. Success has finally attended the persistent effort put forth and to-day our citizens have