

3 MAY 8  
COPY 1956

# The Chemawa American

*Printed at Chemawa, Oregon, and Devoted to the Interests of Indian Education*

Vol. XXII

Wednesday, January 14, 1920

No. 14

## WORK AND CHARACTER

We must learn from the experiences of others—from the advice we receive from those older and wiser than ourselves. There is none of us whose personal experiences in life would place him far or high on the road to knowledge; all of us have to levy on the experiences of others, and listen to their counsel, and read books, for in these ways only can we acquire learning sufficient for our present day needs and for our needs as they are likely to appear to us tomorrow and the day after. Keep your mind active and receptive, and your eyes and ears open, and store away as you would precious corn in time of famine every grain of knowledge that is presented as you travel the by-paths through the sands of time. Nearly every Sunday evening Supt. Hall has delivered papers of great value to all when addressing those assembled in chapel. Every-one of these talks have been full of good advice to all. They have pointed out the path to success, to good citizenship, to a full and happy life. These addresses have been good to listen to, and they make mighty good reading, and subject matter well worth studying. The discourse of Supt. Hall on the evening of January 4th, was of such excellence that we are publishing it, as follows:

We are now commencing the last half of our school year, which always has impressed me as the best part of the year, for in that part our students have reached their stride and progress is more rapid. I want to talk a little while tonight on that old subject of "Work and Character." Do you realize that it takes honest work to make an honest, straight-forward character? How many of you observe carelessness, slipshodness, lack of thoroughness, in other students? The habit of doing poor, slovenly work will, after awhile, make a student dishonest in other things. The student who habitually slights his work (by work I mean physical as well as mental) slights his character. Botched work makes a botched life, for the quality of our work is a part of us. Every poor piece of work you do, be it in feeding horses, cooking a meal, ironing a dress, cleaning the yard, or whatever it may be, is an enemy which pulls you down—keeps you from progressing. For nothing kills ambition or lowers the standard quicker than familiarity with a low grade

of work—that which is cheap and a fraud. We grow habitually into that with which we come in contact. It becomes a part of us, and the habit of doing things in a slovenly way always leaves its mark on the character of a person. What we do, what you do and what all of us do, should be done with a view to thoroughness—put quality into your work. Most young people do not realize that the education, the comfort, the satisfaction, the general improvement, yes, the bracing up of the entire individual, come from doing one thing absolutely right, which outweighs a thousand times the value of many botched or slipshod jobs.

The entire person is influenced by the way of one's usual manner of doing things. The habit of thoroughness and accuracy builds up the mind, improves the whole character. And on the contrary, doing things in a loose, half-hearted, careless manner injures the mentality, demoralizes the thinking process and pulls the student down to lower levels. Every half-done lesson, every half-done or botched up piece of work that you do leaves its bad effects behind and takes away some of your self-respect. You injure yourself for doing your best just in proportion to the number of times you allow yourself to do poor work of any kind, until finally all self-respect vanishes, confidence goes with it, and when that happens you are no longer of much use to yourself or anyone else. You are only junk thereafter.

So, now at the very commencement of the year 1920, be honest with yourself; go into your work and study determined to win out, give yourself a chance, put forth your best endeavors and not your second best. You will like yourself better and be liked by others, and in the end will be of some consequence in life at school and a success after you leave. I would like every student at Chemawa, and the workers also, to adopt this formula: "During the ensuing year I will determine as nearly as possible to do those tasks which I shall have to perform from start to finish in order to succeed, and nothing under the sun shall divert my efforts from finishing every task which I begin in a thorough manner."

It is said that a high school student has twelve years' advantage over a grammar student in chances of succeeding in business lines on account of the mental training acquired in seeking out, grasping, and applying the principles behind the various studies. It is also said that a university student has a proportionate advantage over the high school student, and so on. All of which clinches my argument that to succeed you must have the mental qualification to get ahead, and to acquire faith and honesty in yourself you must do your work thoroughly.