

# Industrial Canada

100.73

VOLUME I

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1896.

NUMBER 2.

## CHARACTER SKETCH.

E. B. OSLER.

PRESIDENT TORONTO BOARD OF TRADE.

"Business makes men."—Proverb.

**T**HE old notion that business tends to narrow men has long since been exploded. Nearer the truth is the saying of Arthur Helps that consummate men of business are as rare almost as great poets. The affairs

of business call forth the greatest powers of the greatest men.

In Mr. E. B. Osler is found one of the strongest types of the business man. His large undertakings, and the ability that has enabled him to rise equal to every occasion, is proof of this.

Mr. Osler was born in the Township of Tecumseth, County of Simcoe, in 1845. In 1857 his parents removed to the Town of Dundas and there Mr. Osler received his education at the Grammar School. After leaving school he took his first step in a business direction in taking a clerkship in the Bank of Upper Canada. He was attached to the head office of that institution when the disastrous collapse took place, an event not yet forgotten by many Canadians.

His already marked abilities were recognized by the retention of his services during the year of the winding up of the defunct bank's

affairs. In 1867 Mr. Osler formed a partnership with Mr. Henry Pellatt, under the firm name of Pellatt & Osler, as brokers and financial agents. In 1882 the present partnership of Osler & Hammond was established. Subsequently when the late Mr. Geo. Laidlaw was projecting his large railway schemes Mr. Osler became interested in them and contributed in a considerable measure to their successful completion. The result of this connection has been manifest in later life. It brought him in contact with railway men, where his business ability was again recognized.

He was induced to look after the large interests of Sir Geo. Stephen, now Lord Mountstephen. Out of these connections grew the building of the Ontario and Quebec system of railway, of which Mr. Osler was president, and for the work performed on it he dispensed all the monies. He represented the capitalists who built that section of the C.P.R., and when the amalgamation took place he became a director of the Canadian Pacific Railway and has since continued to be one.

In connection with these, as well as other large enterprises,

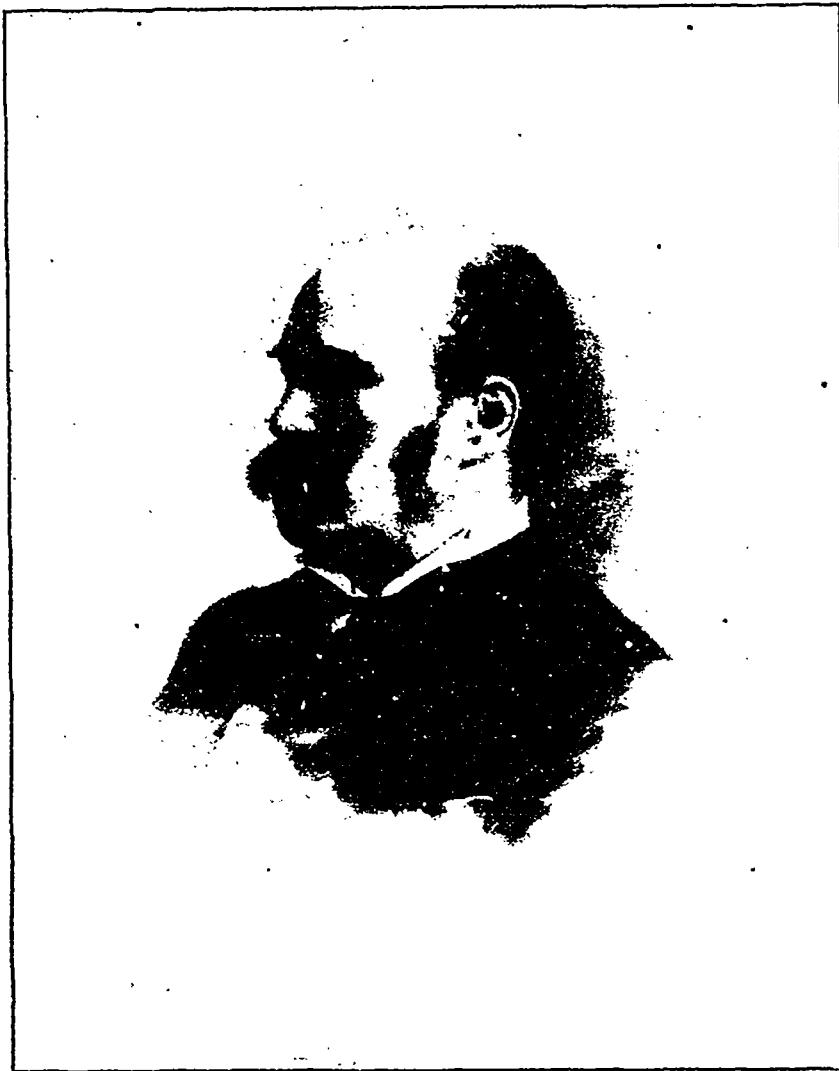
Mr. Osler has had much to do. He is a director of the Dominion Bank and manager of the North of Scotland Mortgage Co'y. His identification with the Board of Trade dates from 1869, but he never stood for any office until two years ago when he was elected second vice-president. Last year he filled the first vice-presidency, and this year was elected president by acclamation.

It hardly needs the remark that Mr. Osler will bring to the Toronto Board of Trade a large measure of business strength. His wide and successful experience makes this much sure. A man of energy and activity, he is certain to leave his impress on Toronto and Canadian commercial affairs, as so widely represented by this institution.

Mr. Osler has for many years been a leading figure in the financial affairs of Canada, but unfortunately for the country

his time until recently has been so taken up by the large interests he represented that he has been unable to offer the public the benefit of the great abilities and extensive knowledge of which he is the possessor.

Mr. Osler comes of a family, all of whom are distinguished in their particular callings. One brother is B. B. Osler, the eminent Queen's Counsel; another is Mr. Justice Osler, and a third brother holds a foremost position as a member of the medical profession of the United States.



MR. E. B. OSLER, PRESIDENT TORONTO BOARD OF TRADE, 1896.