

November 14, 1928

I went into Miss Scoville's office on my way to chapel to ask her how was the enrollment for next year. I found her busy filing away the slips for next year's enrollment. She says that there are at least 234 applications already in for next year.

We are not going to ask you to pay the reservation fee yet for it might be some trouble to you and a tremendous amount to us but if you intend to come to college next year you had best put in your application now. Take an application blank and go out with it. Fill it in and slip it in at the little slot in Mr. McGinnis' door. Later in the year we will give you plenty of time to get the \$5.00 reservation fee. We want to give you an opportunity to come back next year.

I have studied rather carefully since 1909 educational conditions in North Carolina and they have changed more in the last nineteen years than they changed in all of the time before that. When we came here and started the college on October 5, 1909 with that little group of homesick folks there were very few trained teachers in North Carolina. There were very, very few trained teachers. We did not have in reality a public school system. We had only the beginning of a real system of public schools. There were people teaching in North Carolina who did not know enough to pass the seventh grade.

For a number of years we had an F course. Requirements for admission were that you must be seventeen years of age and intended to teach school next year. The reason we required them to be seventeen and intended to teach next year was that the law required them to be eighteen to teach. So we

admitted them to this course. It was nothing more or less than a review course with a little education sprinkled in.

Just think about that, folks. Think about a course like that being offered to train teachers for the children of our state and yet those people were taken up as soon as they finished. We have gone a long, long way since then. The time is coming before some of you people get thru college when it will pay you to take the four years of training for any grade of teaching you wish to do. That is how fast we have gone in nineteen years. It will pay you in dollars and cents and it will pay you in getting a better school.

I am telling you that this morning because I see now that it will be to your best interest if you can possibly do it to arrange your course for four years. Now I can remember when I said we never intended to offer a four year course here. No, I haven't changed, for this reason we started out with this determination that this college will prepare those who come to school here to meet the needs of the public school system and the public school system has gone on up so that now it will be to your best interest to take as much as four years training if you can possibly do it and if you cannot take four years, take three and come three summers and get the rest. The person with three years training will stand a much better chance than with two years.

Last year the new county-wide budget law, the county finance act it was called, placed all the counties in North Carolina on a budget basis and required those officers to live inside of that budget. It was their first budget and they did not know how to make it and in order that they might live within their budget they employed a lot of folks with low grade certificates. These folks have not been giving imminent satisfaction. I earnestly believe that next year these county budgets will be so that they can get high grade

certificate teachers. Last year they took quite a number of our D graduates. Last week a man told me he wanted an expert teacher for the first grade in his school. His teacher was getting married. You know some teachers get married, some get sick, and some die. Something awful gets the matter with some folks. He said that he did not want anything but an expert, that is the significant thing about it. I told him I would see if we had one available and asked him what would he pay and he said the salary would be according to the salary schedule.

I am telling you this at this time so you can think the matter over and write to the folks at home. You can change to the four year course without loss of time in January. Make your plans ahead and sometime during the month of November put in your application if you want a room and want to come to college here. I think you will be perfectly safe if you do it sometime in November.

The total number enrolled this year is 891. I have no idea how many are planning to be here next year but 890 are practically all we can handle. That includes the folks who come here from home. Over 25% have already been taken for next year--over 200. If there should be six hundred of you folks who want to come back next year that will be our capacity.

I do not want you to rush into Miss Scoville's office immediately from chapel but do not forget it as I am not going to keep on calling your attention to it. Get your application in during the month of November.

---Robert H. Wright, President