Brantford Board of Trade some weeks ago, Mr. Kemp, president of the Toronto Board, admitted that the Queen City, as we delight to call Toronto, has been asleep with reference to certain matters of Trade and Commerce. "She is going to have a big, new hotel, however." "We have," said he, "a city of 235,000 and I wonder what we have done to get the people. We cannot be accused of trying to divert business to Toronto; we have not in fact been alive to this like Brantford had been, and what increase we get must be because of natural advantages." It may be recalled to Mr. Kemp's recollection that Toronto possesses other elements in the growth of population than commerce and manufactures. A city clergyman told his congregation on a recent Sunday, that Toronto is fifth among the great educational centres of America in number of students, the others being Boston, New York, Baltimore and Chicago. To realize this we must bear in mind that besides the Universities and the Normal School we have in Toronto Colleges of divinity, of music, of pharmacy, of dentistry, of veterinary science, commercial colleges, technical schools, art schools. All these add to the population of the city we hesitate to say how many thousand. Then we have Osgoode Hall, a vast academy for young lawyers, not forgetting the brown stone hall in the Queen's Park, which it is perhaps no offence to call a school for legislators. Thus besides the mere making or trading in material merchandise and the learning of the business of a merchant there goes on in Toronto year by year a vast system of barter of a different sort—the exchange of technical or professional instruction for money. And the furnishing of the requirement of all these various teachers and their pupils implies much business for victualler and artisan and merchant.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

The Monetary Times sometime ago had a paragraph intimating that citizens of the United States residing along the Detroit River had predilections to cross that river to get married on Canadian soil. There is a possibility that there is locming up a wider pilgrimage than the crossing of a river to enter the bonds of matrimony. Going into the Canadian office the other day the commissioner was found endeavoring to advise a lady, who wished to know whether marriage with a deceased brother's wife is legal in Canada. It appears that when marriage with a deceased wife's sister was legalized the converse of the problem was overlooked, and it is not legal to be joined to the widow of a brother. There are two such souls at least, and, perhaps more, who are willing to cross the wide and stormy seas to Victoria to be legally married. They could go to the United States, and get united, but they have not much respect for the marriage laws of the Great Republic, and want it done under the sanction of the old flag. Here is a chance for business for Victoria or Vancouver.

It appears that it is not unusual to solicit Hymenial information from the Canadian office. A little time ago the kind offices of the commissioner were sought to ascertain the address of a very persistent swain who was wooing a lady here in a very peculiar fashion. It appears that some years ago, apparently not a great many, this lady knew a young Canadian who was studying in England. They became very good friends, and the lady thought the Canadian meant more, but he suddenly left England without opening his heart. She had found another who pressed his suit ardently. At length she accepted, they were married, and they arranged to go to Australia. Just before leaving the Canadian turned up again, and explained he had gone to Canada to get his father's permission to seek to make this lady his wife. On finding out the state of things this Canadian raved and tore his hair, and behaved generally in the fashion proper to such an occasion. He demanded as some consolation that she should pledge herself that if ever she became free she would let him know, and he would then seek her to the ends of the earth or even Australia. It further appears that they had dabbled a bit in table rappings and other mysterious things that once pertained to spiritism, and he solemnly assured her that if this vow were not observed these mysterious things would trouble her. Sometime ago she became a widow, and a very handsome one at that, and she asserts a spirit constantly clamors in her ear, "Remember your vow to Donald," giving her no peace day nor night. The spirit is a very aggravating one, for while it keeps up the clatter it does not give the information to enable the vow to be kept by telling the troubled lady where Donald can be found. The address he gave her in the flesh won't find him, for all replies assert neither Donald nor his father's alleged place of residence were ever known in Toronto or its vicinity, where they were said to be. If this should catch the eye of the aforesaid Donald I judge he will gratify a most attractive looking lady by either appearing in the flesh or calling off his spirit.

Another case was that of a good lady who was strongly persuaded that a William Ogilvie of whom she had read in connection with the far-off Klondyke was her absconding husband. The commissioner assured her that the Canadian Ogilvie was not that sort of a man, and further it was impossible, because he used to meet the Canadian William at Ottawa at the time she had her now missing William safely in her possession in Australian gold fields. I am not sure that she is yet quite persuaded, as she says it would be just like her Ogilvie if he turned up a fur-clad Indian chief in a barbarous country like the Yukon. The administrator must not be too surprised if a vigorous female turns up at Dawson and claims him for her very own.

FINANCIAL MATTERS.

The council of the Canadian Bankers' Association, at their meeting last week, decided, as we have already stated, that a Canadian mint was not desirable. The following resolution, giving their reasons for such action, was adopted: 1. Because the operation of a mint will result in loss to either the miner or the Government, according as one or the other is made to bear the expense of coinage. 2. Because a better and far more wide-spread market for gold bullion is provided by the banks than can be supplied by a mint. 3. Because the intrinsic value of the metal is not enhanced by its conversion into coin, bullion being frequently preferable for the purpose of international exchange and settlement. 4. Because experience has demonstrated that paper is preferred to gold coin as a circulating medium, and bullion minted in Canada will not be retained in the country. 5. Because the coinage of gold would introduce an element of uncertainty and disturbance in the currency system, prejudicial to the commercial and industrial interests of the Dominion.

According to a Nova Scotia journal, the Bras d'Or, the Commercial Bank of Windsor has opened a branch in Sydney, F. D. Sloane is the manager.

The shares of new stock in the Bank of Nova Scotia which reverted to the bank because not taken up by those to whom they were allotted have been disposed of at a considerable premium. They were issued at $210 for the $100 share, and parties who did not take up the new stock and sold got from $7 to $9 for the privilege of allowing others to take up the stock—that is, from 217 to 219 was paid for it.

We learn that the new stock of the Merchants' Bank of Halifax was issued at 175, and the reversion of shares was sold at 183 to 185, thus realizing for the bank from eight to ten points advance.

It has not been found practicable to carry out the proposed amalgamation of the Canada Landed and National, the London and Canadian Loan and Agency Company and the Building & Loan Association announced some weeks ago. The representatives of the three companies having in charge the arrangements for amalgamation have met repeatedly, but have failed to come to any satisfactory agreement. We are told that at the last meeting the representatives of the Canada Landed and National Investment Company decided that the proposed terms were not what that company desired, and it was decided to withdraw from the negotiations.

C.P.R. shares were selling a year ago at 79½ to 82; a month ago at 83 to 86; a week ago at 89¾ to 94, and on Wednesday