

The Value of a Higher Education



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Is a university education worth while, or is it a handicap? There are still people who hold that a college training predestines but to failure. There are many who take the attitude that the man who spends what might be regarded as the "college years" in finance or industry has the greater chance of ultimate success in the firing line of business, while to read the reminiscences of millionaires would almost lead one to the conclusion that in order to amass great wealth it is at least necessary to plunge into one of our large cities barefooted at an age when the average youth is thinking of his entrance examination. As a matter of fact, statistics prepared in the United States, indicate that there are 277 times as many college graduates who have great wealth, as there are wealthy persons who have not the college training.

The results of an investigation published by the United States Bureau of Education a few years ago show that of all the people in the United States who have performed distinguished service and received high honors, there was: One out of 150,000 who had no education. One out of 37000 who had a Grade 8 education. One person out of 1724 who had a Grade 11 education. One person out of 87 who had a College education.

These totals show the comparative chances a child has of attaining success with different grades of education. Parents who give their children a common school education give them four times the chance to become leaders, than the child of no schooling has. Those who give their children a high school education give them 87 times the chance and the parents who sacrifice and give them a college education give them more than 800 times the chance of the uneducated child.

Some time ago the dean of the Pennsylvania State College submitted to scientific scrutiny the legend that college valedictorians always come to some disgrace-

ful end, that a high record of scholarship sentenced the student to failure in life. The worthy dean found, on the contrary, that the men with a high standing in school almost without exception attained to distinction in the world. The records show that a large aggregation of Phi Beta Kappa men are serving as bank presidents, leading physicians and lawyers, accomplished men of business, and even as politicians and statesmen.

It is equally arresting to learn that only about one per cent of the population of the United States has had a college or university education but that approximately two thirds of the persons listed in Who's Who, which includes men and women who have attained national distinction in any calling, are college trained.

Quite recently the Kansas Agricultural College made an investigation of the labour earnings of farmers per year in that state where farming is as hazard as it is in our own province of Manitoba. Classified according to the grade of schooling the farmers investigated had, the result obtained were tabulated as follows:

Education of farmer	Annual Earnings
Elementary school	\$422.00
High school	554.00
College Partial Course	859.00
College degree	1452.00

Hence for each \$100.00 earned on the average for the farmer who attended the lower grades only, the farmer who finished high school earned \$131.00, those that went to college averaged \$203.00, and those who graduated earned \$290.00.

Important as this material reward of a college training is, it pales into insignificance when compared with the other advantages that occur from winning a university degree. Desirable as it is to gain information from a well selected course, to know the method of research that will produce information on a new subject, to gain instruction and experience in handling conflicting data, to train the intellectual facul-