

March 5, 1929

I promised you yesterday morning that I would talk to you a little while this morning about the meeting I attended in Cleveland, Ohio, last week and the first of this week.

There is an organization of the National Education Association known as the American Association of Teachers Colleges. I think I had better stop there and tell you something about our organization. Teachers in this country are organized as a rule in certain groups if it is a special charter school as the Greenville schools and the Goldsboro schools and then the county units and these units are members of the state association as in this case the North Carolina Education Association and then we go from local units and from state units to the National Association which is the National Education Association. It holds its next meeting in Atlanta, Georgia.

The National Education Association is divided into departments of various and sundry kinds, one of these departments is the American Association of Teachers Colleges, another is called the Department of Superintendence. The Department of Superintendence usually holds its session in the latter part of February or March. Their meetings begin on Monday morning and almost always they hold a vesper service on Sunday evening. The American Association of Teachers Colleges holds its meeting following this.

This association has about one hundred eighty teachers colleges. Their program this year as I sometimes think of it was a program of dreaming dreams and seeing visions. College presidents sometimes have nightmares but these were dreams. The program began on Friday morning at 9 o'clock and it dealt with the college faculty in 1950, predicted changes in faculty standards



by 1950 and that afternoon the academic phase in the curriculum in 1950. Everything was in 1950. We got some really helpful thing, I believe, but I am free to confess to you that I could not get up very much enthusiasm about 1950 when the Legislature of North Carolina was in session and the Appropriations committee was working on what it is going to give this college in 1929, I could not get up very much enthusiasm for 1950. Someone said to me, "Wright, you have not chirped." I said, "No, I have been talking too much and to tell you the truth, I am more interested in what is going on in Raleigh today than what is going to happen in 1950."

But nevertheless you can see the trend of public education and teacher training and from that viewpoint can stop and observe and plan for things you want to accomplish in the future years. If we do in 1950 what we said we were going to do we will have a fine old world to live in but I do not know whether we will be able to do it or not.

Human society in the next fifty years, who dares prophesy what it will do. Not so many years ago people planted cotton throuth the south by picking the seed from the lint and dropping the seed by hand. A man named Cox and his son lived in the little village of Winterville. He said that he believed he could make something to drop cotton and he went to work and invented the Cox Cotton Planter and they are still manufacturing those cotton planters. The number of acres of cotton were multiplied. Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin and cotton became king in the south. We thought the world was getting along very well and a man got to work and invented the internal combustion engine and the whole trend of things was changed. The Wright brothers came down on the coast of North Carolina and said that they believed they could make a machine to fly in the air and by 1950, in all probability by 1950, we will be flying thru the air instead of riding in



automobiles and people will say what fools they were to spend all of that money for roads and now we have no use for them but those things come because people dream their dreams and then strive to bring those dreams to pass.

The teachers colleges of America while they are looking at 1950 are intensely interested in what is going on in the colleges today and in their report on standards and in their report on the number of colleges that have been inspected and passed or failed to pass inspection. These reports show that those people have their minds on the problem and today there are certain goals for tomorrow and those goals for tomorrow are blended with the idea of making the teachers colleges of America better places to train the teachers who are to go out into the various states of this union and teach the childhood of America in such a way as to make the highest possible type of citizens. That ran thru it all. Honest, upright, right-minded citizenship as the very foundation upon which our republic is built.

I was able to attend two meetings of the Department of Superintendence and two meetings of the National Council of Education. The National Council of Education is an organization of sixty-five of the so-called leaders in education thruout the nation and they held two sessions, one Monday afternoon and one Tuesday afternoon of this week. This Council of Education was a body of men that are studying problems that need solution and are striving to get a solution to the problem or get the National Education Association to find a solution to the knotty problems in our nation.

At one of the meetings I attended of the Department of Superintendence I heard Mr. Cameron Beck who is personnel officer of the New York Stock Exchange, down there on Broadway where they make fortunes and lose fortunes every five minutes of the day. Beck talked on this subject, "The Necessity of Coordinating Educational Activities with Public Affairs." I do not know how



much you have heard this but I have heard it a great deal that there is nothing practical in the schools. In fact, everyone who goes up to Raleigh today or tomorrow that is what he will hear. I wish our Legislature could have heard Cameron Beck and what he had to say about it. He took this position and kept repeating it that the Stock Exchange of New York, the very center of the business activities of this nation, found the college group superior to any group that it has had any dealings with. He said that the schools and colleges and he has both are turning out young men with high ideals and business ability far superior to any he has worked with, that they have a willingness to do the job, a willingness to learn and an aptness to learn far superior to any he has ever seen and he said if people say that the school people are not practical it does not show up that way on Wall Street.

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