

May 22, 1929

This morning I wish to talk a little while on the subject that I was talking on last Thursday, namely--What Kind of a Person Do I Want to Teach My Little Sister or My Little Brother. What kind of a person do I want to be the teacher of those who are close to me. One of the things that we want to become if we want to make a successful teacher is to have the spirit that will enable us to be cooperative with the principal of the school, cooperative with the superintendent of the school, and cooperative with the parents. Most of the schools in North Carolina now have Parent-Teacher Associations. That is quite significant if we stop to think about it for a little while. It means the parents in North Carolina want to be cooperative with the teachers that the best possible result may be had for their children.

A person cannot be a successful teacher no matter how brilliant that person is unless she actually wants to work in cooperation with those who have charge in an administrative way. It is in my mind one of the first requirements for a successful school that those who teach in the school shall teach the best they can and to endeavor to carry out the principles of that school. One of the things that has made the students who have gone from this college successful has been the fact that they have shown this spirit. I do not know how many superintendents and principals have spoken to me about the splendid cooperative spirit of the students that go from East Carolina Teachers College. It is absolutely essential, young folks, and probably there are things that should be done differently. In fact, there is hardly a school anywhere that is doing everything in the best way possible because we are all human but even a poor plan carried out in a cooperative way will get better results than an excellent plan trying to be carried out without cooperation. Dont think for a minute you can fool the children and carry on a little fuss with your principal or

superintendent. They have a way of finding out everything about it. If you think you can fool thirty or forty children, you are just mistaken.

The next thing that I have on my list is that we want to become socially efficient. When we had the system of follow-up teachers, they went out each year with the group of girls that graduated here. We found that almost every girl was successful so far as class room procedure was concerned but we did find that $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of our graduates were failures socially. They did not know or they did not conform to what they did know. There are certain things that a person cant do in a community and teach school. I read an account the other day which said a girl was a good teacher in her subject matter but the superintendent of the school said we are not asking her to return. We are not asking her to return because of her social attitude. She seems to think she is better than the other teachers and she is out night riding with High School boys and he said we simply cant keep her, that is all. Now that kind of a thing is actually happening in North Carolina every year and it is happening more than you think. Yes, he has a nice automobile and is a nice boy and I can go riding with him and next year you can seek another job. All the boys that go to college at one time were in High School but that is not the question. There are some things a teacher cant do and expect to teach school. Well, I am going to spend my weekends where I want to. I am not going to work with the community. I am going into town and go to the dances. I know a young woman who was a fine type of young woman. She went into a rural community and as soon as the bell rung Friday afternoon she went to town and stayed until Monday morning. She did that so successfully that the people of that community decided to have a consolidated school. There was not a thing wrong with that girl as we ordinarily look at human beings but simply she was not interested in that community but she was interested in getting out of it. I have often said that she did a good work, she caused that one teacher school to consolidate with the schools of that district and form a consolidated school. Of course, if that is what you are going out for, that is

all right but people are not going to stand for that sort of thing. Someone told me about another case, I do not know this one. She was a good teacher tho I do not know how she could have been. She had five dates out of every week. I dont know why on earth she didn't die. I said, "Ill you keep her," and he said, "No, we do not want that kind of a person." You cannot be a success in a piece of work if you are going to make your major interest something else. If you teach school, you must go to teach and make that your work.

I told you the other day that we had a card and I told you what we had on that card. I am going to read a report. I am going to ask you what you would do if you were in Mr. M. L. Wright's place. Scholarship - good; teaching technique - excellent; personality - excellent; work habits - good; language habits - average; attitude towards supervision - good; remarks - finds much pleasure loitering at hedge on Fifth Street. Now dont laugh, girls. I want you to just stop and think. If you were in charge of helping people get jobs and this thing is serious with us for we have promised that people we send out will make good. There are 8,000 children in North Carolina with their hands uplifted begging for someone who knows how. Now if you were in the office and had that particular report and you see we made it a good one just one thing marked average then that remark at the bottom. What would you do if you were Chairman of the Appointment Committee? What could you do? If you were a superintendent and came to this college to employ a teacher and that information was given to you, what would you do? If the people in your community would write to you and ask you to go into the office and select a teacher for them and that record was given to you, what would you do? Do you want to hire her and send her to that community where they have asked you to pick them out a teacher?

I am telling you all of this because you are training to teach and it is a pretty serious undertaking. There is an article in the Nation's Schools in which the author has sent out to 85 superintendents a questionnaire to get infor-

mation on what their constituents demand of teachers. Listen to the things he picks out that they demanded. (1) Personality traits, (2) character traits, (it looks like superintendents are not looking for teachers) (3) education, (4) teaching achievement, (5) professional attitude, (6) social interests, (7) miscellaneous facts in which he enumerates quite a number of things. It would look from this that people are looking for folks with the right kind of personality and the right kind of character before they are looking for folks with education and along in the list comes social attitude. What kind of person do you want to teach those who are near and dear to you? Try to be that kind.

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