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**Heart to Heart
Talks**

BY JAMES A. EDGERTON

COMMON SENSE.

In this age of specialization, fads, theorists, extremists and people running around in circles the saving grace of common sense is needed as never before.

It is needed especially by public men. The American people as a whole possess not only a large fund of common sense, but also a very healthy sense of humor.

The public man who gets too far to one side in the pursuit of "grotesque and arabesque" is in danger of exciting the risibilities of the populace. There has been more than one man in our history blown into oblivion on a gale of laughter.

The moment the antics of any cult or school start a guffaw across the continent it is all off with that cult or school.

The only safety from this real peril is common sense. It is hard to argue with a nation or a community laughing at you.

We are very tolerant of fads, but when they get too far from the line of common sense we laugh them off the stage.

Common sense is the essence of human wisdom and experience in all lands and ages. It comes from real life, from actual contact with things.

It fits Bill Jones down on his little farm on Possum creek, also Mr. William Pinckney Etheridge, art collector and globe trotter, of Pelham Manor; that is, if William Pinckney has not followed some fad that led him off at a mental tangent.

A robust supply of common sense is the first requisite for success in any and every calling. It is the only safe guide for genius or clodhopper. It is the fundamental requirement, without which there is nothing—the starting point for the pursuit of all special knowledge. It is as necessary as a thorough grounding of "the three R's" is necessary as a basis of higher education.

It is the foundation on which special knowledge and training constitute the superstructure. Seek ye first common sense; and all other things shall be added unto you.

The Pythian Calendar

Coeur De Lion Lodge meets every Tuesday. Next Tuesday Rank of Knight. Visitors welcome.

The Old Man's Hint.

Mother (at 11:30 p. m.)—What's the matter, John? You look disturbed.

Father—I thought I'd give that young man calling on our daughter a vigorous hint it was time to go, so I walked right into the parlor and deliberately turned out the gas.

Mother—Oh, my! And did he get angry?

Father—Angry? The young jackanapes said "Thank you!"—Boston Transcript.

Made Over.
He is a self made man, isn't he?"

"He was."

"Then he is."

"No, the woman he married didn't like the result he had accomplished, and she has made him over."—Hous-ton Post.

An Eye For the Main Chance.
Sam—Will you keep our engagement secret for the present? Lulu—All right. But where's the present?—London Telegraph.

Instinct.

Without any previous training a child will chew the end of the first lead pencil it attempts to write with.—Atchison Globe.

Tell a man that he is brave and you help him to become so.—Carlyle.

The Teachers and Good Citizenship.

The Palladium believes the school board should be commended for its decision to stand pat on its refusal to take the initial step for creating a fund to pension teachers under the provisions of the teachers' pension act, passed by the last legislature, which appears to be unconstitutional and which is certainly most unfair to the taxpayers of Richmond.

The Palladium is a staunch advocate of any plan for pensioning such public servants as teachers, policemen and firemen who have become incapacitated for service through accident, disease or the infirmities of old age, but it most positively is against any pensioning plan (and it believes it is reflecting popular opinion in this opposition) which retires public servants in the prime of life at the expense of the taxpayers.

The Palladium believes that a law which would permit Superintendent T. A. Mott to retire from service with the Richmond public schools on an annual pension of \$430 and permit him to draw a salary of \$1,500 as superintendent of the Seymour, Indiana, schools, is absolutely unjust to the people of Richmond, but this is precisely what he would be permitted to do if a school teachers' pension fund was created in Richmond. And we find Mr. Mott advocating the creation of such a fund.

An inspection of the teachers' pension law for cities with populations varying from 20,000 to 100,000 reveals the following provisions. Read them and judge for yourself if you think they are fair to the public which must pay an additional 2½ cents tax levy to carry them out, and receive no direct returns on the same:

Teachers who have served between twenty and thirty years may be retired at any time within the period specified and receive a pension if the pension fund commission decides they are entitled to receive such reward. As teachers in this class cannot withdraw the money they have paid into the pension fund, as teachers who have served less than twenty years can, and as the majority of the commission are teachers, it is reasonable to presume that applicants in this class who would be refused pensions would be few and far between. Practically all teachers who would retire after service varying from twenty to thirty years would still be in the prime of life and could accept positions elsewhere without sacrificing the pension they would draw out of the school funds of Richmond.

Teachers who have served more than thirty years can retire at any time on a pension, even though they have been convicted of a felony.

Under the pension law provided for Indianapolis, teachers in good standing can retire on a pension after forty years service, which appears to be the proper limit, for the average teacher engages in school work at the age of 20 or 21. However, an Indianapolis teacher after fifteen years of service can be retired on a pro rated pension if he or she is incapacitated for duty by accident or disease, but such teachers must keep in touch with the school board and return to duty on recovery.

The Indianapolis law is as fair to the public as the law for other cities in the state is unfair.

School teachers have often been described as the highest type of public servants, a class of men and women on whom the nation depends for a high type of citizenship—a class of men and women who are incorruptible and good and who have consecrated themselves to laboring for the public good.

The Palladium asks those Richmond teachers who have been frantically urging the creation of a pension fund under the terms of an unjust law if they have stopped to realize that their actions tend to lessen the high regard their craft is held in by the general public?

**Few Boys of the Present Generation
Follow Footsteps of Their Fathers**

"Well, son, what are you going to be when you grow up?"

Such is the question asked every boy throughout the country, a local school teacher said today. The "small boy" is asked the question so many times that he is usually prepared to answer. The answer if the "small boy" is at all fond of his father is usually to the effect that he is going to be like "daddy."

"Just how many of these prophesies come true is indeed an interesting circumstance to note," he said. "Without doubt environment has something to do with the probability of the forecasts being realized. And then, too, the business that 'daddy' is in has something to do with it.

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learning' was the custom. The father taught the son to be a tradesman, a blacksmith, a shoemaker, or whatever his own vocation might be. It seems that with the advanced education which the youth of today is in a position to take advantage of, his glimpse of the vocations which he might follow is so much wider that he is apt to take a greater fancy to one altogether different than that which his father chose. In the older days he knew little of those other vocations. He had little choice, in fact, being 'brought up' in his father's business."

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