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# The Chemawa American

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

Vol. XXVI

Wednesday, March 18, 1925

No. 22

## EDUCATION COUNTS

It goes without saying that the untrained mind is no match for the educated. Ignorance is no match for intelligence. What a vast difference there is in young people as to the keenness of their observing powers, the retention of their memory, the quickness of their perceptive powers. Some people seem never to know anything you ask them. If you put to them a question that is the least bit out of the ordinary you are practically sure they will say, "I don't know." Others seem to always to give you the information you want. Their minds are alert, quick, perceptive; their knowledge definite, certain, their memory reliable.

The "I-don't-know" student is not a climber in his school work and needs to be hustled out of his indifference. Students while training themselves, if they would advance, must use their gray matter—their brains. The majority of people use only a small part of their ability, because they are not sufficiently ambitious to be on the alert to absorb every bit of information which would increase their facility. Knowledge is power. No matter in what condition you are placed, every bit of valuable information you pick up, every bit of good reading or thinking you do, in fact, every effort you put forth to make you a larger, completer man or woman, will also help to advance you in every way.

We have observed Indian boys and girls who were in comparatively low grades do more for their advancement in their spare time, at every possible opportunity, by improving their minds, than by the actual class work they did. The young person who is ambitious is always preparing himself for advancement.

Students, we all have our weak points, but we want you, each one of you, to get right down to brass tacks and analyze yourself and you will find a lot of weak spots in your system which you could improve. You may find that you lack initiation—self direction. You may have to be pushed about like so many checkers; you may lack backbone and a lot of other things necessary in a good student. There are plenty of boys and girls who really seem very ambitious to get along, but they lack this self-propelling power. They wait for something to happen, for somebody to boost them.

This kind of boys or girls simply slide along the line

of least resistance. They would like very much to stand out as successes, but are afraid of the price. The successful life is too strenuous for them. There are too many difficulties in it; it requires too much sticking and hanging on in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. They go about with an indefinite idea that there is something here for them, and that by some chance it will come to them if they only wait long enough. In the meantime they appear content to be propped up by their teachers and supported by others.

The lack of self-reliance, this dependence on others, is fatal, of course, to advancement and achievement. The youth who is constantly waiting to be braced up, who cannot stand without help, who is ever seeking somebody's assistance, does not possess the first essentials of success.

Independence, self-reliance, backbone—these are the qualities that win. The timid, shrinking, hesitating, vacillating man never gets ahead. We must have self-assurance. Self-reliance not only helps us to respect ourselves, but it makes others respect us. We instinctively admire the person who stands for something, who has backbone and stamina enough to depend upon his own exertions. Weak-kneed, spineless people, no matter how good they are, never develop any strength of character because they do not trust themselves; they fail to exercise their own faculties and of course they never develop.

Boys, America is no place for the weakling, for the youth without backbone or courage, and it takes both to win out, not only while at school but when you leave here, for the fierce competition of the energetic and ambitious will sooner or later force the weakling to the wall.

This laziness, this lack of ambition, this disinclination to pay the price for advancement and success is one of the greatest curses of the general run of people. A mere wish, a mere desire to get on, unless backed with resolution, push, the determination which does not look back, will never accomplish anything. The real cause for such a multitude of people failing to get on is pure laziness. They are unwilling to pay the

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