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CRIMINAL CARELESSNESS

Every day we notice various acts of carelessness on the part of many of our pupils, and the habit is prevalent with so many people a little discussion of the matter will be timely.

The history of the human race is full of the most horrible tragedies caused by the inexcusable blunders of those who never form habits of accuracy, of thoroughness—of doing things right.

Multitudes of people are hobbling around on one leg, have lost an eye or an arm, or are otherwise maimed, because of dishonest workmen slighting their work by covering up defects and weak places—being careless.

Inestimable numbers may have lost their lives because of dishonest, careless work, criminal blundering in the construction of houses and other things we use. Thousands of people lose their lives yearly through defective machinery on account of dishonest and careless labor. Everywhere we see the tragic results of careless, botched work, somebody's blunders, somebody's habit of being inaccurate. The worst crimes are not always punishable by law. Carelessness, lack of thoroughness, are crimes against self, against humanity, that often do more harm than the crimes which make the perpetrator an outcast from society.

When a tiny flaw or a slight defect may cost a precious life, carelessness is as much a crime as deliberate criminality. If everybody put conscience into his work, did it completely and thoroughly, it would not only reduce the loss of human life as well as save valuable property, but would also give us a higher quality of manhood and womanhood. It takes honest work to make an honest character, as we have stated before many times. The habit of doing poor, slovenly work, will after a while make the worker dishonest in other things. The man, woman, boy or girl, who habitually slight his work, slight his character, for work is a part of us.

The majority of people think too much of quantity and too little of quality. They often try to do too much and do not do it well. We are trying in these articles to impress upon our boys and girls in particular the great necessity that they realize that the education,

the comfort, the satisfaction, the general improvement and bracing up of the individual comes from doing one thing absolutely right, and continuing to follow the plan of doing whatever comes your way with precision, which will outweigh in character, in self-respect, the value that attaches to many thousands of poor, careless, botched jobs.

The mental and moral effect of half doing things; its power to drag down, to demoralize, can hardly be estimated because the process is so gradual, so subtle.

This habit of carelessness applies so strongly to many of us here at Chemawa, and is so reprehensible, that we wish to impress upon you with all the force at our command to take heed, for this habit of doing things poorly will so demoralize our general character that we will perform such a poor grade of work without being conscious of it that it will result in stultifying our sense of honor and finally render us unable to realize how worthless we have become, and we will not realize why we are such ignominious failures.

The person who habitually does things wrongly will in time become really repulsive. His ideals are dulled, his faculties palsied, ambition gone, deterioration occurs all along the line, for the human mechanism is so constituted that whatever goes wrong in one part affects the whole structure.

Students, watch your step—be thorough and do not dodge nor slip in rotten hours nor rotten service. Nobody likes a rotter.

The masons are laying a new walk at the Superintendent's house.

Painters have just finished the painting of the roof at the Club building.

Supervisor Bradley, who is here looking after the construction of McNary Hall, has had a very fine spring for outside work. We mentioned a few weeks ago that the brick work was all done, and can now report the completion of the roof, which makes it so that carpenters can work continuously, without interruption by the weather. There is an immense amount of work yet to be done, for when the carpenters are through the painters must have their chance. The plumbers are now busy.