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“My first job was to build a shanty”

WHEN I got out of school,” said the old grad, "I went around all primed to discuss equilibrium of moments or to lay out a high tension system between New York and Chicago. "But the first thing the boss set me at was to build a shanty. That had me stumped. It didn’t seem fair. I’d never had a shanty course at college.

"Still I rolled my sleeves up and started in. At first the thing wouldn’t ‘jell’ at all. The joints didn’t stay put. The roof sagged in the middle. "But I went over my plans and reasoned out the why and wherefore of the trouble on a commonsense basis. I stayed with that job till I had it licked.

"Then I suddenly realized that the biggest thing I had learned at college was not the bits of specific information, but something of much more importance which these had taught me—the ability to think."

*    *    *

No curriculum can include everything you ought to know. Its business is to show you the principles which underlie all knowledge.

So if your ambition is to become a man’s size engineer or manufacturer, you must start now to get at the heart of your problems. Visualize how those basic laws can apply to other and vaster work.

Then you’ll be ready for whatever new demand comes along, and when your big opportunity comes to carry out some of your visions of great achievement—you’ll find the going easier.

*    *    *

The electrical industry needs men who can see far and think straight.

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