



This week, Career Line is reprinting part one of The Royal Bank Letter, published by the Royal Bank of Canada. Part two will be in two weeks.

CAREERS AT THE CROSSROADS

People a few generations ago had little trouble choosing a career, because circumstances usually chose one for them. If you were a young man, you did what your father did, or something close. If you did not follow exactly in his footsteps, neither did you stray far from the path laid out for you. A lawyer's son might become a doctor, or butcher's son a baker; but it was unlikely that a butcher's son would become a doctor under a stratified order that kept people fixed in their class.

If you were a young woman, the terms were even simpler: you were expect to marry and raise children. The next choice was to stay at home for the rest of your life and care for your parents in their old age. Either that, or you sought one of the very few occupations open to the "weaker sex" -but only if you were single. Respectable married women did not work outside the home unless they were in desperate financial straits.

If you were a member of a minority, most fields of endeavour were securely barred against you. Blacks were consigned to menial labour, and the Chinese were expected to run restaurants or launder clothes. North American Indians were expected to be...Indians. And the handicapped were told they might as well forget about most types of work.

The result was that careers and personalities were mismatched across the whole spectrum of employment. On one hand, men and women of intelligence and talent were prevented from living up to their potential; on the other, individuals with no particular aptitude for their work struggled along in it because of their status at birth.

The system spawned considerable personal misery, to say nothing of professional incompetence. Certainly generals who were born to be generals often proved disastrously inept at their craft. The two chief bunglers in the military debacle immortalized by Lord Tennyson in *The Charge of the Light Brigade* might have been better employed as clothing designers. Lord Cardigan invented the sweater that bears his name and Lord Raglan designed the raglan sleeve for coats.

The bad old days of job discrimination have not entirely passed into history. Minority groups still have to struggle for employment opportunities which others take as their right. For the most part, however, the difficulty in choosing a career in Canada today is not that the choices are restricted. For young people in high school, there is no shortage of career possibilities; the problem is to zero in on one which both offers a future and satisfies their psychological wants and needs.

At last count, more than 7,000 different occupations existed in Canada, and the number is growing. Faced with such a vast and complex array of career possibilities, young people may be forgiven if they don't know where to start. The sheer number of choices is partly responsible for the fact that, in a recent survey of 100,000 Canadian students, 30 per cent of them said they had no idea of what they would do when they left high school. But a senior federal civil servant read a more ominous reason into the response.

"This appears to be related to a pessimism and fatalism that is tragically wide-spread among Canadian youths, and which prevents them from seeing any point to career, educational or other planning for their future," he commented. The pessimism is a product of the latest economic slump, which has left a large proportion of the labour force unemployed. In effect, youths are asking: "What's the use of planning for a career if you can't get a job of any sort?" The answer is that, at a time of tough competition in the employment market, the jobs available will go to those best-qualified in a given field - those who are prepared.

Northern studies

A University of New Brunswick Northern Canadian Studies Committee was formed in 1982:

i) To co-ordinate the research interests of faculty members in the University who have or may have an interest in any aspect of research in the North;

ii) to represent the University on the Council of the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies, and

iii) to stimulate teaching efforts in northern studies by publicizing northern activities, promoting courses and inviting knowledgeable speakers to the campus.

Through this Committee funds will become available to students on a competitive basis through an application of our Committee to the Federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Ottawa. These funds come through the Northern Scientific Training Grants Program and the funds are to be used to assist in deferring the actual costs of a student obtaining research field experience in the Canadian North.

Eligible students at UNB are graduate students and promising senior undergraduate students. There is no restriction to the discipline of the study. The UNB Northern Canadian Studies Committee has already identified current northern research projects in at least ten departments on campus.

Students who are interested in applying for a grant are urged to contact members of the UNB Committee, or any other professor who is working in the North, for assistance in preparing their application. Currently, the membership of the UNB Northern Canadian Studies is as follows: Dr. R.W. Wein, Biology & Committee Chairman, Dr. R.H. Cockburn (English), Dr. I.R. Methven (Forest Resources), Dr. W.C. van de Hoonaard (Sociology), Dr. D. Wells, (Surveying Engineering) and Dr. G. Whiteford (Curriculum & Instruction, Education).

Students are urged to obtain a grant application form from any member of the Committee as soon as convenient in order to have

time to develop a strong proposal with the assistance of their supervisor. The pro-

posal requires information on the student's background

and the proposed study and will be used to evaluate the

student on a competitive basis before submission to the Department of Indian

and Northern Affairs. The final date for acceptance of

applications is November 30, 1983.

THE SEARCH LITE

HE REFRESHES ME

In the prison epistles there is food for contemplation. There is blessing for every person who will prayerfully read them. Let us get the picture in proper perspective.

Paul, the writer, is a prisoner in Rome. A guard stands before his cell day and night. Paul had been in prison so long the guard knows of his every changing mood.

Today the guard looks in and sees a very sad prisoner. No doubt the guard is thinking, "Paul had good reason to be sad. I have heard that all the churches he established in Asia have turned away from the doctrine of grace he taught them and will no longer listen to him any longer. Added to this, he just received word his beloved young convert has forsaken him and has gone back to his old way of life.

But who is this coming down the corridor? It is none other than Onesiphorus, one of Paul's few remaining friends. He never fails to encourage Paul and leaves him feeling better and more cheerful. Most gladly will I open Paul's prison door for him."

Who is Onesiphorus? How did he earn his living? We do not know. But when he appeared people were refreshed. His words were as a refreshing rain to the parched ground.

Hear Paul's testimony for Onesiphorus;

"The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:

But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.

The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day" (11 Timothy 1:16-18)

Every person needs a cheerful word. In this life many are finding more tears than laughter. They need a friend who can help them change hopeless confusion into order--help bring victory out of defeat--renew strength to the fallen. Onesiphorus was just such a friend. He had the talent to cheer. How many times Paul said, "He refreshes me!"

We are not all endowed alike. We do not have the same talent, but we can love deeply. We can forgive and forget that which needs forgiveness. We can let God use His polish on us to make us shine.

Some will never go to college, not even finish high school, but even a child can be cheerful. There is no reason for a Christian to live without peace and contentment under all circumstances.

The captives in Babylon found nothing about which to be cheerful. "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof" (Psalm 137:1-2)

What a contrast to Daniel in the lions' den: the Hebrew children walking about in the fiery furnace!

One finds wretchedness to grumble about. Others climb above all obstacles and give to the world a great big smile. This refreshing comes from that spiritual well that never runs dry.

Which group are you in?

Searchlite encourages you to listen to C.H.S.R., 97.9 on Sundays at one o'clock p.m. for the best in contemporary Christian music.