

MEN OF THE TIMES.

SIDNEY F. MCKINNON.

(Of S. F. McKinnon & Co., Toronto.)

For men's judgments are a parcel of their fortunes.

SHAKESPEARE

Among men who have made a name for themselves in Canadian business circles it would be difficult to find one who from force of character, sound judgment and keen intelligence has acquired such a commanding position as Mr. Sidney Finley McKinnon, sole member of the well known wholesale millinery house of S. F. McKinnon & Co., Toronto. Mr. McKinnon is a Canadian by birth and is a true type of the men who have helped to place their native land in the proud position she holds in the world of commerce. He was born in the county of Halton, Ont., and in 1866 commenced his business career in a general store in the village of Georgetown where he remained for some years. He then went to Chicago and accepted a position in a large retail dry goods store. He returned to Canada in 1867 and started in business for himself in Wingham, Huron county, as a general store-keeper. Shortly afterwards he sold out and returned to Georgetown continuing in the general store business. He was prospering well when in 1872 his premises were completely destroyed by fire. He then came to Toronto and entered into partnership with James Brayley & William H. Ash, wholesale millinery importers, the style of the firm being Brayley, Ash & McKinnon. About a year afterwards the firm failed. A compromise was, however, effected and the firm was dissolved. The business was continued by Messrs. Brayley & McKinnon and later Mr. McKinnon started on his own account in one of the upper flats of the Iron Block on Front street. His next step was

to take into partnership Messrs. W. C. Proctor & Dugald McCall and remove to larger premises on the same street. Five years afterwards Mr. McCall withdrew, and for four years more the business was carried on under the style of McKinnon, Proctor & Co., when the partnership was dissolved. Since then Mr. McKinnon has had no one associated with him in business, and almost unparalleled success has crowned his efforts.

Mr. McKinnon is an extremely able and sagacious man of business and conducts the affairs of his extensive establishment in such a way as to place the business upon the most solid basis of prosperity. He is possessed of splendid executive ability and all the essential characteristics that tend to success in life. He is in the highest sense of the term an honorable man. This was most strikingly exemplified in connection with the failure of the firm of Brayley, Ash

& McKinnon. Although a satisfactory compromise to all concerned was effected, Mr. McKinnon with an object in view which stamped him as a man of indomitable will and possessed of a keen sense of honor put his shoulders to the wheel, and at the end of fourteen years paid one half the loss sustained by his creditors at the time of the failure. This display of business honor was so unusual that the creditors marked their sense of it by presenting Mr. McKinnon with a solid silver service of plate, which the recipient justly values as one of the greatest compliments that could have been paid him.

Besides controlling his large millinery business he is prominently identified with other important concerns. He is President of the McKinnon, Dash, and Hardware Company, of Buffalo, N. Y., which ranks second of its kind in the United States; President of the Ireland National Food Company, of Toronto; President of the Canada Paint Company, of Montreal; President of the Widdifield Electric Brake Company, of Toronto, vice-president of the Manufacturers' Life and Accident Insurance Company; a director of the Traders'

Bank, of the Toronto Electric Light Company; of the Fire Insurance Exchange, and of the Dominion Safe Deposit Warehousing and Loan Company, of Toronto. He had been for years a member of the council of the Toronto Board of Trade and at the last annual meeting, in a triangular contest, was elected second Vice-President by a handsome majority.

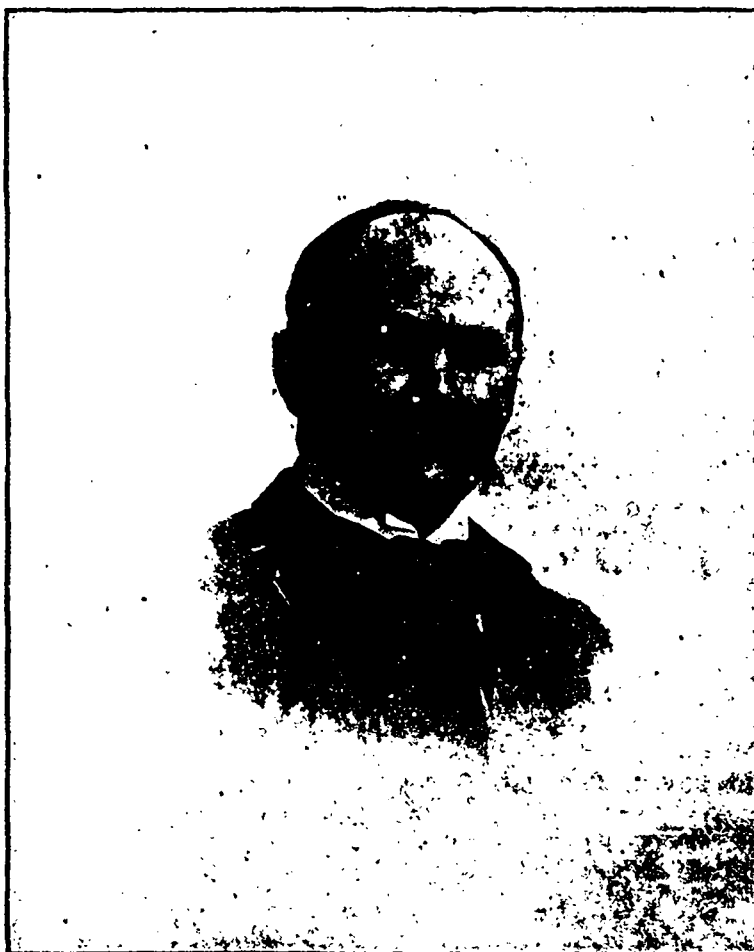
Mr. McKinnon owing to the heavy responsibilities devolving upon him in business matters has not sought for political honors, but he holds such a prominent position in the party to which he has linked himself that his early advent in the arena of politics is not one of the improbabilities. He is still a frequent visitor to the British markets where his many admirable qualities have made him universally esteemed.

The warehouse is situated at 16 and 18 Wellington street west, consisting of six flats, and is a handsome, commodious, and well lighted building. It has all the modern facilities for the convenience of buy-

ers and for the prompt despatch of business. Mr. McKinnon knowing full well the advantage of surrounding himself with all the adjuncts that are essential to success has a staff of employes that do credit to his shrewdness and soundness of judgment in this respect. The result is that the volume of business of S. F. McKinnon & Co., stands second to none in the Dominion.

It may be mentioned that besides millinery proper, the cloak department of the business is popularly known throughout Canada and the immense proportions to which it has attained is due chiefly to the fact that Mr. McKinnon gives it his personal attention.

Some idea of the extent of the business of this house can be gleaned from the fact that they employ from twelve to fifteen travellers thus bringing their stock before, and doing business with, all the leading merchants not only in Ontario but in Quebec, the Maritime Provinces, Northwest Territories and British Columbia.



SIDNEY F. MCKINNON.