

# The Chemawa American

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## OUR HOBBIES

In the ordinary affairs of life to be open to the charge of having a hobby is almost equivalent to being considered a joke. Let us see? To have a hobby is to be obsessed with some constantly recurring idea, of which one is ever ready to talk. This is certainly not a crime—nor is it a joke. It all depends. Many of our most respected and influential citizens have in reality ridden to their present positions on their hobby-horses. It is certainly possible for a hobby-horse to be a good nag, even though belittled far and wide by those who think superficially.

In all intricate things the idea must be so fixed in the mind that it will remain with an individual for years, possibly for a life-time. The mind is obsessed with the one great subject, or thought, and consideration of it occupies all of the mental faculties to the exclusion of almost everything else. So absorbed may one become with his hobby that he wants to discuss it with others on every possible occasion. Perhaps the fellow on the hobby-horse may hope to gain information through discussion with others? There is certainly no joke about this. It all depends, more or less, on the degree of intelligence manifested by the man with a hobby.

Sometimes these hobby-horses carry more than their riders—they may bear home a fortune or fame. Many of our great men have ridden to fame on what his neighbor considered a hobby-horse. Many of our greatest inventions were first a hobby in the mind of some individual, but eventually the hobby-horse got into green pastures, more fertile fields, and the thinking mass of mankind awoke with startling suddenness and amazement at an achievement that dazzled the whole world—an achievement, too, that probably was to revolutionize certain problems during many years, if not for all time. Some hobby, that!

Now, in order to bring our idea closer home, in fact, to get more or less personal, let us suppose that our students as a body would determine that it should be their hobby to know their text-books from cover to cover, wouldn't that revolutionize things at Chemawa? Wouldn't our little world be amazed—stand aghast—at such an unbelievable hobby? Who dares to say that such a hobby on the part of every student would

not benefit each one? There are hobbies and hobbies—much depends on the hobby chosen. Really, the matter is worthy of serious consideration.

## ART

He who is careless and slovenly in the discharge of his tasks is a fellow who is recognized as a "botch" workman. He soon gains such a reputation that no one who desires work well done will employ him. Little by little the "botch" workman is pushed lower and lower in the grade of employment offered him and eventually only the roughest and most commonplace jobs are open to him. The sad part of it is that the remuneration is usually a trifle below the quality of the work performed.

The great majority of employers have discovered that work, whatever the character of it, pays best when it is done well. They are willing to pay a living wage, or more, for good work—good, conscientious service. Such being the case, it seems that the person known as a "botch" does not stand much chance of ever getting far on the road to success. "Only the best is good enough" should be the motto of all young people who are starting out in the world to carve their names on the rock of destiny. It is possible for all who are intelligent to do acceptable work, and if they fail to do so and do not succeed the blame lies at their own doors.

It will carry young people who have their way to make in the world a long way to endeavor to make an art of their labors. A thing which is uncommonly well done cannot possibly be common, for that which is common is just average, nothing more. In our judgment it is not necessary that one shall specialize in sculpture, music, painting or letters in order to merit the title of "artist." Art is produced in many ways and in many forms. Work of such a fine character that discriminating thought, backed up by years of experience, has entered into its accomplishment must in the very nature of things rank as art.

When we see a master mechanic handling his lathes we instinctively pay homage to him as an artist. It is the same when we see a fine cabinet maker at his tasks, or a man creating beautiful things out of leather.

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