

# The Currie Business University.

The political days of the man's hall are over and the masses that gathered there and obtained their education upon the politics of Canada have given way to another kind of instruction—education in business methods—and Berryman's hall is now known as the Currie Business University.

What a transformation! The discolored walls, the smoky ceilings, the discolored floors have disappeared and under the magic touch of carpenter and painter the old hall and the different rooms on the second and third floors wear a different aspect—a cheerful one and a busy one.

When PROGRESS' representatives entered this institution a few days ago he found that there were ninety men and women there, some young, others middle aged, all learning how affairs are conducted in the business world, and as he looked about the large room which was once the hall and saw the handsome desks all occupied by students he could not help thinking that the motto of the institution "actual business from start to finish" was well carried out.

And so it is. When a student enters Currie's business university he or she becomes a merchant to all intents and purposes. He is either located in St. John or in Moncton, St. Stephen or some other town according to his location in the room. At one end is the bank and the post office and wholesale house, and he buys goods, he deposits money (in the shape of college bank bills) he writes and mails letters, makes drafts, draws checks and keeps a perfect record of all his transactions just as he would do it in business for himself.

How many men there are in business today, been in business for years, who would not like to take such a course even at this late day. There is no text book instruction but competent men and women oversee every transaction—every entry made in the books, and advise and suggest and teach the best way to do business—the right way to keep a record of what is done.

To describe the rooms in a few sentences. The business department is the largest room, handsomely decorated with all such conveniences for ladies and gentlemen as cloak rooms and closets adjoining. The typewriting and custom, freight and shipping departments is in one room where the students go, when necessary to make out their way bills, ship their freight, enter goods at the custom house and take delivery of them. This shipping and custom house department is new and under the competent direction of Mr. McCullough who is also the shorthand and typewriter instructor. All kinds of goods are entered at the custom house and upon the same forms as are used in daily business life. The freight bills are the same too and the student who goes out of Currie's college finds nothing different in the actual business he undertakes except that his transactions are actual, not imaginary. From this room there is a convenient reception room for lady students and their friends, handsomely furnished and comfortable in every respect.

In the rear is the English department where those who undertake a business course may have their deficiencies in grammar, spelling, punctuation, and all such necessary requirements, remedied. In many cases such a course is necessary, especially with those who wish to undertake stenography and typewriting when a tolerable knowledge of good English is most necessary. This department is also a large one and is fitted up in the same manner as the other rooms. The place is lighted excellently by the many windows in the day and by the Auer light at night. There are three sessions daily and a student can work eight and a half hours if he or she wishes.

The university is under the direction of Mr. J. R. Currie assisted by his brother Mr. J. S. Currie. Both of these gentlemen are expert accountants, both have had a long experience in teaching and actual experience as book keepers with large firms in this city. They are assisted, as stated before, by Mr. McCullough and Jas. W. Flower, L.L.B., of Boston university has charge of the English and commercial law department. There are also lady teachers assisting in the shorthand and business departments.

Much might be written about this excellent institution but Mr. Currie has recently published a descriptive calendar, illustrated not only with views such as are printed on this page today but with many of St. John. Some of the contents of that calendar is printed here below, but much more is found in its pages than could possibly be inserted here. The terms, expense and all information is in plain black and white. Moreover the whole book is interesting and worth reading. Send for it and see for yourself what advantages such a business university possesses.

Some Things in the Calendar.

The new actual business method is an entirely new departure from the old text-book plan. It proceeds upon the idea that a boy should first learn about business transactions, and how to execute them, be-

fore he undertakes to master the intricacies of double-entry bookkeeping.

He begins his work just as a business man begins when his first embarkment in trade. Every student is assumed to be a real merchant, and takes his place in a *fac-simile* business community, which comprises his whole school. He is given a capital in college currency, and begins by depositing this at the college bank. He is then shown how to make the necessary entry in his journal. Later he goes to the wholesale house and purchases a stock of representative merchandise, giving a check in payment for his purchase. Careful and detailed instructions are given him at every step. He is then gradually led to do real business with his brother merchants, just as a business is carried on in real life. There is nothing imaginary, all the dates and persons are real, and he carries on his business at a gain or loss, according as he shows or does not show judgment in managing his affairs.

To say that such a method of training puts new life into a school is to speak very mildly indeed. The students not only take vastly more interest in their work, but they get a practical training in carrying on and transacting business that is simply impossible of attainment under the text-book system of teaching. No one who will call at our school-rooms and see this fine new actual business method in operation can fail to see at once its great superiority. We are perfectly safe in saying that a student, by means of it, can learn more in a month than he can learn in a whole term by the old way; and this is not our opinion alone, but it is the conviction of hundreds of educators throughout the United States, who have adopted the new method.

