

*(During the year 1922-23)*

OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

EAST CAROLINA TEACHERS COLLEGE  
GREENVILLE, N. C.

ROBT. H. WRIGHT  
PRESIDENT

*School year  
1922-23*

Standing here at the end of this year and casting a glance backward to October 5, 1909, when our doors were first opened to students, one is impressed with the wonderful development that has taken place. The dirt of the campus has become a beautiful lawn, the board walks have given place to cement, the dust of Fifth Street, to asphalt pavement, the buildings have grown until our capacity is more than doubled. The "uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness". The Model School has grown up through debt and an unusual legal environment and is to-day a full fledged part of the College property. The President has been moved from an apartment in a dormitory to a residence in front of the campus. The student body has grown from 174 to 395. High school work has been dropped from the course of study and only standard high school graduates are admitted. Our graduateing class has grown from 18 to 112. A four-year course leading to the A.B. degree has been put in and now we are preparing teachers for any of the positions in our public school system including the high schools. A large expansion program is on and two more years our capacity will be increased more than 100 %.

This is all only the outward part. The heart, the soul, the spirit within this growing, throbbing young life is the same it has always been. This spirit is voiced in the motto of the College "To serve". We are here to burn that motto into the foreheads of all who enter our halls. "To serve" the childhood of North Carolina, and thus to serve our State



and through our State to serve our nation, and through our Nation to be of some service to the world.

Ignorance and superstition are a nation's most expensive luxuries. We are here to remove this luxury tax. Realizing that "opportunities are only judgments to the unprepared" we are trying to remove the judgments from the teaching force in North Carolina and place them upon the plane of opportunities.

The hope of this nation is in its childhood and "No nation can ever greatly achieve whose youth do not greatly aspire" The best there is in our children will never be developed if they are not properly taught. Give to the growing child the teacher who can inspire, the teacher who knows how and the possibilities of the young life will unfold. Yet we are constantly mindful of the fact that it is out of the heart that "are the issues of life" and "an educated fool is a bigger nuisance than the natural variety".

Come with me to the mountain top of tomorrow and look down upon the plain of to-day. See those fertile plains in the east, behold the orchard dotted sand hills, the smoke stacks of industrial plants in the piedmont section, the rolling hills and beautiful scenery of the mountains. Note how the county seats are tied to each other with ribbons of cement, behold the happy homes of over two and a half millions of people, see how the master hand of Brooks with the 100 coworkers in education are **moving** the school houses into consolidated centres. Note,



will you ,the scampering of 516,952 white children as they pour out of the homes for nine months in the year, see them joyfully and playfully wending their way to the public schools. These are they who will bring the State of to-day to the heights of tomorrow. Behold they are met at the schools by 15,254 teachers, but a close inspection will show us that 8,410 of these teachers have less than one year of college preparation for the work and 3,447 do not hold the Elementary B Certificate. Annually we need 2,252 recruits to hold the standard where it is. The people are interested, for they spent about six million a year on school house construction and the demand for the well trained teacher is ever increasing.

Look to the east and behold the efforts being put forth to add dormitories, Library, student life building, heating plant and many other buildings at Teachers College. Why these efforts to build, to expand this college? Because it is from here that many ,many of the teachers must go to these children. This is the one college dedicated by the state to supplying this demand and the children are growing into manhood and womanhood while we build. We must build, build, and ever build , until every school room has in it a teacher who knows.

Behold the vision, 516,952 white boys and girls, - our children- down in darkness with their hands outstretched to you and to me begging us to send them some one who knows how to lead them out of darkness into light.

Come down off the mountain top of to-morrow



OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

EAST CAROLINA TEACHERS COLLEGE  
GREENVILLE, N.C.

ROBT. H. WRIGHT  
PRESIDENT

and join hands with the men and women of to-day to do our duty by our children.

There are those who cry "But it costs too much, we can't afford it". Ignorance is more expensive than intelligence. The gas tax is cheaper than the mud tax and you are going to pay one or the other. Which will you pay? I prefer the gas tax. It is cheaper and it takes the bumps out of life's road.

The mud tax of ignorance has driven out of North Carolina many of her brightest sons and it has stood as constant barrier prohibiting others from coming in. Good roads, good schools, paved streets, water and light plants are community investments and do not belong to the old idea of taxation. They are investments that give us the maximum of returns for the money spent. The more within reason that we invest in these things, the richer we will be and the more <sup>the</sup> progressive people from without will want to come here to invest their funds. If we do not invest money in education we will pay even a larger amount as tribute money to ignorance. I prefer an investment in freedom to paying tribute to ignorance. It is either the gas tax of freedom or the mud tax of ignorance. Which?



OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

EAST CAROLINA TEACHERS COLLEGE  
GREENVILLE, N.C.

ROBT. H. WRIGHT  
PRESIDENT

When I think what this generation of men and women has done for the childhood of the world, when I see what we are leaving as an inheritance for our children, when I think what a muddle we have made of the world, when I see the task these children must undertake, I can scarcely look a little child in the face without hanging my head in shame. We are crying for peace and constantly sowing the seed of war. The god of hate rules the nations of the world and he is clothed in the armor Mars. The God of Love only can save us from another great world catastrophe. In the United States 61 to 85 per cent of all our taxes are paid for wars, past and future, and not over 2 per cent for education. We pay at least 31 times as much tribute to the god of hate as we pay to the God of Love. But less than 2 per cent of just men would have saved Sodom and Gomorrah, and so 2 per cent will save us. We are beginning to see, beginning to question what we are doing, and that fact alone will save us

Stop for a minute and see what is going on. What does the German child hear around the fireside? Does it lead toward peace or war? Is it love or hate? As he is trained, so he will be. All he hears makes him hate the rest of the world. The same is true in France, Russia, the Balkan States, the Near East and in a less degree in England. The children of to-day will be the men and women of affairs tomorrow. Our children must settle with these. If America does not stop playing politics and carry love into Europe, then our children will pay dearly for what we do. It is a terrific task we are leaving



OFFICE OF  
THE PRESIDENT

EAST CAROLINA TEACHERS COLLEGE  
GREENVILLE, N.C.

ROBT. H. WRIGHT  
PRESIDENT

to our children. The least we can do is to give them the best preparation possible for this task. This must come through education and this kind of education can be given only by well trained teachers, - teachers who see, teachers who know, and teachers who love.

The hope of the world is in the childhood of today and the hope of the child is in the home, the church, and the school of to-day. The home is individual, the church is local, but the school is public. Here we can all unite, here we can work as a unit for the common good. Here in these community centers is our opportunity for united effort. The teacher is the heart of the school. How important then that we have only the best type of citizen as our teachers. We must train teachers, if we hope to save this generation of children. This, friends, is the mission of East Carolina Teachers College. May she hold her standards high and do her full duty by our children and may she grow until every child in North Carolina is taught by a teacher who knows how.