

THE CHEMAWA AMERICAN

Published Monthly at the United States Indian Training School
Chemawa, Oregon

H. E. WADSWORTH, Superintendent

YOUR WORD

If one desires to stand well in his community he must have the confidence and esteem of his fellows. It is necessary to have a good record behind you or you can not hope ever to take a high place in the estimation of your fellow citizens. A good record embodies all that you have ever done. Moreover, even if you are aware that your character is nothing short of the best, it will be necessary for you to give satisfactory proof of it if you are unknown. How are you to prove it? By your every-day life.

About the first thing strangers will look to is whether or not your word is good; in other words, if you are, or are not, truthful. If you are not truthful do not be surprised if you fail to succeed in that community. To have your word proved utterly worthless a few times will forever wreck your chances for success in that section. On the other hand if you are careful always to state the truth to the best of your knowledge people are quick to recognize your truthfulness and you win their confidence, and the confidence of your fellows begets success for you. You may gather a certain set about you even if your character is bad, but the fact that they were not particular in taking you up proves that they are not good people—good people are usually a little bit careful regarding whom they may chose as friends.

So live that you inspire the confidence of the better class of people, for this confidence is the only sort which will do you any good. The more you possess the confidence of a bad element the worse off you are, for good people will shun you when they see you consorting with the scum of earth. Believe in what you say, or else say nothing.

Among those careless and thoughtless we often hear the term, "You lie!" In our mind we do not believe that those whose habit it is to make common use of this expression of speech realize how terribly bad it sounds to people of culture—to that social class that has always endeavored to keep its word good. A few repetitions of such reprehensible expressions has given many a boy and young man a rating that he knew