We wish to assure those who are thinking of taking a commercial course, that there is not the slightest doubt of their being able to keep any ordinary set of books, or do general business, after they have spent the required time in our actual business department. The course embraces actual training in many different kinds of business, and no work is omitted that any business man is likely to be required to do. This institution holds the exclusive

right to use this patented actual business system in this part of Canada, and its benefits can be received only at our school, as the system is fully covered by patents and copyrights.

#### Bookkeeping.

This subject is taught by the now celebrated system of actual business from start to finish. From the beginning to the end of his course the student learns by doing. Upon the first day of his entrance he is

given a capital in university currency, and goes to buying and selling for himself under the trained supervision of expert accountants. As he advances he engages in undertakings more and more complex; becomes in time a proprietor, or partner in various jobbing, manufacturing and wholesale concerns, engages in joint stock operations, manages and handles the books of corporations, does banking and clearing-house business, insurance, shipping, forwarding, and custom-house work, trustee and executors' accounting, assignments, etc. All this, bear in mind, is real business; the school being a business community, of which the student is a member. There is a vast difference between learning bookkeeping in this way and trying to learn it by the old plan. We wish to emphasize the fact that our method of teaching bookkeeping is altogether a new departure from ordinary business college work, and is the only system yet devised for fitting students for the real duties of the counting room.

#### Penmanship.

There is no more graceful accomplishment than the ability to write a beautiful hand. There is something about fine penmanship that appeals directly to one's sense of the beautiful. It touches a refined sensibility like a strain of rich music or the melody of a sweet poem. Only a coarse and cloddy nature can be indifferent to the graceful and beautiful writing, and it is a worthy ambition to strive for excellence in this art, although not every one can become a facile and elegant penman any more than any one can become a finished musician or a painter of rare pictures. Pen artists, like other artists are born rather than made. But almost every one—certainly every

young person—can become a neat and ready penman, if he will only make a fair effort.

The majority of people write poorly, not from natural inability to write, but because they were not properly taught in the first place. Bad habits of cramping the fingers, writing with one side of the pen, etc., were acquired in the primary school, and until these are corrected, good, or even fair penmanship is out of the question. But any one of ordinary sense and perseverance who will put himself under the direction of a competent instructor, can correct these habits, acquire the power of writing with the arm instead of the fingers, and in a comparatively short season, work wonders of reformation even in the ugliest and most irregular handwriting.

In the case of those who expect to engage in business pursuits, this acquirement of a good handwriting is an absolute necessity. When a business man contemplates employing an office assistant, the first question he asks about the candidate for the position is: "Can he write a good hand?" If he can't that settles it; the employer will look further.

In this school we make a specialty of teaching business writing, and the learner gets the advantage of daily instruction by an expert penman, who is also an experienced teacher. We take pains to improve the student's general writing in every department of his course, as we insist on neat penmanship in all written work. Rarely, indeed, do we get a student who does not make marked progress. There is no way of improving one's handwriting except to go at the task seriously and under the competent guidance of an experienced teacher. We invite special attention to our facilities for teaching writing, as we intend in the future, as in the past, to make this an important feature of our business course.

#### Commercial Law.

A knowledge of the ordinary principles of business law is a prime necessity to every one engaged in commercial pursuits, and is now everywhere included among the elements of practical education. Many a costly law-suit would have been avoided, did the litigants both understand the ordinary principles of the law of contracts. Not having this knowledge they apply to lawyers, who too often serve their own interests by bringing on, instead of avoiding the suit. Any ordinary, bright young man or woman, can in a few months' diligent study acquire a fair knowledge of business law in all branches, and such a knowledge is of inestimable advantage in every walk in life. Unfortunately many persons do not care for this knowledge until they are compelled to learn it from practical experience at a great cost. While we do not pretend to graduate lawyers, yet we recognize the fact that it is necessary for every one, and especially business men, to be familiar with the laws and legal forms connected with every day business.

#### Shorthand Department.

Until comparatively recent years the writing of shorthand was almost unknown, except to a few reporters, and in earlier days such a person as an office stenographer was not to be found. The introduction of modern methods, however, has changed all this, and to-day the stenographer is an absolute necessity in any business office worthy of the name. Shorthand, like the telegraph, telephone, and many other modern appliances, has outgrown its infancy, and has now arrived at an age of material usefulness to the live, energetic business-man, and such a man would just as soon be without his ledger or bookkeeper as without his stenographer.

