

Robert H. Wright,
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I have recently attended some meetings in different places in this country and I have told the people where I have been that we are running a teachers college, training those who come to us to be teachers. This morning I am persuaded that maybe I have been mistaken. I got home yesterday and tried to go to work. I came ~~ix~~ over last evening and saw this stage performance. I almost reached the conclusion that we are training some of you folks to go on the stage. You know I think that was a wonderful piece of work that those girls pulled off here last night. They have given a great deal of time and work to that. I did not know it was possible for you girls to make such good boys. I am just as proud of you as I can be, young women. That entertainment was a credit, more than a credit to the institution. It called for an enormous amount of work. Whether you should give that much work to a play or not is a question, but whether you got any good out of it or not is no question. Those who did the work certainly did get a great deal of good out of it and I want to thank those, including the teachers and officers, who took part in it for giving us such a creditable performance. It was simply great and I feel good about it this morning.

I want to talk to you this morning just a little while about some of the things I have seen and done while I have been away. It was last Tuesday afternoon, a week ago, I believe, that I left here. On Wednesday I went through western North Carolina on the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railroad from Marion over to the Tennessee line. That is wonderful country to look at and it is chock full of land agents. They are going to have as big a boom on there, it looks now as Florida had last year. It is going to be a nice place, I know, to lose money, and it may be a good place to make money, but the people are certainly very much interested in the development of that mountain section to make a play ground for people who have inclination, time and money to play. If you ever get a chance to go through that section

of the state you ought to go. It is simply beautiful. But I am not going to talk to you about western North Carolina.

Thursday I spent at Johnson City, Tennessee. They have the Tennessee State Teachers College at Johnson City. It is a young institution. It was founded in 1911 and they have accommodations there for about 400 students. It is a beautifully laid out place. All of the buildings are new and I believe they are going to develop a real genuine state teachers college at Johnson City. They had the inauguration of their new president on the 18th, Dr. C.C. Sherrod. The inauguration marks a change of policy and a change of administration. ~~at~~ East Tennessee State Teachers College has just come on the four year basis and they are doing the same general type of work that we are doing at this place. They have made a change of presidents at the same time that they have made a change from the two year course to the four year course. I was there on the occasion of the inauguration of their new president. The exercises were interesting and instructive. President Charles McKenny of Ypsilanti, Michigan delivered a brief address at the morning program. I have a copy of that address and maybe some day I will give you some extracts from it, because he brought out some splendid points, ^{that} it seems to me that all the people of this country ought to know. The state teachers college at Ypsilanti is the oldest teacher training institution in the Middle West and President McKenny is one of the live, intelligent, right thinking college presidents. No doubt they are doing a good work at this place.

On Wednesday at noon they had a banquet. They had nine speeches -- they had plenty of talk, but the speeches were not long. It was interesting to me, because they had selected people that represented every phase of education in Tennessee -- the state institutions, the privately owned and endowed institutions, the state of Tennessee, (the Governor was not able to be there because he is sick with pneumonia, he was better but not able to

come. A representative of the state came in his place.) County superintendents, the alumni of the institution and the alumnae of the institution. It is both ae and i. In other words, they have boys and girls both in that school. The student body was represented. Every phase of public education was represented on the program. I carried greetings to them from out state. I happened to be the toast master on this occasion and so I turned it over to the president of the college. I told him we had given him a strip of land from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River in which he could do as he pleased. I told him we backed him up with all phases of education and if he did not make good he had only himself to blame. He said he was once asked by his oldest boy what was the most important thing in an automobile. He guessed, gas, the motor, etc. The boy said, "No". Then he said, "Perhaps it is the brakes." He said, "No". Then he asked him to tell him what it is. He said it is the nut on the steering wheel. He said he supposed he must be the nut and they told him they hoped he would stay on the steering wheel.

I had a most delightful visit to Johnson City. On the morning before the program began at the college I was asked to speak at the Junior High School. They have a junior high school at Johnson City that has in it about six hundred students, in addition to the junior high school they have a senior high school. I talked to those boys and girls and we had a real good time. We enjoyed ourselves, at least, I enjoyed them. I had the ~~real~~ pleasure of going over that high school building. They have an absolutely modern, up-to-date building and equipment. They are doing a good work in the public schools of that city.

I caught the train that night for Washington, D.C., not the original Washington. You know down here in Washington, N.C. (I suppose you have seen what has been in the newspapers about the original Washington), they have asked Washington, D.C. to change its name. I don't much believe they will

get that bill through Congress.

On Friday, the 19th at 2 o'clock we opened the program of the American Association of Teachers Colleges and I will tell you about that next week.

It's good to get home girls and to be back here and to look into your faces and to see that you apparently are standing the strain of the winter quarter very well. I hope you will pull through in great shape.