

CHAPEL - March 6, 1928

Robert H. Wright

I want to tell you a few things this morning about the meeting of the American Association of Teachers Colleges and the meeting of the Department of Superintendence.

You remember that early in this quarter we had a visitor who talked to us here one morning, and he gave us a splendid talk, Dean Minnich, from Miami University. Dean Minnich was here at that time inspecting the institution for the American Association of Teachers Colleges. He went back and made his report, and at the Boston meeting our institution was given an A rating in the Association. Our institution has stood the test twice this year, - once for the American Association of Teachers Colleges and once for the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States. It is quite a satisfaction to us to know that we have stood our examinations and passed them.

This particular meeting of the American Association of Teachers Colleges, the largest organization of teacher training institutions in the world, was given over primarily to study of the progress that has been made in the United States during the last twenty years in the training of teachers. There were <sup>many</sup> a number of things brought out that would be of interest to you, but the thing that pleased me most, and it may be because I am not thinking as I ought to think, was the realization of the fact that we are right at the front of those who are thinking along the line of training teachers for the schools of our country. I believe I am not exaggerating when I tell you that here we are offering you the kind of work that the leading educational thinkers in America believe ought to be given to those who are being trained to teach the children in the public schools and the high schools of our country. In other words, we are as near to the meeting of that problem as any of them. I have always held that the girls of North Carolina are entitled to the best there is, and I believe we are giving it to you.

I want to take a little time to tell you about the Friday evening meeting. The Friday evening meeting of the American Association of Teachers Colleges is always a dinner session. They serve dinner and then they have some speech making.

This was no exception as far as the dinner was concerned except that the price had gone up one dollar per plate. We served a dinner here a few weeks ago for which those who came paid the enormous sum of \$1.00 per plate. We got practically the same kind of a dinner in Boston and paid \$3.00 a plate for it, but the thing that I wanted to tell you about this meeting is that we had with us an old man that is still young. That day, a week ago last Friday, happened to be this man's birthday, Dr. Winship. He is an educational publisher, editor of a magazine, and he was eighty-two years old that day. He is one of the most delightful talkers I ever heard. I hope he will live long enough to write the true story of teacher training in this country. It has never been written. Some of us are always harking back to Horace Mann because we think that Horace Mann was the first who saw the vision and carried it forward. That is not true. Dr. Winship talked to us about the beginning of teacher training, and he was very interesting. He gave us facts that had not been published. It is true that the beginning of teacher training was in Massachusetts and it is rather interesting that the Massachusetts teacher training institutions are still two-year schools, and they are being held there, not because the people who are working in these institutions do not realize that they ought to go beyond that, but because of the state laws and regulations. The beginners in this great work are now a long way from the leaders, and some of those good people in Massachusetts feel it rather keenly.

While I was in Boston I stayed on the thirteenth floor of the Statler Hotel. A few doors from my room on the same floor and the same corridor was the room of Mrs. Lindberg, the mother of the great aviator, but I did not get to see her. The Association conferred honors upon her. She was guarded all the time, night and day, by two policemen. As a person reaches prominence he or she begins to lose freedom. I do not know why Mrs. Lindberg was guarded unless it was because so many people were trying to see her that she could not sleep at night, and she could not go about in peace. When she went down town the policemen were with her. She was given a life membership in this Association. Of course, you understand that she is a teacher and is still teaching.

The National Education Association is divided into a number of departments. The largest department of the N. E. A. is the Department of Superintendence. The members of this department are the superintendents of schools, state superintendents, county superintendents, and city superintendents. I do not know just how many people were there. There must have been about 15,000. The Statler Hotel has 1300 rooms and they were all full on Friday before the Department of Superintendence met on Sunday, and the other hotels seemed to be just as much crowded. These people were studying the problems of administration, problems of courses of study for the public schools of America, problems of teacher training and how to give the child in America the best kind of education during the number of years he must spend in the public school. As you go out from this college into the class rooms throughout our state and in other states I hope each of you will join the National Education Association and keep in touch through its journal with what is going on in this country. The president of this Association is a Virginia class room teacher, a woman from the ~~Sixt~~ city of Richmond. I am telling you this so that you may see that the N. E. A. recognizes merit anywhere from the class room teacher in a Southern city on up through the whole ~~shh~~eme to a state superintendent. You can advance the profession of teaching by joining that organization and pushing it forward.

I want to tell you about one committee meeting that I attended. This was a meeting of the committee appointed by the N. E. A. on the World Federation of Educational Institutions. The next meeting of this federation will be next year in Geneva. I want to go, and I hope that I may see some of you there.