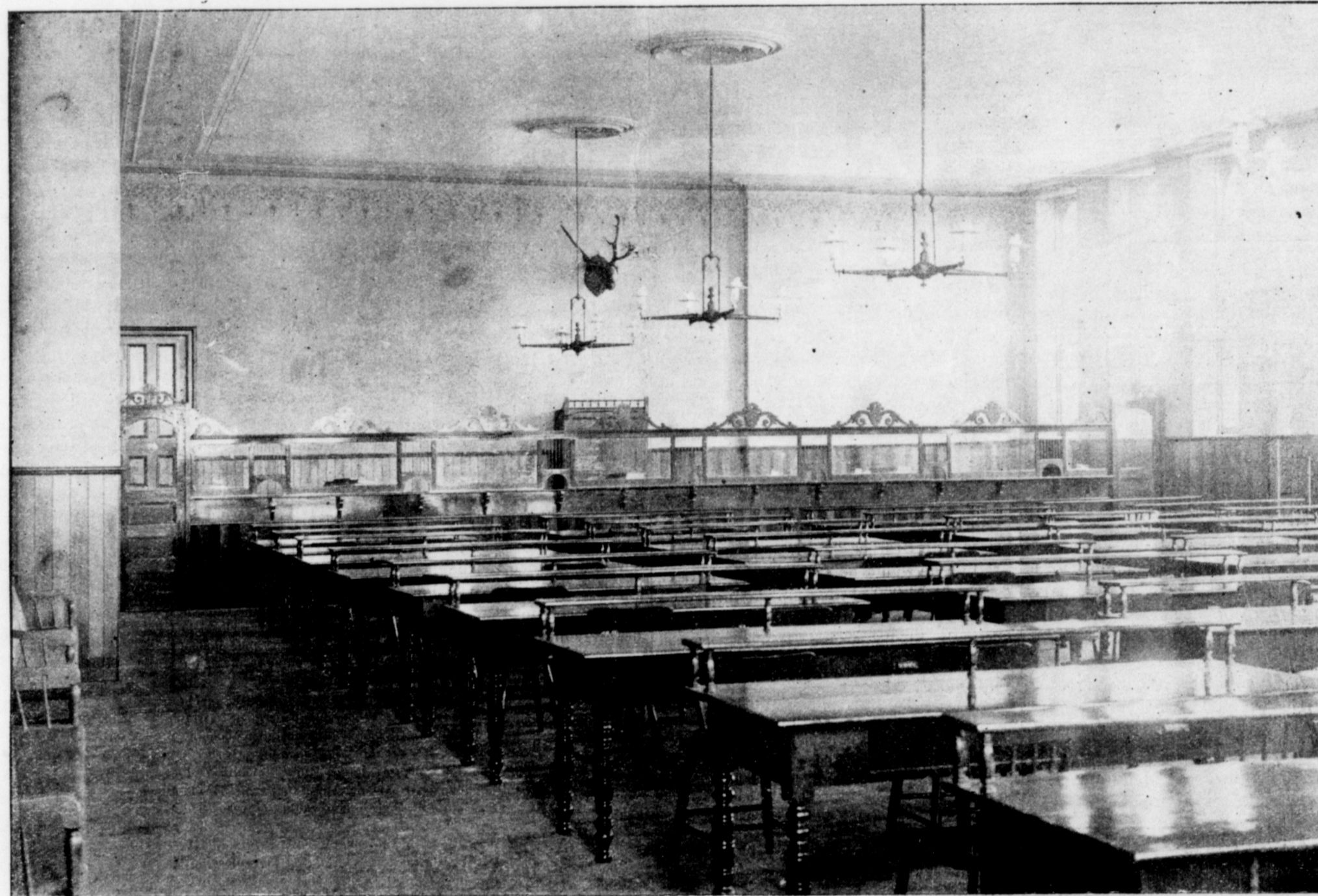
Our advice to all persons who may be puzzling their brain with this question is: Look around your own neighborhood, ascertain who the expert reporters are, and find out what system they use, and adopt it. If these instructions are followed no mistake can be made, as the system written by these experts must necessarily have stood the test of time and hard and varied work.

This is the plan that was adopted by the proprietor of this institution when opening a shorthand department. After spending a great deal of time and making numerous inquiries, he found that of all the different systems in use in this province, "Scovill's Shorthand" was far in the lead, three of the expert court reporters being Scovill writers, while only one writes another system. He also ascertained that three of these official court reporters were appointed some fourteen years ago, and that since that date, although other systems have been extensively taught, and the Scovill method to a very limited degree only, no other system has developed a known writer capable of securing the certificate of competency issued and required by the Provincial Government from applicants for positions as court reporters in this province. A number of these certificates were secured some three years ago by Scovill writers, and the same are now duly registered in the office of the Provincial Secretary at Fredericton.

