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Educated Sapling?

With the end of your college days the good things of life will be no longer served up on a silver platter. You will cut your own way through the barbed wire entanglements that lie between you and "success." College life helps prepare the cutting instruments--hard or soft, sharp or dull. The following anonymous letter, from the columns of the New York Times for April 25, gives you the point of view:

"George Holtzer's letter, 'Youth Seeks a Place,' illustrates the sad trend in our country. This is just another case of making the hustler who is not afraid of hard work, and has the initiative to provide for himself and his dependents, take on the load of supporting in ease the higher educated sapling.

"Mr. Holtzer says these men of 'productive ability' are 'being ruthlessly brushed aside'--'their energies are lying dormant.' I would like to ask who is 'brushing them aside'? Can you brush aside a man of 'productive ability'? And if their 'energies are lying dormant,' whose fault is it? Why, it is the fault of business, Mr. Holtzer suggests, because 'industry is unable to absorb the millions of unemployed youth' who find 'their college training is of negligible value.'

"The question arises, What did they do in college to make this training valuable? And what are they doing now to sell their services to industry?

"If the Mr. Holtzers of the country are going to make these fellows sorry for themselves, and we are going to provide relief from the job of getting a job, we are 'ruthlessly' handicapping their able brothers by making a public charge of those who believe Uncle Sam owes them a living.

Brains are Needed! "In no other country, or at no other time in this country, have brains been in such demand. We are seeking new uses for by-products; we must find ways to reduce waste materials; cost accounting in thousands of firms is absolutely antiquated; time study work is in its infancy; simplification is possible in nine out of ten offices and factories; to say nothing of new products, new methods of marketing and distributing.

"The trouble is, this 'involuntary idleness and mental apathy' that Mr. Holtzer refers to is usually in direct ratio to determination. Certainly, these men who ask for 'relief' have asked for jobs, but what have most of them honestly done to convince an employer that he can afford to hire them? There are opportunities in every town and in every business in the country. No--not always a vacancy to be filled, but a job to be done.

"The illiterate man seeking manual labor may have to wait to be hired or depend on help, but these men with higher education need not wait--they can sell their brains and energy to thousands of employers who never themselves had the opportunity of college training. But first of all, they must apply their brains to find why and where they should be hired.

Create Your Job! "This idea, that there is only just so much employment to go around is all nonsense. If you cannot find a job, create one. Make a suggestion that makes a place--you will soon find you are hired.

"If the road is too easy there will never be any joy in achievement--and this is written by a man who has experienced all the heartaches of getting started. I first worked for 10 cents an hour, sixty hours a week--and I am only 44. I was married at 20 on \$65 a month. At 23 infantile paralysis put me as a charity patient in a hospital bed for a year, then five years in a wheel-chair, living in the waste places, with wife and little son on \$35 a month. No, I have not any technical brains or special ability. I am just another American business man making a good living behind an office desk, with a life assignment on crutches as the only drawback. Forgive the heroics, but it makes a lot of us boil over to see this attempt to make weaklings of fine young American boyhood. By the way, my son graduates this year, and I expect him to make his way if he has to split rails as Abe Lincoln did."

PRAYERS: (deceased) Philip E. Gooloy, '17; friend of a student. Ill, Mr. Snow, friend of Tom Walker (Brownson); Paul Rubly (Walsh); grandmother of Fred Honechamp (Dillon)  
Deceased: aunt of Frank Delligan (Corby); grandmother of John Phillips (Alumni).