

# The Office and Home

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

*Devoted to Finance, Commerce, Insurance, Agriculture, Office Work and Home Literature.*

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## MERCHANTS' CONVENTION

During the month of August last a convention of merchants was held in the city of Hamilton for the purpose of discussing general business principles and laws of trade. This meeting was represented entirely by Western Ontario men.

Subjects of the greatest importance to merchants both collectively and individually and to the welfare of our Dominion as a commercial metropolis and highway were handled by men who, through long experience and active mental operation, have rendered themselves most capable of dealing with such questions in a masterly way.

It is the duty of a government to make and regulate laws for the well being of society and the proper control of the state. It is the duty of each lower tribunal to regulate and control the section over which it presides.

So it is the duty of each class of men to establish certain principles as a guide in the transaction of their respective businesses by means of which will be produced the greatest good to the community by the most legitimate means.

The mind of man is not perfect. The human mind is so constituted that there are vacancies which can be filled only by the operation of another mind and these vacancies are so numerous that it would require an infinite number of human minds to make one perfect mind.

If we combine the minds of a large number of the most highly nurtured and cultured men we will have produced, through their action, a result which to the finite mind of any man will appear as nearly perfect as is possible with the material at our disposal.

Now, it is evident that the convention at Hamilton did a good work and shewed a good result. Subjects were introduced and discussed which undoubtedly have come up in one mind and perhaps been discussed by two or three, but

which were never carried out to a conclusion and were never made known to the outside world.

By following closely and with judgment such principles as are decided upon by these men it is quite possible that business will be conducted on a basis which is bound at no distant time to produce immense good.

Trade and commerce is a subject often treated of and often written upon but the subject can never be exhausted, for we have the history of the ancient Roman and ancient Greek, we have the history of the middle ages of the Briton and the Portugee, of piracy upon the seas and plunder upon the land, and we have the modern history of the trade and commerce of nations, especially that of the nineteenth century, but the future will show far greater progress as the questions of importance on the subject are submitted to a council of learned men. Let the merchants of the city of Ottawa and surrounding country meet in a convention of this nature and we shall see Eastern Ontario moving forward with a progress never before seen and never to be checked.

Subjects in connection with above will be treated of in the next and following issues.

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## THE OTTAWA BOARD OF TRADE

It may not be generally known in the valley, but it is well known in the city, that Ottawa has no Board of Trade. 'Tis true a company of men having obtained a charter, collected fees and met a few times of late years. After receiving the charter, however, it is but fair to state that the members worked well, taking up live questions and undoubtedly doing much good. But later there came up a political discussion in the Board and members immediately became divided. Then there was a time when the Board had a goodly sum in the treasury and forthwith, perceiving it, they sallied forth in quest of elegant rooms, and concomitant expenses, all of which of course turned up, in a short year not only exhausting the treasury but leaving the concern insolvent. What a commentary on the combined business ability of Ottawa business men! bankrupting their Board of Trade! We advise the immediate disbanding of the present Board, thus allowing others, to say the least, more public spirited men to take the ground.

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## ADAPTATION OF PENMANSHIP

Benjamin Franklin said he owed his first success in life to his good writing. Carlyle describes the following style of writing as indispensable to a student's welfare: "clear, swift, neat and without waste of room." But we are slow indeed to perceive the want of the age, if we do not discover that one of the imperative demands is "good writing." This term needs limitation.