

November 20, 1928

Last week a few of us had the privilege of attending a conference that was held at the University of North Carolina called the Southern Conference on Education. A number of years ago there was a rich man named Ogden who financed a Southern Conference on Education in the hopes that people in the south could come together and discuss educational problems of a south recovering from a devastating war. Mr. Ogden died, the funds for carrying on this conference stopped and the conference ceased to be.

The University of North Carolina decided that they would ask representatives from all over the south to meet at Chapel Hill and reorganize to carry on in the same general line of thought as the old Southern Conference on Education that people might again meet together and discuss educational problems in the south. I do not know whether there are any educational problems peculiar to the south except that we carry on a dual system of education, one for the whites and one for the blacks. This conference has a number of exceedingly good things in it.

I want this morning just to give you a running review of what the conference was tho it did not do anything about resolutions or make any decisions but merely presented what they thought the problems were.

Thursday evening at the Carolina Inn the University gave a dinner to all who attended this conference. Dr. Chase talked on "The Southern States and National Standards in Education". In that talk Dr. Chase gave us what he thought were the problems in the south. He was followed by Dr. Douglas Freeman, Editor of the Richmond (Virginia) News Leader with the subject "Public Education and the Public Press". He gave us some inside information about the problems that confront a person publishing a daily paper. There is no question about it,

the public press is one of the most helpful things we have to further the cause of education. There is an editorial in the Raleigh News and Observer this morning about an eight months school session. They are circulating thruout our state to our people the necessity of educating the boys and girls of today and the fact that this cannot be done unless we have an eight months school term. I think Dr. Freeman's talk was one of the most interesting of the conference.

Friday morning Dr. Henry Louis Smith, President of Washington and Lee University, presided and told us some of the things he thought ought to be done. He was especially concerned about the ever increasing number of criminals in our country today. I think Dr. Smith's talk was in error on certain matters. Then we had an address on "The State University--Its Relation to Public Education" by President Lotus D. Coffman of the University of Minnesota. I have known him for many years and he is one of the biggest men in education in this country and he seems to think that the state ought to give every boy and girl an education from the kindergarten thru college. His talk was entertaining and kept everyone in a good humor.

The afternoon program was given over to the study of the Library, Physical Education, and Adult Education. That evening the University of North Carolina gave a smoker for the conference and that was followed by a musical program by the Glee Club.

Saturday morning our own state superintendent Hon. A. T. Allen was the presiding officer and he gave what has been done in education in North Carolina. "The Financing of Public Education" was the subject of Dr. George D. Strayer of Teachers College, Columbia University. He has given perhaps more intensive study to this subject than any one person in this country. We had Dr. Strayer with us two summers and he is really a great teacher and thinks along broad lines. You might sum up what he had to say in just a few words and that is

that public education is going to continue to cost more and more each year.

---Robert H. Wright, President