

and how, when once enlisted, they could be retained. Always behind one capable official stands another, ready to succeed to the responsibility, whatever it may be. Nor has this happened through accident. It represents the spirit which Sir Edmund has communicated from his own being to an institution that touches the life of the world through five hundred branches.

It has sometimes happened that men endowed opulently by nature with great creative gifts have failed to focus their attention closely upon any single task, thus conveying to posterity the impression that they were lacking in purpose. From the risk of such reproach Sir Edmund's fame is guarded by his extraordinary success in the sphere of banking. Based upon this solid groundwork, there is no risk that the reputation for comprehensive and diversified ability which he has enjoyed among his contemporaries will seem to those of a later time marred by inability to concentrate. To do one important thing superlatively well while accomplishing much in many other fields is the rarest achievement, and the most desirable.

Outside banking, Sir Edmund's activities have been marked not only by breadth of range, but by great resultant benefit to the public interest. It was not through accident, ambition, or mere mental dynamics that he entered upon those other works which have added lustre to his total accomplishment. These interests, like the upbuilding of the Bank, represent the normal unfolding of a mind and character. In all that was said at the Jubilee Banquet, nothing stands out more significantly than Sir Edmund's own words regarding the home in which he grew up: "At home I never heard money talked about, except perhaps the need of it, which was always the case. We talked about flowers, music, fossils, science, a new poem or novel—nothing very learned or difficult. I was taught to appreciate that the truth regarding nature was the divine thing, and that we must learn it, so far as it is possible."

From such a source flowed the broad stream of enthusiasms (literary, artistic, scientific, historical, musical and educational) which have meant so much to Sir Edmund in his own life, and to so many others, through the active zeal whereby he transmuted enthusiasm into works. Toronto University, the Art Museum of Toronto, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Advisory Arts Council, the National Gallery of Arts, the National Battlefields Commission, the Historical Manuscripts Commission, the Champlain Society, the Geological Society, the Mendelssohn Choir—these, even as mere headings, show the range of his interests, while to