

East Carolina Teachers College
Six verses from the 137th Psalm
Address by Mr. R. H. Wright

October 27th, 1923.

May I say just a few words to you about the college and what the college means. I think you know what it is. I think the people of the state are beginning to know what it is, but I was very much surprised at a meeting I attended in Raleigh on Tuesday where the committee appointed by a conference that was called ~~at~~ some time ago by the State Superintendent to work out a course of study for the summer schools, were asked to come together and see if we couldn't work it out. I was invited, I am not one of the directors of the summer schools, to see if they ~~could~~ could not work out some scheme so that a person could go to a summer school at Greensboro one summer, and then if that person wanted to go the next summer to a summer school at Chapel Hill she could go there, and then if she wanted to go the next summer to Trinity she could go there, and the fourth year if she wished to come here or go back to Greensboro, or Chapel Hill, she could plan each year to build on top of the term preceding. In other words the State Supt. of Public Instruction asked the directors of the summer schools to have a course of study that will be constructive, that will start some where and go some where. You know or you don't it like some of the others do, some of those who are out in the field. The time has been when a person could raise a certificate by attending four summer terms, and in those four summer terms really and truly take only one summer school work. She could go to ~~the~~ this summer school and take the 15 hours and then go to the other summer school and under different names take the same work and keep on repeating that and raise a certificate when in reality she was not advancing.

Then teachers found that they go to this summer school and take work and then go to some other summer school and get in more of it

We are working on it now in this conference that was held last Tuesday. It came out more vividly than ever before that the institutions in North Carolina are realizing and recognizing as as the one college in North Carolina that is really and truly training teachers for the schools of our state. I do not mean by that that other institutions are not training teachers because they are being trained in nearly all the institutions in the state, but the training of teachers in those other institutions is only a department in a sense, and I am not using it in any bad sense. It is a side issue. Here, it is the purpose of the college, and the colleges of North Carolina are now recognizing that this is the one institution in our state "A" grade, that is preparing teachers for the public schools, including the high schools of our state. It has taken us some time

to get this recognition, and haven't been trying to get it, we really didn't care much whether we got it or not. We were not thinking about that. This college has constantly seen in the public schools the poor teaching that is going on, so much of it being a way below what it ought to be. The little children out there in those schools begging the state of North Carolina to send them trained teachers. We have seen that and we haven't been at all concerned about other colleges. We are interested in them, but our problem has been to take the product of the high schools and train that product so they can go back there and help those little folks. Our purpose is to send to the schools of North Carolina well equipped teachers. If other colleges will accept it all right, if not, all right. We are going to send the teachers to the children, and the other colleges see it and they are beginning to recognize it.

You know the spirit of a people determines what kind of people they will be, and the spirit of a college determines in a large measure what the student body will be. You go into an institution where every body makes light of law, for instance, or the ministry, and it will be a pretty difficult problem for you to make a good lawyer and get the training from such an institution that would enable you to make a good lawyer, or get the training that would enable you to make a good preacher, but if you go into an institution that has the spirit of the law or the spirit of the ministry, then it isn't so difficult to make a good lawyer of yourself, to make a good minister of yourself.

Now apply that to the teacher. The college that has the spirit in it of the teacher is the best college in the world to go to be trained for that work, and that's the spirit of our college, and the state is recognizing it. Now the people of North Carolina are realizing it.

I got an invitation the other day to make a speech before a certain club of men, and I asked, what do you want me to talk about, they said any thing. I said, how about talking about the college?

In other words they are interested in finding out about the college and what it is doing, and the work is being recognized every where our people go, and it is being recognized because the young women who have gone out from this institution, who have gone into the schools have given their very best to the work of teaching. You know it isn't so hard to succeed in life when you give the very best that is in you to the work; not the person who is seeking the job with the biggest salary

When you go out from this institution don't hunt for salary, let that alone. Hunt for the place you can do the best work, accept that place, do your very best and the salary will take care of itself. It will do it every time, Make good. The biggest compensation that comes to a teacher is not the check at the end of the month. If you don't have any more sense than to teach school for money you do not have sense enough to teach school. Oh, I don't mean that you ought to teach school for nothing. The laborer is worthy of his hire. What I mean is if you go into it with the money

making idea, that isn't the spirit that prompts a person in school work. There are greater compensations in life than money. We are determined, in this good old state of ours

The spirit of this institution is one of service, and let me tell you, young women, that's the best business slogan or spirit possible. If you are in the mercantile business it isn't good business to sell to a customer something that the customer doesn't need. A man walked into another's place of business in Danville some time ago, and says, I am going to quit trading with you. I am through with you. Why my friend what is the matter with you? The last buggy you sold me you made \$10.00 on it, and any man that will treat a friend like that I am going to quit trading with him. The merchant was a sensible man. He smiled and said, did it ever occur to you that all I make I make it out of my friends for my enemies won't trade with me. He says, I made \$10.00 on that buggy. I was entitled to \$10.00 on that buggy

be able to sell buggies to my friends when they need buggies. The irate customer ran his hands down in his pocket, dropped his eyes, and said, I had never thought of that before. You are right. He says, will you sell me a set of harness? He says, yes, I will sell you a set of harness, but I am going to make some money on it

and really rise to the top most quickly. Service above self. To serve is our slogan.