

VIVA SLIDE RULE

AS TOLD BY AN ENGINEER TO

TOM BROWN

In Which the Technical Is Given Preference Over Shakespeare

Well, anyway, I am glad I am an Engineer and not a Liberal Arts student.

Anyway, I'd rather be an engineer. One supposes, I guess, just why a fellow would want to be an engineer instead of a Liberal Arts student, but to me anyway, the reason is good enough.

Look now an engineer is smart. Me I'm smart because I took engineering. I can work problems that are hard to work because I took engineering. Now you take a Liberal Arts student and I bet he couldn't work half the problems I can because he didn't take engineering. Why only the other day I was talking to one and he didn't even know how to work a simple little physics problem that I knew how to work in a minute.

Now you take a Liberal Arts and he don't do nothing but moon around and talk about things what ain't no consequence, like trends of civilizishun and economics and poets and such funny things like that. True he may know some big words, but I bet they don't mean so much after all, that is, not much as the terms that we use, I mean us engineers. Why we haven't got time to fool around with poets and musicians and good books and the causes of the industrial revolution and all. No, because we are busy learning about things that count in like like the atomic theory and higher calculus and finding out why the bridge fell down. Now no Liberal Arts could do that.

Furthermore I bet us engineers get further in life than the lazy Liberal Arts. Why some of us will get to go way out in the swamps to oil fields and work on rigs ten and twelve hours a day. Some of us can get to work in powerhouses and transformer stations way out in the country. Others I bet can get work in brass and steel foundries, while some more of us will no doubt end up as automobile mechanics, doing the hard work in life. The Liberal Arts now, he just stays around the cities going to shows and plays and musicales and things like that. He will get a job in a bank or some place like that and maybe be promoted once or twice until he is making six to eight thousand a year and then he stops. You see he has no future. But take an engineer now and he has a chance of inventing something or improving something and making a little money. Of course not a great many of them make money. On the contrary, most of them are existing with only the grace of God and the bread line. But

just think, they are the backbone of the nation. Without them where would we be, and so you see how swell it is to be part of the backbone of the nation and be depended upon.

Take an engineer now and you will see that he has no fun at all. He is usually studying or working. Occasionally he will get a chance to knock off and go on a spree, but then he is so unaccustomed to it that he really don't know how to go about enjoying himself. So you see he don't have much fun. Liberal Arts now gets lots of time of his own to cultivate his appreciation of the finer things of life, and therefore enjoys



The Engineer

himself more. But the engineer just don't seem to know anything about that part of it. Us engineers can take it though.

You remember what some guy or other who wrote poetry or plays and stuff like that said about life. He said that the living of life is all that you'll get out of it anyhow, so learn to live it well. It seems like a pity but us engineers can't much do that. A Liberal Arts man can probably do it, but then he isn't really doing something big like being the backbone of the nation. Of course we don't get our just deserts out of it, but

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