

many years been more or less prefunctorily taught in the High Schools of Ontario, prior to the introduction of commercial courses in connection with Public Schools in some of the cities of the province. Private enterprise (dating from 1860, or thereabout, when the British-American Business College of Toronto was established) has done more for commercial education in Canada than Governmental initiative, and it is interesting to note the evolution of the "commercial college" of that day into the business school of to-day. Several of the more prominent business colleges (including Upper Canada College) are in affiliation with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario, for examination purposes, the instruction in accountancy being given by a certified member of the institute. There was, too, founded in 1897, through the efforts of Mr. McCullough, of Hamilton, an independent examining body, known as the Business Educators' Association of Canada, to whose periodical examinations the commercial and shorthand pupils of the various affiliated business schools submit themselves. Local certificates have been waived and in lieu thereof the graduates receive the certificates of the Association. Business colleges in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, are included in the membership. A properly qualified board of examiners, elected annually, with an outside man as registrar, constitutes the machinery of the examination system, and the tests are, keeping in view the limited time spent on a course, suf-

ficiently searching, judging by the percentage of those who fail. It is the desire of the more progressive among business college men to broaden and deepen the curriculum of the Canadian commercial schools, to discard the American texts used in so many of them, and to lengthen the period of attendance therein. In passing it may be remarked that the Government could go farther and fare worse than follow the example of one or two European countries and subsidize a few of the better private commercial schools of the provinces. Early in the year 1901, a corporation was formed with an authorized capital of one hundred thousand dollars to more systematically and effectually carry on the work of commercial education in Ontario, and to furnish business schools with texts suited to Canadian needs.

If Canada is to fittingly play her part in the international trade contest, her young men must be adequately trained for commercial pursuits. "Those," as Lord Salisbury says, "responsible for commercial education must not be afraid of the word 'utilitarian'."

It is to be observed here that the Provincial University has caught somewhat of the spirit of the times, and is laying the foundation of a course in commerce, the success of which, it is hoped, may demonstrate the wisdom of the step. But it is high time that those amongst us whose means are greater than their public spirit (with a rare exception or two) awakened to the opportunities and responsibilities of the times. The example of France and other