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SUPT. HALL'S TALK

No one can remain at Chemawa very long before it is found evident that our greatest thought and endeavor is to awaken his ambition and set his feet in the path of self-development. We are continually trying to arouse the ambition in every boy and girl in this school, and to stir up employees also to put into effect an ambition-arousing environment, to pull together and stimulate his energy and bring out the very best in him. For ambition requires arousing and to do this for all of you, we, you, I, and all others at Chemawa, must realize that ambition requires constant care and education even after it is aroused. It is a passion that responds quickly to cultivation.

What we all most need is to do what we can. To do what we can—that is our problem at Chemawa, not what some one else can do, but what we can do. Most of us have an enormous amount of power which could achieve marvels if we awakened it. You young people want to be aroused; you want to be understood, believed in and encouraged. You want to be with people who believe in you, encourage you, praise you, criticize you; you want to be associated with those people who continually help you to high aspirations. That is why you are here, and my advice to you this evening is: Whatever you do, make any sacrifice necessary to keep in an ambition-arousing atmosphere, an atmosphere that will stimulate you to self-development.

Try to make your teachers and directors in every department at Chemawa understand you, believe in you; endeavor to secure their co-operation. We are all here to help you along the right road, to stimulate you to high aims, lofty ambition. So I advise that you keep close to those who are dead-in-earnest to go to any length to further your advancement. You will soon catch the spirit that dominates in your schoolroom, your workshop, your department, in your dormitories, which are your school homes.

Your success depends upon yourselves, and with proper encouragement and stimulation you can realize your ambition. So many boys, and girls, too, come to Chemawa with an idea that if they like it and get everything just as they want it they will remain, but

they leave a way open to retreat if things go too hard.

I have yet to observe a student who came here to visit, to look around, thinking that if he liked it he would stay, who did stay. That spirit alone indicates failure. No one can call out his greatest powers while he knows he has a line of retreat. There is a good deal in "burning your bridges behind you," in committing yourself so fully to the need of preparing yourself for better things that no discouragement can turn you back. Turn your back for want of grit in the hour of disappointment! It is a pitiable thing to see so many drifters who have not set their faces toward a single high aim.

Energy and inclination to get down to work on the part of some, and the "listless waiting" on the part of others, during the past week tested some here. Young people, there is a standing demand for trained men and women. I am urging you to take advantage of your opportunities at Chemawa this year. As long as you think your chance lies somewhere else, in somebody else, you will be a failure. Your opportunity is here, right now, and is wrapped up in your own personality. Haven't you seen boys and girls right here at this school become discouraged and say that they had no chance? Such an idea, in a country where log-cabin boys and poor boys from the farm go to the White House! In a country where abound thousands of free libraries, free schools, free education, where even the boys from the slums become our legislators, and where the poorest become our greatest merchants, bankers and financiers!

No chance in a country which has proved innumerable times that you can not keep an energetic boy or girl back after you have once given him the alphabet.

Boys, "no chance" has ever been the excuse of weak men. Let every student get down to business immediately, now, right at the start of school and keep it up throughout the year. Let nothing or anybody push you aside. Study, work, get into the swim and stay there.

Each year we commence school, with a large number of new pupils, and we wish to urge those who are just entering our great school to try and secure the very best that Chemawa offers.