

The Value of Knowledge

(By R. G. Dykstra.)

"Men say that slavery has been abolished. Is it a fact? True negro slavery has been abolished. But what about the hundreds of thousands of white men in our country who are in a worse condition of slavery than ever negro endured in the South?"

Can you imagine a worse slave than a man who is competent to do nothing except common labor—who sees that he is shut in by a wall over which it seems impossible to climb, doomed year after year to drudge away at the same thing, with absolutely no hope for the future? You say this is a land of the free—that he is a free man. I say that he is a slave, because he is absolutely under the control of some one else—a master. His tools are not in his hand but in his muscles.

"Where some one controls your tools he controls your opportunity to work. When he controls your opportunity, he is your master. You are his slave."

"Indeed, in many respects, the black slave of the past was far better off than the white slave of today. True, the black man could not quit, but he was fed, clothed and doctored during sickness, and had little to worry about. The picture in 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' is much overdrawn. The negro was far too valuable to be mistreated very much—but you—if you are a white slave, how much are you worth to your master? How much will it cost him to replace you when you get old and wear out?"

"You say I am not a slave. I can quit." Yes, you can quit an old job to work in the same old treadmill again or starve, unless you have some technical knowledge that will enable you to become your own master. A man is free, and free only, when he controls his own opportunity to work—when he has some special knowledge that enables him to use his brain, instead of his muscles—when he has educated and trained not only his hands but his mind. Then and then only has he the tools of a free man. Then he has his foot on the ladder and is competent to climb.

"This is an age of education along special lines. Never before in the history of the world has the demand for specialists been so great. Every branch of business has been systematized and reduced to a science, and a man must know his business and know it thoroughly, in order to successfully compete in these opening years of the twentieth century."

"Fate hangs no red lights at the cross roads of a man's career." There are no sign posts along life's highway, and the highroads to success or failure are not labeled at the beginning. It is only when we have reached mature years that we can look back and see just where the cross roads were; just where the sign should have been placed reading "This way to success." We can then begin to see just where we took the wrong road; just where by not going the right way, we can lose so much while had we done thus or so we would have gained honor, wealth and fame.

The reason why many men fail in life today is because of the fact that they squandered their time and their manhood in their youth; they would not go to school, or, if they had gone, they wasted their time, skimped through their text books, annoyed their class mates and teachers, and impeded the progress of many faithful workers.

Let the boys and girls of our schools today wake up and heed this fact lest some of them find themselves in the race with the slaves in the years to come. To waste and squander your time now, instead of engaging in laborious study, means that you will suffer defeat and disappointment when you get out into the world to grapple for a livelihood with mankind. Ask yourself the question: Am I going to be contented to plod along life's pathway with the great mass of humanity in the line of least resistance, contented to do the little things and let the more ambitious class take the lead, or shall I place my shoulder to the wheel and improve every spare moment, in as well as out of the school room, and thereby let the world know that I cannot be turned aside from my settled purpose?"

It is the young man or woman who confronts the world with an unflinching heart, who cannot be discouraged by the scorn or laugh, but masters every difficulty set before him, that makes his mark.

Do not wait for age to teach you this dear lesson but grasp your opportunity and fill your place in this grand old world or you may some day reflect back and say, "Well, I am still a slave."

Table listing various individuals and their amounts, including Gilbert B. Posey, Care of Poor, and various names with monetary values.

Table listing individuals under 'Widow's Pension' and 'Bridges', including Etta Bush, Mattie Burson, and Chas. K. Spaulding Lb. Co.

Table listing individuals under 'Ferry' and 'Tax Rebate', including Julius Shaffer, Charles Chandler, and F. M. Lackey.

Table listing individuals under 'Advertising' and 'Stock Inspector', including H. C. Dunsmore, assigned, and L. W. Horn.

Table listing individuals under 'Road District No. 1' and 'Road District No. 3', including Thornton & Stevenson, and E. L. Rowland.

Table listing individuals under 'Road District No. 4' and 'Road District No. 5', including Clarence Woelk, and T. E. Cowdell.

Table listing individuals under 'Road District No. 7' and 'Road District No. 8', including A. H. Whitney, and Carl Pollan.

Table listing individuals under 'Road District No. 9' and 'Road District No. 10', including M. N. Prather, and Charley Lehman.

Table listing individuals under 'Road District No. 11', including Wm. Shewey, and Mrs. J. F. Ulrich.

Table listing individuals under 'Road District No. 16' and 'General Road', including Craven & Huff Hdw. Co., and Chas. Hazelton.

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FOR SALE OR TRADE

WELL IMPROVED 20 ACRES, 2 MILES FROM COTTAGE GROVE, LEVEL ROAD TO TOWN, FINE SPRING WATER PIPED INTO HOUSE, CAN BE PIPED INTO BARN; 3 ACRES BEARING ITALIAN PRUNES, FAMILY ORCHARD IN BEARING. WILL SELL, TRADE FOR RESIDENCE, OR LAND CLOSER TO WHERE I LIVE.

H. G. CAMPBELL DALLAS, ORE.

Don't Forget!

The monthly sale day to be held at the rear of this store on

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The Kinds That Give Satisfaction Trade the Old for a New

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Made of the best gray iron, all cast. Top opens. Large end doors. Front door swings out and makes an open grate. Mica in front door.

Price \$16.50



AURORA

The best heating stove we have ever sold. All cast iron. Large round door in the end, top opens up, front lifts off, making an open grate. A double back wall, made of best material. Most durable stove on the market.

Price \$21



"The Place to Furnish Your Home." We buy, sell and exchange Storage. F. E. DAVIS

ACCOUNTS ALLOWED.

The following accounts were allowed at the October term of the county court:

Table listing various offices and their amounts, including Sheriff's Office, Clerk's Office, Treasurer's Office, and various court-related accounts.

Table listing various individuals and their amounts, including George Gosser, F. O. Parker, Paul Riley, and many others.