

May 15, 1929

We had in our Registrar's office 506 applications, 98 of these girls have failed to pay their registration fee of \$5.00. We have already on file 893 paid applications, that is the fee is paid for the fall quarter and we have 280 on the waiting list. This includes those 98 girls who evidently are going to withdraw. We have on file in the office 538 applications for the summer quarter. I wanted to give you all of those facts plus one other fact and then I want to talk to you a little bit about the school situation in our state.

Much to our surprise we have received practically as many requests for teachers as we had last year at this time. There is a sentiment running thru the state of North Carolina that something terrible is going to happen to the schools of North Carolina this year. That situation was brought about by the recent Legislature and our people have not yet realized that the folks in North Carolina are going to educate their children. The recent legislative enactment has been so interpreted by the Attorney General that the people of North Carolina can go on with their schools and can educate their children. I do not believe that it was the intent of the people in the last Legislature for that not to happen. They wanted the children to be educated. They have obtained for equalization purposes the average number of students per teacher and it has been figured by some that it might mean the dropping of 2,000 teachers in our state. The legislation that was passed is hard to understand, that is true.

I believe this falling off in applications of teachers and others for rooms in the college dormitories for the summer is due in a large measure to the feeling that they may lose their jobs. Now as a matter of fact, the superintendents in North Carolina cannot employ, I mean sign contracts and

guarantee that they can live up to those contracts, until the budgets are made out and approved by the Equalization Board, the tax rate fixed in the various counties by the county boards and the allotments made to the various counties by the Equalization Board and all of that is going to take probably until August and that is going to mean that teachers in North Carolina are going to be restless now until August. Some say, "I do not know whether I shall teach next year or not." Just exactly that kind of thing is what thousands of teachers in North Carolina are saying today. The truth of it is that the people of North Carolina are going to man their schools with teachers. The truth of it is that the people of North Carolina are going to run them next year just as they did last year if it is humanly possible. The truth of it is that it is almost as many millions of dollars to be used to keep the school running as heretofore. Now when we look at those facts and realize that the people of North Carolina are determined to educate their children and there is nothing for us to get terribly alarmed about.

Some time ago just as the Legislature adjourned a good mother who has had her daughter's application in for twelve months came to see me to know if I thought her daughter would be able to get a school if she came here and took a four year course. I said to her, "Does your daughter want to teach?" She said, "Yes". I said, "Does she like children?" She said, "Yes, she loves them." Then I said, "Does she want to take a two year course or a four year course." And she said, "A four year course." Then I told her that I supposed they will want some teachers four years from now. Now that was not a teacher, that was a parent but the thought has gone into all of the folks that something terrible is going to happen to their schools and our folks are determined that this shall not happen.

You know sometimes when the clouds look like we will never have sunshine again, it is just a few minutes until the sun shines just as brightly as it

ever did. I dont know but that this reaction that is going on today is not the finest thing that has happened. People all over North Carolina are thinking about the schools now as they have never done before. A man away out in the country said that we are not going to let them take our schools away from us. He is a big landowner with most of the children going to that school his tenants. Now the thing I want you to do is to realize that the sun is still shining and that the people of North Carolina are going to educate their children.

Now if I did not have an A grade certificate in North Carolina, I would not stop until I got one. Maybe if I were a girl I would do differently. Maybe I would wait on some man to say the next thing. But the person who wants to go forward in the profession of teaching and who has the nerve today to go on with hope and faith is the person who is coming out in the final analysis on the top. I was talking to a friend of mine who is considered a millionaire. I asked him how he got his start and he said that back in a bad year when merchants were refusing credit to everyone he kept on and borrowed every cent he could and that those people have always remained his friends. When everything was looking so gloomy he had faith. He took a chance and won. He made good because he had faith and took a chance.

Now if you want to do your friends who are teaching out in the state a real service give them a spirit of hope and faith and encourage them to go to school this summer. I am not asking you to ask them to come here. My motive is much bigger this morning than that. I want the teaching profession in North Carolina to go forward. When things look the gloomiest sometimes it is the time to sing.

Do you know the story about General Foch when the Germans were sending drive after drive against his forces. He sent back to headquarters this, "My sector gives way, my right recedes, the situation is excellent for an attack." And he gave the order in the face of that situation and they went

forward and drove the Germans back.

It was faith and determination in the face of what looked like the impossible. Have faith and let's go forward.

Robert H. Wright, President