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“HOBBY HORSES”

A hobby of the right sort is a fine thing for a boy or girl—in fact, a respectable hobby will harm no-one, young or old. A hobby may be defined as something that makes a strong appeal to its possessor. Then we are safe in the assumption that the prosecution of a hobby may involve labor, and let us hope that it may be labor to a good end. It will be a fine thing for those who take up so-called hobbies to use discretion in the matter and select “that something” on which to expend thought and energy with a view to its possible growth into a future of respectable proportions for its possessor.

For instance, better to illustrate our meaning as regards the last sentence: Suppose a boy or girl begins as a hobby rider with a kodak, it will be easy to see that it may lead to ownership later of a photograph studio, or to proficiency as an engraver, as a knowledge of photography is necessary in engraving as carried on largely now-a-days. Or, let us suppose that a musical instrument represents the hobby, in which case there is ahead of the hobby the possibility of having a studio and teaching as a means of gaining a livelihood. If teaching is distasteful there is a field for professional playing in ensemble or as an individual artist—the remuneration being governed entirely by the knowledge and ability possessed.

We can see that what may start as a hobby may develop into something decidedly worth while. One can be serious even when riding a “hobby horse.” Try and select that “horse” with a view to its carrying you somewhere. Then ride it with a purpose in mind. Develop a desire to work at something yourself. Get the feeling that you want to do it alone, your very self, that it will not be done as you desire it unless you roll up your sleeves and do it. Foster a feeling that even an assistant might bungle matters for you—that it is too important to you to trust to other hands. That you want it done and want to do it—in fact, that you’d sooner do it than not do it—rather work at it than not work. Once you are full of that spirit you can branch out and apply your doctrine of “work” and of “doing it yourself” to many things. It may take years to bring about the ideal in the way of self-

development, but remember that successes are the result largely of slow and careful growth and building.

Young children are rarely lazy. They are, if left free to follow their own impulses, usually to be found doing something for the very love of it. Many times they are in their childish fancies and imaginations following most rational callings—the girl making clothes for her doll baby, the boy running a stream of water in the imaginary irrigation of his cabbage patch. All is real to childhood and all is energy and industry if unhampered by elders. Can we older people not emulate the child to advantage in many ways? At least in shaking off that lazy feeling which results largely from lack of interest?

At Chemawa there is always much to do—great things possible for all—why not select a hobby from some of them? For instance, take as a hobby the matter of a “perfect lesson.” This will lead you somewhere. Or, if a carpenter, get it into your head that you would sooner be a carpenter than anything else in the world and that you will be a “good carpenter,” too, the very best within your power. This illustration will apply to those in every department of our school, both vocational and academic, for both boys and girls alike. Now choose your “hobby horse” and ride—ride in the direction of a place called “Somewhere” and when you reach your destination remember that your ride began at Chemawa.

TRY SAYING IT FAST

This is one of the cleverest, jingling tongue-twisters that was ever devised. If you are able to read through it rapidly without getting the words tangled up you are to be congratulated on having mastered in an exceptional manner the art of articulation and enunciation. Here it is:

If a Hottentot taught a Hottentot tot
To talk ere the tot could totter,
Ought the Hottentot tot
To be taught to say “aught”
Or “naught,” or what ought to be taught her?
If to hoot and toot a Hottentot tot
Be taught by a Hottentot tooter,
Should the tooter get hot if the Hottentot tot
Hoot and toot at the Hottentot tooter?