

**HOW TO CHOOSE OCCUPATIONS;
HINTS TO YOUNG WORKERS**

The great question which confronts the young man at the beginning of his career is, "What am I going to do?" You must do something, and to do that something you must enter some trade, or business, or profession. It cannot be all three and the road you start to follow is, all things being equal, the road for you to continue upon. True, the professional man occasionally leaves his ranks and joins those of business, and sometimes succeeds; men have forsaken trades, and have made a success in a profession, but the great majority of successes are of those who choose, at the start, the best road to follow, and seldom change their course.

The taking of the wrong road at the start, constant changing from one avenue to another, are the causes of 90 per cent of our business and professional failures. The man who starts right, however small may be his degree of success, is more likely to reach the flush of possible attainment than he who, with apparent reason or without reason, changes from one thing to another. The few exceptions which have occurred go more to prove the reliability of the rule than to discredit it.

The first thing, then, to decide upon is whether to learn a trade, a business, or a profession. After this question has been decided, then it is incumbent to choose the kind of trade, business, or profession which you appear to be the best fitted to occupy, both by inclination and ability. In this choice—this choice at the start—rests to a large extent the probability of your success or failure.

Upon general principles what you want is what you would succeed in. If all of your tendencies are in one direction, the chances are that you will succeed better by choosing that calling than by taking up anything else. But your inclinations, however strong, they may be, are not entirely to be depended upon. Many a young man, with apparent reason, chooses some calling which he does not possess more than a semblance of ability for. He sincerely may believe that he has taken the right step, and may have no thought for any other vocation, yet he may be unfit for the one he has chosen.

Something is needed beyond inclination and choice, and that something is ability. Without it one cannot make more than an indifferent success in any direction. Fortunately, however, inclination and ability frequently go together, and therefore, inclination and choice are worthy of the greatest consideration; but they must not be followed without reason, a reason which can be proved to be reason.

It by no means is improbable that you may desire to become a lawyer, because some of your friends have entered the law or are about to. Your choice, then, may be a reflected one, and not a real one. It is possible that you have chosen the law because you did not feel inclined to go in any other direction. That is not a valid reason nor a safe one.

You should assure yourself of the permanency of your inclination and choice, that it is necessary for you to be reasonably sure that what you think you want to do is what you can do, and that it is not a mere passing fancy, before you take the leap which may have no rebound.

After you thoroughly have tested your inclination, and have proven that your choice is based upon reason, it then is time for you to find out whether you are fitted to follow the line of your desire. It is necessary for you to make a self-examination, and it should be thorough. It

is not safe for you to trust yourself alone. You should consult your friends, and particularly those who have judgment. Talk with them, ask them to advise you with freedom and frankness. Do not depend upon the judgment and advice of any one friend. He may be biased or he may not judge well.

If the consensus of opinion is in your favor, it is then time for you to get into direct contact with the men who have made both successes and failures in the calling you propose to follow. If you do not know any of them personally, obtain introductions to them. Tell them about yourself and ask them to give you an insight into the calling they represent. Learn all you can about the vocation that you propose to follow, not from hearsay entirely but from getting into contact with it. If your inclination, based upon reason, the opinion of your friends, and the advice of those in the calling you have chosen, favor your entering that vocation, then you safely can take up, and you may expect to obtain all the success your ability is capable of giving you.

If the majority of opinion is against the calling you have chosen, it is your duty to choose again, and to repeat the processes of self-examination and investigation.

It is possible that you have no noticeable inclination for any particular vocation, although you may be able to determine whether or not you will choose a trade, a business, or a profession. It may be possible for you to go further and to determine what class of trade, business, or profession best coincides with your choice or is best adaptable to your capacity. Consider, then, only some standard trade or business, which is all business and which bears no flavor of a profession. Under these conditions do not take up a specialty. If it be a trade, choose one in which there is a permanent demand for its workers. If business, select one which consists of the making or buying and selling of common commodities.

