

The Eighth Anniversary of the Bulletin

SINCE this issue of the *Bulletin* marks the eighth anniversary of the publication, it provides a fitting time to review the activities of the Society in the last eight years. It was in October 1925 that the Society was incorporated, but it was not until the following June that it actually began operations. Consequently, in a sense this month is also the eighth birthday of the Society itself. During these years the Society has been an important factor in developing the Baker Library into a leading depository of material on business history.

Much has been accomplished in the accumulation of manuscripts and records of American business history, but there is still a great deal of work ahead. Metaphorically, the framework of the building has been erected; the task remaining is that of pouring the mortar and adding the necessary finishing touches. Manuscripts on many fields of business endeavor and covering numerous chapters in the story of American industry have been secured, and future efforts must be directed toward obtaining material that will fill in the gaps of our outlines.

Here and there in the broad expanse of subjects covered, there are spots where the information is surprisingly complete. For instance, in the shipping field, the activities of the middle nineteenth century Boston ship owners are well covered. There is the Bryant Sturgis collection which emphasizes the Philippine trade, the Heard collection and its connections in China, and the Hunnewell collection with trade centering in Hawaii. A study of these collections indicates the close relationship existing among these shipping interests.

Beginning with raw material data, the Baker Library now has manuscripts on agricultural, animal, forest and mining industries. In the manufacturing field there are papers on a wide diversity of industries. Marketing collections have assumed an important place in the Library, there being account books and records on divers types of wholesale, retail, domestic, and foreign distributors.

The past year has been extremely profitable from the standpoint of the addition of new collections. Such acquisitions as the Henry Gray papers on foreign marketing, the Jewett shipping papers, the Harris papers on the Connecticut River Railroad, the Wright in-

insurance collection, and additional records of John and Thomas Hancock, together with those of Daniel Henchman and Peter Faneuil on wholesale marketing have done much to round out the information in their respective fields. Then, too, there have been manuscript additions in the public utility, textile, shoe manufacturing, motion picture, and retail selling fields.

The Society membership in the past year has maintained its character of diversified interest. A survey of the list reveals that practically every branch of industry and commerce is represented. Most of the larger universities and historical societies in the country are represented in the affiliated membership roll. Foreign countries represented include France, Germany, England, Canada, Norway, and Italy.

In addition to its efforts in securing manuscript material, the Society has been instrumental in securing a great number of periodicals of economic and business interest. Other business documents such as annual reports, reprints of speeches, monographs on special subjects, copies of contracts and leases, and action photographs from industrial plants have continued to flow into the Library.

It may be said that the Society has progressed to the point where it may look out upon a promising future. A very firm foundation has been laid upon which future building may be done with confidence and assurance. The success in the past has been attributable to the excellent cooperation among officers, members, and friends; with a continuation of these cordial and congenial relationships the prospects are indeed pleasing.

First Baldwin Apple Tree

WHO discovered the first Baldwin apple tree? A reminder of this much mooted question, which was apparently settled some years ago, was brought to light recently, when a map of Wilmington, Massachusetts, showing the site of the original tree was found among the Baldwin papers of the Baker Library.

From the diversity of versions on who discovered the first tree and how the famous Baldwin apple came to be named after Colonel Loammi Baldwin, the following is now accepted as the most authentic account. According to this story, the original tree grew in a woods in the southern part of Wilmington, a town lying north of