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OUT OF STEP

Out of step, or keeping step, conveys a deeper meaning between the lines that might be noticed by the casual reader. We may be out of step in many ways besides the actual one of walking or marching.

Out of step! What do the words suggest? Disagreement, discord, inharmony; and we may find this in many ways. In music, for instance, no matter how well the performer may know his part, be he the smallest fraction of a note too fast or too slow, as compared with the other players, the whole effect is spoiled. He was out of step. When do we enjoy music? Only when all the instruments or voices are in accord, and although an ordinary listener might not detect the fault, it is there, known to most of the performers, and grates on the trained ear of a connoisseur.

One may be out of step in his methods, for keeping up means progression. Teaching that answered very well a hundred years ago will not do in this age of advancement, and the successful instructor or leader will look for the best methods that are to be found and keep himself thoroughly posted regarding them. The Chinese farmer with his wooden plow of one thousand years ago would be sadly out of step with the modern agriculturist. Without progress there can be no competition. We must either advance or retrograde.

Employees may be out of step with their superintendent, teachers with the principal, or pupils with their teacher; and what is the result? Unpleasantness in every quarter. Schools have failed of success for no other reason than this, when a little yielding on the part of someone would have settled the difficulty earlier. How often have we heard a teacher say, "If it were not for one or two pupils, I should have a perfect schoolroom," and yet these one or two either through thoughtlessness or stubbornness, keep up the discord. They are out of step.

Let us see which is easier, to keep in step or out. It takes an effort to keep up. We must brace ourselves, and, without watching our neighbors, look to ourselves and see if we are all right. Perhaps some are out of step from physical weakness (they are unfortunate), and will have to leave the lines unless a change comes. Others have some hobby, fad, or mannerism, which they dislike to give up, and rather

than do it, they make those around them uncomfortable and unhappy.

It behooves us to examine ourselves and see whether we are out of step in any sense of the word and preventing, by our attitude, that condition of harmony without which any society, school, or community cannot be a success. If we find we are out of step and cannot or will not keep up, we shall sooner or later be left behind the ranks and, sad to say, classed with the back numbers.

"QUITTER"

Occasionally you notice certain young men of splendid physique, well muscled, agile and quick, who take up athletics and indulge in all practice meets, and who apparently are superior to most of the players, but when it comes to the selection of the squad to represent the school in regular contests, are invariably left out. The writer has observed this a good many times and the question is often asked why such a splendid looking athlete, with all the outward appearances as well as ability to play well, is left out?

The reason for it lies in the fact that the captain of the team knows that such athlete, while able to play well, lacks the staying qualities when called upon to do his utmost. In other words, he is a "quitter," or as such quality is called, has a "streak of yellow" in his make-up. He is unable to stand up and do his best under adverse circumstances. Consequently he is not dependable and is left out.

The same will apply to certain students who have a propensity to desert from school. It seems that all our Indian Schools are to a greater or lesser extent troubled with a class of students who are "quitters," have a "streak of yellow" in their make-up. They lack the staying qualities and are unable to withstand a desire to go home or elsewhere when something comes up to their distaste. A "quitter" will never amount to much. When things are hard is the time to prove the mettle of a person, and only by rising above the desire to "quit" or desert from school or any other proposition, can a success be made.

Deserters from school or those who desert from any duty, will generally follow the habit of being "quitters" through life and will seldom, if ever, attain to any station such as will render them a subject for commendation or praise. Stay with your school, or with your job, and prove that you are made of the right stuff. When a difficult or unpleasant matter faces you, then is the time to prove your worth. Do not be a "quitter."