

TRAINING IN ACCOUNTANCY.

At the seventh annual convention of the National Association of Accountants and Bookkeepers, held in Detroit in August, where he is said to have made the hit of the evening, Mr. F. H. MacPherson, C.A., of Ontario, delivered an address on the subject of the value of technical training in accounting and systematizing methods to the business man. After a few preliminary remarks, Mr. MacPherson proceeded to deal broadly with the subject of technical training. "I do not suppose," he said, "that in the present day and generation there can be found many persons so bold as to say that technical training in any subject is not of advantage. Not many years have passed since so much could be said. Until recently the inherited forms and methods of education as they came from the countries of the Old World were thought quite sufficient for the needs of the American youth. But times have changed with the changes in economic conditions. Along with the growth of the country came the necessity for changes in our educational needs. New problems demanded the working out of new ways in which to solve them, new difficulties required new methods, and so it is that we have the technical schools and classes of the present day. Modern business conditions have given rise to new and important callings, requiring special training.

We have had the bookkeeper with us for many generations; but the accountant is of more recent growth. While the duties of the bookkeeper are important, the work of the trained accountant is doubly so, entering as it does into the very heart and core of business enterprises. And accountancy is a science founded upon principles capable of being taught, systematized and studied with all the force, certainty and truthfulness of the principles underlying other scientific professions.

Schools and colleges are quickly realizing the needs of the hour, and in most of these may be found a commercial department, in which the rudimentary principles and technique of the business are being taught. The results as far as they go are satisfactory, and form a ground-work for that higher training which must come from contact with the actual man of business. The training of the teachers engaged in the colleges and schools is ordinarily altogether theoretical in character, and under such circumstances it is not possible that they can impart to their pupils anything more than they themselves possess. The necessity for a higher course of training by practical business men—by men who have learned their lessons in the hard and sometimes rough school of experience—is now being looked upon as absolutely necessary to properly fit the student in accountancy for the work in which he seeks to engage.

Within the past few years several of the universities have actually taken up the question of higher education in accountancy, and have opened departments in "Commerce and Finance," and one of the fundamentals is that instruction shall be imparted by practical business men, and as well by public accountants of long and varied experience.

The intent of these departments, as stated recently by one of the professors, is to "impart a knowledge of the raw materials of industry, with the sources of their supply, and the methods of their production; of the institutions and agencies of finance, industry and trade; of the methods employed in the organization and management of the bank, the factory, and the store; of the principles which underlie the financing of a business, the granting of credit, the sale of goods, the education of the consumer by means of advertising; of the principles of bookkeeping, the interpretation of the accounts of partnerships and corporations; the relation of the business man to the transportation company; the principles of commercial law, of real estate values and management, and of insurance; the principles upon which municipal finances should be handled; and the methods for caring for these in the proper and most scientific way; depreciation and the means of determining such; and the many other points which confront the public accountant at every turn."

It does not require any great degree of comprehension to see that knowledge of these things cannot be imparted

to the student by the theoretically trained teacher. It cannot be expected that men not in business can teach business; and further—and here a very serious difficulty presents itself—there is the lack of materials, the object lessons which are available in the other professions. The materials for the study of business life lie in the outside world, and it is difficult to bring them together in such form as to make them available for the student's use.

The published reports of the various Federal and State Departments; of the law reports; of the Wealth, Debt and Taxation Section of the Census Department, which deals with municipal systems, forms and reports; all of these are at hand and available; but these form a very small and comparatively unimportant proportion of the materials necessary. Access to the office archives of large manufacturing industries and mercantile concerns, to the offices of railroads, mines and other corporations is desirable. And then the speaker paid a tribute to the work of the Association, and praised the Business Man's Magazine.

It was a professor in one of the universities who, in discussing the subject of higher accountancy, said:

"The practice of business can only be thoroughly mastered in the transaction of business, and unless the student gains this experience during his college or school course he must expect to serve the regular apprenticeship after graduation."

And now a word as to the requirements of the individual who seeks the wider, higher field, and the possibilities for work to the competent man.

Average ability, horse-sense and power of application are the principal requisites. Work, work, work. When not busy on work for your clients, get busy studying the office systems with which you are least familiar; make application to the proprietors of large institutions which cover such ground as you seek to learn about to permit you to look over their systems; make notes of what you see, and learn; read the text books over again, study the systems as outlined in the office magazines, take the course as outlined by the International Accountants' Society; meet in convention; talk your work over with others who have had the experience you are seeking. Let no day pass without making the most of your opportunities. Keep adding to the storehouse of knowledge, daily, some new thing, which later on (and you never know how quickly) you may turn to practical account.

In closing, I want to say that in my judgment no other profession offers the magnificent opportunities that does higher accountancy. The work is pleasant, the pay is good, and the results may generally be made satisfying to the client.

LEAD PRODUCTION IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The returns of bounty paid by the Dominion Government for the production of lead in British Columbia in 1904-5 are almost double the amount so paid in the previous year. Full returns from forty-seven mines are given by the Nelson News. They amount to 13,446,686 pounds, or, say, 6,723 tons. There is besides 7,000 pounds shipped from ten mines on which bounty has not been claimed. The St. Eugene mine secured bounty on 6,247,000 pounds, the North Star on 2,083,000 pounds, the Slocan Star on 1,722,000, the Ivanhoe on 885,000, the Idaho on 607,000, the Payne on 396,000, the Paradise on 321,000. Then in order come the Silver Cup, Enterprise, Lucky Jim, Silver Hustler, Ymir, Triune.

The returns from the Hall Mines smelter were published in July. It is now possible to give a summary of production and bounty for the year, thus:

	Lbs. Lead.	Bounty.
Nelson smelter	16,421,071	\$116,709 10
Trail smelter	13,446,686	96,684 36
Unclaimed	7,599	51 84

Including claims paid at another smelter, the totals for lead produced and treated in Canada are 33,730,546