

CYRUS H. WALKER of Albany recently addressed the high school pupils of that city on the advisability of preparing themselves by a sound education for the "after the war" needs of the country. His remarks were briefly reported for the Albany Democrat.

Mr. Walker took the ground that there will be an urgent demand for trained ability of all kinds when peace is concluded. He counseled the young people of Albany that they were serving their country by educating themselves quite as truly as if they were fighting in the trenches. President Wilson, as the reader will recall, has said the same thing.

To give point to his remarks, Mr. Walker recalled his own experience in life. His primary education, he said, was obtained "in the wilds of Oregon," principally at the Forest Grove university, which in pioneer days had a preparatory department. "Like a dumb fool," continued Mr. Walker, "I left school just as I was prepared to take the regular four years' college course." He intimated to the young people that if he had taken a full college course he "might have made more of life than to be only a farmer."

The spirit of Mr. Walker's remarks was admirable. The advisability of a sound education to prepare for modern life can not be urged upon the young too strongly. But we deprecate Mr. Walker's poor opinion of his own training. It is more than likely that his elementary schooling together with the experiences of pioneer days gave him a better preparation for life than he could have derived from the college course of those times.

We are inclined to think that Mr. Walker underestimates the dignity and importance of the farmer's career. A college education in Latin and Greek with a smattering of rhetoric and mathematics might have made of him a lawyer or a minister, but would he have been any more useful to his fellow men in those callings than he has been as a farmer? We doubt it. Mr. Walker has lived an exemplary life. He now enjoys an honored old age. If the young people to whom he spoke play their parts in the world as well as he has they will have little to regret and much to feel proud of.