

CHAPEL - June 20, 1928
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I am certainly delighted to see so many of you people attending summer school this summer. I think that probably has as much to do with the spirit of education that is getting into the youth of our state and nation as any other one thing,- the fact that the teachers are themselves interested in going to school. Your interest carries over to the children you teach, and we are confronted today in this country with the greatest demand on the colleges of America that has ever been made. It is rather interesting to know that the boys and girls in North Carolina are working to finish the high school course and that a large percentage of them are working to go on to college. It is interesting to know that the State of North Carolina has in its high schools almost exactly the same number of students that the Country of France has in the corresponding schools. That means that the teachers of this country have stimulated the youth to go on to school because they realize that they cannot be good citizens in a democracy unless they are educated citizens.

I know you will be interested to know that since the last summer term East Carolina Teachers College has been inspected and admitted to the highest rating in the ~~Southern~~ Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States. It has also been inspected and rated by the American Association of Teachers Colleges and has been given the highest rating. This is significant to you. It means that when you complete the course here you will be admitted without any question to the graduate schools of the universities of America. In other words, it places your college on the same footing as the other ~~highest~~ A grade colleges throughout the nation. We have been classified by the State Department of Education as an A grade college for a number of years. This classification, however, is by the two associations I have named covers the Southern States and the nation. That means that we must admit only students who have completed the courses of accredited high schools or of institutions of undoubted equivalent to standard high schools or who have passed the entrance examination after graduation from non-standard high schools. When you finish our four-year course you will be eligible to go anywhere you want to go to work for a Master's degree.

There is a tendency throughout the nation, and it is interesting from the standpoint of our own state, for the members of the teaching profession to get a larger amount of pre-teaching training and for those who are already in the profession to go on until they have completed at least the Bachelor's degree. That tendency is not confined to North Carolina. It is nationwide, and the teachers of this whole nation are working toward that. Just a few years ago graduation from a standard two-year normal course was considered the standard teaching certificate for people who taught in the grades. North Carolina was one of the first states in the Union that adopted the salary schedule that goes beyond that and gives to the teacher who has had three years of training or four years of training more salary than is paid to those with two years of training, and in North Carolina the schedule is fixed regardless of sex.

This state has one of the best certification schemes in America. It enables a person to select the field of teaching in which she has a talent and go on and get all the training she can in that line and draw as good a salary as ~~she~~ if she taught in the high schools. There is one objection that I have to our salary schedule and that is that I think it is too low. I have seen in the papers the last few days that the State Board of Education has raised the pre-teaching requirements. I do not know when this goes into effect, but sometime during the summer term. We will get the information and see that you get it. They have eliminated the lower elementary certificate, and soon the requirements are going to be one year beyond the high school. I think that is one of the wisest things the State Board of Education has done in a long time. We who have been working and thinking and planning realize that a person cannot be trained to teach school by completing a high school course and going to a summer school for six or twelve weeks. You cannot get sufficient training in one year beyond the high school, and the time is not far distant when the State Board is going to raise the requirement to two years beyond the high school. You people who are here working in the summer and planning to increase your scholarship and at the same time raise your certificate, you are the folks to whom this advancement is going to mean a great deal.

There is one other tendency in our state that I want to mention to you this morning. I think the next great step forward in North Carolina is going to be the training of elementary school principals. The State Department ~~is~~ is standardizing the elementary school, and there is going to be an increased demand for trained supervisors of elementary schools. We have been offering that course on paper for two or three years and we have not yet had at a summer term enough students asking for this course to form a class. Now, you who want to get on the band wagon and get ahead of the others begin to make your plans for that if you would like a principalship. It ~~takes~~ pays more money, is a more responsible job, is a broader field for service. Let us work up enough to make a class in that course a year from now. We are going to put it in the regular school course; we are going to train some elementary school principals, and many of you ought to be taking that course.

I hope those of you who do not hold a diploma will complete the two-year course and then keep going until you get your Bachelor's degree. I do not see any reason why the women of America should not go on with their education as well as the men; I do not see any reason why you should not get your Bachelor's degree and go on and get your Master's degree and go on and get your Doctor's degree. It does not cost you any more than it costs a man and is worth just as much in North Carolina. I hope that a large number of you good people will work toward your Bachelor's degree. It is not that I want to raise the standard, but I do know what is coming in certain directions. You know if you will just stop and think for a minute that a person who has the best training and is best prepared in North Carolina already gets a better job and gets more money than a person with less training. This tendency to raise the scholarship and training requirements is going on until the children of North Carolina really and truly have trained teachers. One of the great handicaps to putting in eight months school terms in this state is the fact that there are many school teachers in North Carolina who are not trained for the work and are not doing good work. If you go into a

community and talk to the people about raising the standard of the school, - making an eight months school of it, often they say that they are not getting anything out of the six months school and they do not want to put any money into making it an eight months school. I person who does not know how to teach and is dealing with the children of our state may be doing a tremendous amount of damage to those children. We either help or handicap every child who goes to school to us. This college is either going to help every student who is here this summer or is going to do each one harm. There is no middle ground in this program of teacher training; there is no middle ground in this program of education. We either help folks or we handicap them, and that is the reason we are beginning to realize the importance of having teachers who know how to teach in our class rooms. They are helping to shape not only the temporal, but the eternal destiny of the youth of our state.

It is a glorious privilege to teach, but it is a tremendous responsibility. You who have been teaching know that.

North Carolina has done some wonderful things in an educational way during the last ten years. The people all over our state are really and truly intensely interested in the education of their children. There is no question about that. Out in the county you will see a large 10-room or 20-room brick building. It was put there by public taxation. Why is that building there? Because the people of that community and that county are determined to give their children a chance. People are beginning to complain about taxation. It is rather interesting to know that if you take the nation as a whole there are 135 mature citizens to every 100 minors. In North Carolina there are 90 mature citizens to every 100 minors. We have more children, more people under 20 years of age, in North Carolina than we have 21 years of age and over. Taking the nation as a whole the children between six and fourteen years of age have \$17600 of property back of each child. In North Carolina each child between six and fourteen years of age has back of him \$8400 worth of property. In other words, in North Carolina we have 90 grown people and \$8000 to give our children ~~equal~~ opportunities equal

to the opportunities of the children of the nation as a whole who have back
of them 135 grown people and \$17000. These 90/^{people}with \$8000 in North Carolina
must do the work of 135 people with \$17000 in the nation as a whole. It is not
the fault of the children that this condition exists, and there is no reason
why the children of North Carolina should suffer. It means that every dollars
worth of property in North Carolina that is spent for education must do a little
more than twice as much as the average for the nation, and I think our people
ought to know that. I think when they realize that they will stop saying that
we are putting too much money into education; I think they will be willing to
make the sacrifice. I believe I know the people of North Carolina well enough
to know that they will be willing to make the sacrifice because they love their
children, and they have a right to love them. They are as fine a body of
school children as the world ever saw,- the children right here in our state,
and you are making your sacrifice of time and money to get better training to
go back there and work more efficiently for these children. Carry the message
back to the homefolks and ~~they~~ let them know the conditions, and I believe they
will stand back of you and see that our children have an equal opportunity with
the children of the nation.