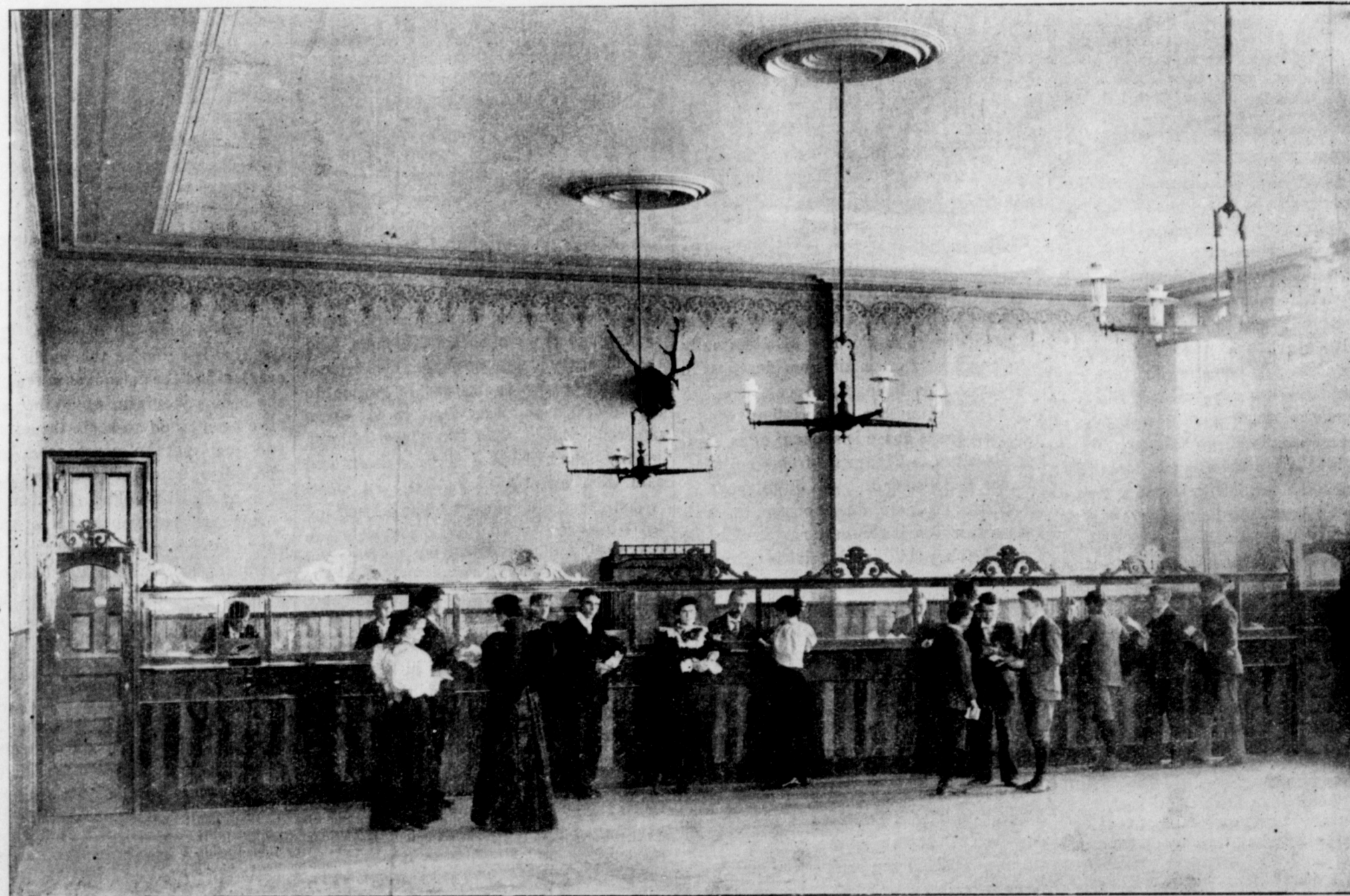
Finding this to be the standing of the different systems of shorthand, "Scovill's" was chosen as the best to be taught in this institution, and the work of our pupils since its adoption has fully justified the choice.



CURRIE'S BUSINESS UNIVERSITY.



BUSINESS DEPARTMENT, CURRIE'S BUSINESS UNIVERSITY.



BANKING DEPARTMENT, CURRIE'S BUSINESS UNIVERSITY.