

OPEN FORUM

This Question of Honor

Are we, as students of Salem, as honorable as we should be? If not, why not? Is it due to the fact that we possess that intangible weakness of depending upon someone else to help us "get by," or is it that we are surrounded by a cloud of indifference concerning student honesty? Either of these would be sufficient to cause some method of correction to be applied; but when both are fased to become one strong destroyer of honesty—then there is an immediate need of action for the preservation of that ideal foremost in the hearts and minds of all true students—honor.

To be sure, Salem has an honor system, but—*is it effective?* If so, why is this question of student honesty becoming daily more serious? Are you a part of this system? Are you doing your very best to make it a success? Evidently, some body is falling short of her duty, or there would be no need for this discussion. None one may think she is very clever to devise new methods for breaking rules, and escaping without being caught in the act of doing wrong. This type of girl, to give with her friends, may get by with the deed, but the entire student body may suffer as a result of this folly.

Where is the "port of missing links" harboring the all-too-few references which so mysteriously disappear at just the moment when most needed? Surely some one knows, and it is her duty to expose it. While one person enjoys the private use of the book, a great number of others are fruitlessly searching the library shelves for a substitute. This is one of the lowest forms of selfishness. If it is a selfishness which denies others what is not a luxury, but a necessity.

Again, there is the girl who thinks only of having good times. While she fits about, her room-mate uncovers difficult problems which may occur in her various studies. Finally, the latterly collects her scattered senses and gives thought to her lessons. But really, (as she says) she feels too tired to think, or there simply isn't time to study. She knows that she can depend on her friend (such a dear, sympathetic friend!) for anything which she herself does not happen to get. Who is to blame? The bit of a butterfly girl? Perhaps.

On the other hand, there is the "dear sympathetic friend" who gladly helps the other girl. She thinks it is a good turn which she does, but it is really a disturbing factor. It lessens self-confidence and reliance, destroys initiative, and encourages dependence upon others. As a result, marginal papers and note-books appear, and the girl who really did the work, is just as liable to suspicion as the girl to whom she gave it.

A great number may wish not to report anything which a friend has done. The bond of friendship prohibits such an act of some people. This, however, is not the right spirit. It. Salem should have such an efficient honor system that, as soon as a dishonest act is done, it could be immediately traced to the culprit. If public opinion through-out the entire school would be turned against such deeds, they would be reduced to a minimum. You may think that your little bit doesn't amount to much—it so often does, but that is exactly what does count. While your little bit may seem very insignificant, it goes to make up the teamwork which, to be successful, must be one hundred per cent strong. As Kipling has said:

"It isn't the individual
Nor the army as a whole
It's the everlasting teamwork
Of every bloomin' soul."

With the proper co-operation, Salem could have such an honor system as his never had. Is it seen in our thought and teamwork? If not, why not?

—Lois Wamble.



The gum-chewing girl
And the end chewing cow
Are somewhat alike,
Yet for reasons somewhat
"How different," you ask,
"I'll tell you now:
It's the thoughtful look
On the face of the cow."
—Exchange.

A RURAL COMPROMISE
A vacationist, just returned, re-
lates having overheard this bit of
jocular chiding:

"Hiram, when are you going to
pay me them eight dollars for pas-
suring your beef? I've had her
now for about ten weeks."
"Why, Sam, the critter ain't
worth more'n ten dollars."
"Will s'posin' I keep her for
what you owe me?"
"Not by a jugful! Tell fer what
I'll do though—keep her two weeks
over an 'un kin her less."

A HUMANITARIAN
"What's your objection to chil-
dren?" asked the man who was
hunting a lady.
"I haven't the heart to ask anybody
with children to move into a place
that has a sort of heat as this was
last winter."
—Washington Star.

One hears a great deal about the
absent-minded professor, but it
would be hard to find one more ab-
sent-minded than the dentist who
was called in, as he applied a tool
to his automobile, under which he
lay: "Now this is going to hurt
just a little."—Atlanta Journal.

TRYING THE DOG ON HIM
"Come right into the yard," said
the farmer's wife cordially to the
tramp, who had besought something to
eat.
The tramp eyed the bulldog in-
dignantly. "I durne 'bout dog!" he
said. "How 'bout that dog?" Will
he bite?"
"I don't know," said the house-
wife. "I just got him today and
that's what I want to find out."

