

MASTERS OF TRADE.

The question of commercial education of a higher standard than that which can be procured in schools or special institutions actually existing, has been taken up by the American Bankers' Association, and is also attracting attention in England. The business colleges, started about fifty years ago in the United States, have done a good work, providing for a fair degree of qualifications for ordinary business pursuits. These institutions, which are well known in Canada, now number between 520 and 540. The Bankers' Association appointed a committee some years ago to examine into the facilities offered for the higher class of commercial training, and made the discovery that such facilities were obtainable in only one university in the United States—the University of Pennsylvania. In this important seat of learning provision has been made for the education of men looking forward to a mercantile career equal to that which is imparted in any of the usual faculties. This provision is of a special kind, being supplied by the Wharton School of Finance and Economy, which is formally affiliated with the university, and in fact ranks with legal, medical and other professional departments. Of course, in the United States, as in England, France, and other countries, there is nothing to prevent a young man, who has chosen commerce—in its higher spheres—for his calling, to take a degree in arts or in law, or a partial course that would include history—especially of commerce, finance and industry—commercial law, geography and political economy. To some extent sons of wealthy men doubtless avail themselves for that end of institutions of their choice. But the taking of an arts course or of such eclectic course as we have indicated would be considered less satisfactory than a curriculum especially designed for mercantile students, such as may be obtained

at Philadelphia. While giving deserved credit to the higher types of business colleges, the Bankers' Committee found in none of them such a standard of instruction as was desirable. Indeed, anyone who considers what demands on intellectual gifts of the highest order and on knowledge of a special kind are made by the commerce of to-day, will not wonder at the appointment of such a committee. It is well that the enquiry should have proceeded from so reputable a source and from a body of practical men. There have been so many fads in the way of schemes for teaching life-occupation at school or college, that men of business would naturally distrust any proposal which had not the sanction of experienced persons.

In their report the committee recommended other universities to follow the example of that of Pennsylvania, and already the advice has been taken by important centres of knowledge, including the universities of California and Chicago. We ventured, some time ago, to urge the claims of commerce to the best training that can be had as one of the chief pursuits adopted in a country like ours, and, in so doing, indicated the apparent anomaly that, while, in this, our commercial metropolis, as we like to call it, so much has been done for technical and professional education and applied science, the occupation on which the progress and prosperity of the country so largely depended, had not even been mentioned. The question, cannot, now, however, be much longer ignored, as if American universities go on establishing departments of commerce like the three just mentioned, Canada will have to do the same.

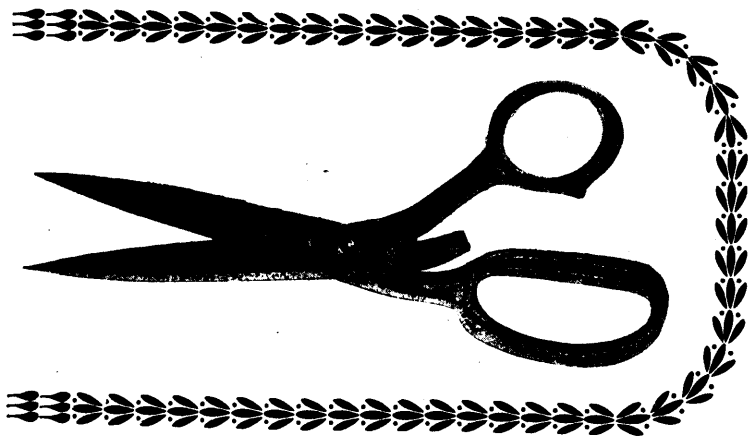
An enquiry recently instituted in England—primarily in connection with technical education—has brought to light some interesting facts. It seems to have dawned upon some of our Imperial statesmen, that, for a great trading nation, England's

thinkers, leaders and generous givers had, in taking thought for the educating of everybody, kept the craft of the chapman strangely in the background. The Foreign Office accordingly resolved to ascertain by investigation where England stood relatively to the rest of the world in her provisions for commercial education. The suggestion came first of all, it seems, from the London Chamber of Commerce, but, without the systematic use of its machinery by the Foreign Office for gathering up information in all parts of the world, the suggestion might have remained fruitless. We are now brought within reach of a mass of data, never before collected, touching the foundation and working of schools of commerce. The honor of starting the movement (if we may call it so), pertains to Portugal, whose Aulade Commercio (Hall of Commerce or Commercial College), was founded in Lisbon in 1759—a date which reveals a considerable recuperative power, for it is only four years after the great earthquake. Germany's record is begun by Prof. J. G. Buesch, whose school of commerce was carried on from 1769 till his death in 1799. Paris had as long ago as 1820, a school of commerce and industry. But the most of such institutions are of later date, and, as a stage in educational development and more especially as an outcome of the demand for technical training in universities, the movement really belongs to our own time. Once well on its way, its progress is assured, and good results may be looked for; and, although, like poets, masters of commerce may be born, not made, there is always a good deal that even mercantile genius may advantageously learn.—Montreal Gazette.

—Enoch McLean, of Wheatley, on Lake Erie, caught a sturgeon last week in that lake, weighing 105 pounds, and obtained five gallons of oil from it.

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