

# CHEMAWA AMERICAN

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

Vol. XXXI

Wednesday, May 21, 1930

No 36

## WHAT IS DEMANDED

Old times are gone and new days with new standards are with us. Forty or fifty years ago almost anyone with half a will to work could find something to do. It is different nowadays—one has to be anxious to work in order to hold a job if he gets one. Competition is keen among those who labor and the invention of labor-saving machines has added to the problems of the wage-earners as a class. All over our land standards of living, of production, and of demands, have been getting higher and higher with the passing of the years. There are so many ordinary people that there are not enough ordinary jobs to go around. What logically follows as the course for our students if they are to succeed? They must fit themselves for positions of skill and responsibility—for the job above the capacity of the masses. In labor as in life itself, the "fittest will survive."

Many of our boys and girls will soon be looking for work during the vacation period, while many of our graduates will be looking for permanent positions. We wish to draw their attention to a paragraph in a report recently sent out by the Y. M. C. A. of Portland; it is worthy of serious consideration and reads as follows:

"Difficulty in finding trained men with five or more consecutive years of experience continues to be a problem. Trained, experienced men in almost any line can be placed even in these dull times. As it is, there is a woeful lack of good men in the most ordinary trades. It is most difficult to find good auto mechanics or car washers, or a man who can park cars properly, or sell gas and make correct change. Recent calls for mechanical draftsmen, erecting machinists, steamfitters, and maintenance electricians went unfilled for lack of qualified applicants. Wide-awake, trained accountants, under 50, with good penmanship, and first-class male stenographers are in demand, with the supply limited."

It will be of interest no doubt to our readers to ponder what the report says of clerks and salesmen, especially if any of our young folk consider trying their hands at something along this line, canvassing for instance:

"Of Clerks there are legion, but those who can meet the public properly and who snap into their jobs are few

indeed. Some one has said that people are divided into two groups; clerks and salesmen, 90 percent clerks and 10 percent salesmen. The latter filling all of the worth-while positions and getting most of the money, while the clerks are just trailing along behind. It is the ambition of this department to boost the number of salesmen."

This subject begins to grow serious now. The impossibility of reaching, helping, or doing anything for a certain class seems hard, but it appears as true as it is hard. Read this paragraph of the report:

"The office is filled every day however with young men and older men, without either special education or training or experience, anxious about the future but unable to find their places in the world. One's sympathies are taxed to the utmost while finding it almost impossible to help."

From here we shall give the report without any comment. We think it will bear most careful reading and prove well worth serious reflection. Read:

"Business conditions for the month of April were disappointing. There was a tenseness in the atmosphere, an uncertainty, that was felt all along the line. While placements were fairly good the quality was not what we expected. Very few first-class men were called for, particularly in the office lines. The majority of calls and placements were of the ordinary kind. Lumber was exceedingly quiet with many mills wavering as to whether to open or close. The tariff squabble in Congress has filled the air with uncertainty in our leading industry. What the outcome will be no one can predict. Until the matter is settled mills are marking time and thousands of men are idle.

"An unusually large number of both high school and college men have been coming in who have dropped out of school on account of lack of finances. Most of these young men were of a very fine type with whom it was a great pleasure to confer and to try to assist in their problems.

"We addressed letters to fifteen small denominational colleges in a recent effort to supply five young college men as teachers in mission schools and had only two young men respond to such an appeal. We are still hoping for later inquiries. Frankly we are puzzled as to why there was not a greater response. The

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