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**BUSINESS MEN WANTED.**

In a recent number of The Canadian Magazine Mr. O. A. Howland, a representative of a Toronto constituency in the Ontario Legislature, and himself a lawyer, in the course of a review of the life of Sir John Thompson, ventured the assertion that only a lawyer can be a statesman. From circumstances not necessary here to discuss, it seems that in Canada, and in the United States also, all legislative assemblies are composed largely of lawyers, and Mr. Howland, being himself a lawyer and a legislator, has conceived the conceited idea that lawyers are a specially endowed class to whom of right should be confided the duty of law making and of managing all the important affairs of State. As a student of history he should know that as a rule British statesmen have not been lawyers, and he will certainly concede that those to whom have been entrusted the affairs of the Kingdom for

many, many years, have acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of the British people. That other than lawyers are even now administering the Government of the Kingdom is evidenced by the names and occupations of those whom Lord Salisbury has called to assist him as Cabinet ministers, as recently published in these pages.

As far as the Dominion Parliament is concerned, while we are free to admit that many members of it who are lawyers are also statesmen, we regret to notice that there are so few practical business men there, particularly manufacturers, and that the statesmanship of the lawyers, who are largely in the majority, is tinctured but too strongly with the methods that obtain in courts of law where the lawyer has no business save as a partisan. It is true that Sir John Macdonald and Sir John Thompson were lawyers, but it was only in their earlier days that they practised their profession; and it is in evidence that neither of them attained to statesmanship and political influence until long after they had ceased to pose as lawyers. On the other hand, as we have shown, British statesmen are usually not lawyers, and the same may be said of many of the best men that have assisted to make Canada what it is.

The manufacturers of Canada, and others, have had frequent cause to regret that the number of business men in Parliament was not much larger than what it really is. We have been cursed with having professional men in Parliament who got there chiefly by the loud professions of fealty they made to the principles of the National Policy and devotion to the interests of the manufacturers, but who, owing probably to their earlier associations and training, were pedantic in views that lifted them far above the practical affairs of life, and into an atmosphere through which only abstruse theories could filter. Manufacturers and business men have had this fact most painfully forced upon them when, having business to transact with the Government, have found their representatives of no earthly use to them, further than to introduce them to the ministers, after the performance of which perfunctory duty they fold their hands and fall back in a convenient seat like bumps upon a log, leaving their clients to do as best they can without them. Manufacturers know to their disgust that but too often when their representative has accompanied them when they desired to submit some important matter to the consideration of the Government, the so-called statesman, not being a practical business man, could render them no assistance whatever, and to whom the matter under discussion was as a sealed book or an unknown language. Canada, and particularly the manufacturers, are suffering from a plethora of such statesmen.

The great need at this time is practical men in Parliament. The enemies of protection are, as they always are, canvassing the country from end to end, and their newspapers are indefatigable in preaching their free trade crusade. In ordinary times when affairs are going smoothly, it may be easy for politicians of small mental calibre and unsettled principles to pose as statesmen, vociferate against the other party, and indulge in stale platitudes and old campaign talk; but the present brings us face to face with a situation where true leadership and statesmanship are required, no less to undo the mistakes that have already been made than to defeat the machinations of those who aim to demolish the whole system that obtains in the management of the fiscal affairs of the Government.