"Papa," wrote the sweet girl, "I
have become infatuated with callis-
thenics."
"Well, daughter," replied the old
man. "if your heart's set on him,
I haven't a word to say; but I al-
ways did hope you'd marry an
American."

He: "Good night! Out of gas
right in the middle of traffic!"
She: "You can't stop for that;
George; here comes a cop!"

"Did you do your English for to-
day?"
"Betcha. English ain't hard."

"You seem a bright little boy. I
suppose you have a very good place
in your class."
"Oh, yes. I sit right by the
store."

"Are you still engaged to Miss
Reveritt?"
"No."
"You lucky man! I spotted you
when you were. How did you get
out of it?"
"I married her."

Doctor: "You have acute appendi-
citis."
Fair Patient: "Oh, doctor, don't
flatter me."—The Davidsonian.

Sambo: "Go swipe one of Mr.
Brown's chickens; he won't be shot
a colored man."
Jake: "I ain't takin' no chances:
He might catch color blind."—The
Davidsonian.

I latched my wagon to a star,
And while I stood there braggin',
The star shot swiftly off in space,
And I was short a wagon.
—Judge.

Old Lady: "Why do they always
call a ship 'she'?"
April Fool: "Why, beggin' your
parding, ma'am,—because the rig-
gin' cost so much."—Brown Jug.

Current History

The problems of the Child Labor Amendment is the subject of much discussion at the present time. This amendment grants to Congress the power "to limit, regulate, and prohibit the labor of persons under eighteen years of age." This power is now held by the State legislatures, but there is some doubt as to their success in using their authority.

The arguments, for and against the amendment, are many. The oppositionists think that there is nothing in the amendment to indicate that it applies only to commercial employments. The right of the parent to train his child in the useful tasks according to his own discretion is destroyed. The obligation of the child to continue in proportion to his abilities is destroyed.

On the other hand, the supporters of the Child Labor Amendment believe that it will not deprive the citizen of any liberty he now enjoys. The federal government regulates child labor more thoroughly than the state governments do, for two reasons. First, the effect of a child labor law upon interstate competition would not need to be considered by the federal government.

The minimum age of factory employment is fixed throughout the country, the habitual employer of child labor would not escape the law by migrating to another state. Second, the dilution of the citizenry with physical and mental defects which labor in different parts of the country is more manifestly a federal than a state concern. Under the existing conditions, profits is enjoyed by the state and the cost is borne by another. The federal government would enter the profit and cost into both quarters and so equalize.

The decision of the State legislatures in January, 1925, is awaited with much interest.

Giacomo Puccini, the famous operatic composer, died on November 29. Puccini comes from a family which for a century and a half has produced a line of famous musicians. Even from his youth, he was an artist, finding the problems of existing more baffling than those of harmony and counterpoint. A pension from the Queen of Italy enabled him to enter the Milan Conservatory. His opera successes have built him numerous and popular. It has been said that he was the most popular composer with Americans. His most popular works are *La Tosca*, *La Boheme*, *Madame Butterfly*, *The Girl of the Golden West*, and *Manon Lescaut*.

For the first time in forty years of Mexico's history, the executive power has been peacefully transmitted from one legally elected President to another. On November 30, General Plutarco Elias Calles, elected President of Mexico on a Labor-Agricultural platform, took the following oath of office: "I swear to observe and enforce the Constitution of 1917 and the laws emanating from it and to fulfill patriotically and loyally my duties."

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as President of the Republic of Mexico to which office I was elected by the Mexican people."
In spite of the attempt to make the inaugural ceremony as non-military as possible, out of respect for the labor policies on which General Calles was elected, dress uniforms, regimental banners, and the blare of enlisted men predominated over the garments and banners of labor and agrarian delegations.

Besides the commissions from the different labor, agrarian, and political organizations, the inaugural ceremony was attended by squads from nearly every regiment composing the regular army, ministers of friendly countries, a labor delegation from the American Federation of Labor, and many American excursionists.

Donald B. McMillan, returning from a fifteen-months trip in the Far North, reports observations of a strange character. He says that glaciers are moving from their age-old beds, thereby pouring a great quantity of ice into the sea. Stranger still is the fact that broad areas of land are sinking to new levels and a number of islands have entirely disappeared. The question of the possibility of a new glacial age immediately arises.

Another notable thing was the discovery of extensive coal deposits within six hundred miles of the pole, indicating that the polar region had, at one time, a temperate climate that would support such trees and vegetation as have made up the coal deposits in America.

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