To meet success in general trade or business one does not have to be a specialist or possess any pronounced ability in any one direction save being a mechanic if a trade is selected and having ability to buy or sell if a business is chosen. All special lines of business and trade, and all of the professions, belong to those who have a pronounced bent in their direction. The majority of men who are not in trade or in the professions are business men—no more and no less—that is, they have ability to buy or sell. It makes little difference to them whether they deal in dry goods, clothing, hardware, or railroads. If you have no pronounced, inclination in a definite direction become a tradesman. Learn the business and stick to it.

While delay is to be discouraged, I would advise you to wait several months if necessary before choosing your vocation than to take the first thing which presents itself, unless it is of unusual advantage. It is better to wait a considerable time and make the right choice than to plunge in without proper preparation or a weighing of business values. But don't loaf. If you wait, keep busy while you wait. Make work of waiting. But don't be overparticular. Success depends upon hard work. There are no so-called "snaps" in business. One should not jump at the first opening, unless that opening appeals to him, or he is obliged to take it.

Remember that as you start, so are you likely to go. The finish is dependent upon the start.

NEW YORK FACES PROBLEM

Rural Values Decreasing At Enormous Rates—12,000 Farms Abandoned.

A thorough investigation by the United States department of agriculture has revealed an alarming decrease in farm land valuation in New York state, which is not far short of a menace to the welfare of the commonwealth.

Startling figures are presented, which show an enormous loss in wealth and population in the state's rural districts, and a consequent weakening of social and political influence.

According to the reports of the government inspectors, the country is being absorbed by the city, with the result that farm lands have decreased \$170,000,000 in value; that more than 12,000 farms have been abandoned; that the population of the more remote towns and villages has, in several instances, decreased 40 to 50 per cent.

The comparisons are made with the state's agricultural prosperity in the early 80's. In some districts land values have decreased since then nearly 90 per cent. The 12,000 abandoned farms in the state are capable of caring for a population of 150,000 and represent an area of 12,000,000 acres, most of which is arable land.

The national government inspectors who have been engaged in investigating this subject declare officially that these farms have not been abandoned because of lack of fertility. For the last 20 years the cities have so fascinated the imagination of country people that farmers' sons and daughters and those who formerly would have become farm hands have abandoned the soil to their parents.

In many districts all of the farmers are men of advanced age. As fast as these die the farms become tenanted or are sold for little or nothing to the less vigorous and venturesome of the younger generation, or become the property of wealthy men, who join them into large estates.

The total land values of New York state amount to a little over a billion dollars. This is exclusive of machinery, cattle, etc. Land has risen in value in the immediate neighborhood of the cities, while it has materially decreased in value in the remote country districts, the rate of decrease being in reverse ratio to the distance from the city.

John A. Stewart, president of the League of Republican clubs of New York state, said that the league in its general committee meetings had discussed the question, but had hesitated to take action because efforts on its part would be stamped as political.

"Convention to Plan Remedy," said Mr. Stewart, "to consider the abandoned farms, the want of farm labor, the enormous falling off in the wealth and population of the villages and the upsetting of the natural and safe balance between country and city is soon to take place, to extend the schools in each of the country congressional districts and to teach the country boy how to make more money on the farm than he can make in any office in New York City will be discussed. It is not a political move, for the question is much broader than any political organization or party. The league has adopted a resolution calling on the legislature to take immediate action in the interest of farmers, and therefore, of the population of the entire community."

—K. of P. Picnic next Sunday—Don't forget to get your tickets at Norton & Hansen's or the North Bend News company stores for the K. P. picnic. The North Bend orchestra has been engaged for the occasion and will furnish music for the day.

—Today—Hot chicken at Davis & Davis.

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Now is the time to make your selection and obtain the pick of the best and most exclusive lines.

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California Wines a Specialty
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CONTAINS NO HARMFUL DRUGS

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Portland & Coos Bay S. S. Line
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