

Are You Happy In Your Work?

A JOB for everyone, and everyone in his right job, the job in which he can get most satisfaction for himself and be most valuable to the community. Can we do anything to achieve this? Providing work for everyone is over to the politician and the economist. This article is about finding the right job. Have you ever thought about this important matter?

The hiring and firing of labour has in the past been a very casual matter, a curious state of affairs often due to the one-sided blindness of the "hard-headed" business man—hard-headed in more senses than one. Its funny, when you think it over, that a man who is prepared to spend days carefully assessing the relative merits of two machines for his works, is quite content to select the worker to operate those machines by what is really a mass method.

But that is generally what happens; the hiring of the machine is in the hands of experts; the hiring of the man is left to chance. In one big works in America, the hiring of labour was left to a foreman. When he was asked what his system was, he replied, "Well on Monday I hire all red-heads, on Tuesday all those with blue eyes, and so on. But of course some days I have a grouch and don't hire any at all." And that at a guess is more system than most people in the labour selection game have.

But before we "sling off" at manufacturers and their habits, let us have a look at our own methods of getting a job—the other side of the labour picture. Take the case of a boy leaving school and going to work for the first time. Why does he select a particular job? Sometimes because his dad tells him to go into it; sometimes because relatives are in the business and can give him a start; sometimes because a cobbler is with the same crowd; sometimes because it happens to be available, because he sees a small ad. in the "Dominion" or "The Press;" sometimes because he thinks on inadequate evidence he would like it; often because

he thinks that there is good money in it.

The job he gets as a result is seldom the one in which his own particular talents would have most scope. As a result, in ten or twenty years time he has "had" that job—but it is then too late to start all over again. It looks as though we ought to have a bit more system somewhere, because the man who dislikes his work is likely to be a cause of unnecessary industrial unrest.

We work for two reasons. First of all, we work because we have to get a living. That is, of course, the most obvious reason for working, but it is not the only reason. If you have ever been unlucky enough to be unemployed for a period, you will know that the financial difficulties are not the only drawback to that unenviable state. Leisure is good in small doses but too much of it ruins a man.

Some sort of work suits some people better than others. Some like mechanical jobs, some like office jobs, some prefer to work out-of-doors. So that there is another reason for working—we may work at a particular job because we like it. The lucky individual gets a job which both gives him a good wage and interests him. Most people in New Zealand achieve either one or the other. Some, of course, get neither. The two factors are interlocked, for we are more likely to do well in a job in which we are interested than in one which we find dull. We are therefore more likely to be successful financially in a job we like than in one we do not like.

