

Ferdie J. Deering

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Opportunities for Success Abundant

HIGH SCHOOL and college graduates probably never had greater opportunities for success than this year's crop, providing they are concerned with more than "just a living" or getting rich.

The less ambitious will have an easier time of just making a living without making a contribution to the world.

Competition for places of leadership and achievement is less keen, because of the larger number of people who are demanding more and more for producing less and less.

"Ingredients" needed for true success include integrity, a reasonably good education, ambition, desire to learn and willingness to work. Too often, one or more element is missing.

With so many vulgarly splendid examples of dishonesty and immorality paraded before them daily, it might be something of a miracle when children reach adulthood with a sense of integrity. Yet, many do and they are our hope for the future.

So many wonderful aids to education are available that it is ironic that schools and colleges have downgraded standards in order to graduate their classes.

In spite of this, a considerable number of youngsters acquire excellent capabilities in reading, writing, mathematics, science and other branches of learning.

More than that, a large number overcome the drag of shiftlessness, indifference and distractions that surround them to develop vision and ambition.

The educational profession has had much to say about "underachievers," youngsters who have latent ability to learn and do more than they have been motivated to accomplish. Business men also are acquainted with "underachievers," employees who do only what is necessary to hold a job and earn a vacation.

Economists say that during the past 20 years, the average American worker's productivity has increased by nearly 70 per cent. But

mostly this is the result of mechanization, technology and electronic devices; not to individual contributions.

Unquestionably, people can live on a fairly comfortable scale today without doing much work. Millions do so, depending largely upon the productivity of others.

Some may even get rich by this means. In a recent speech, an executive declared: "It's cheaper to hire brains — and much less difficult — than to try to make something of your own."

That might be true, but the satisfaction of worthwhile achievement and productivity comes to the person who makes something of his life and his resources. Furthermore, it is possible to achieve much and to make money at the same time.

The value of earnings will be reduced by inflation and taxes, while achievements benefit mankind and the person who makes the contribution to society may retain the satisfaction of accomplishment as his permanent property.