

CHAPEL, March 22, 1934

-- President Wright

Scripture lesson: "Remember now thy Creator....." and "Whatsoever a man soweth...."

The older I get the more I see the necessity in this world, and especially in this government of ours, for honesty and fair dealing. When we get to the bottom of the situation that confronts us we are going to find that it is a lack of fair dealing, a lack of honesty that has brought about the condition that confronts us today. It makes no difference what country you study you will find that somewhere hidden away in that government acts and deeds of officers, of people in high places, that are responsible for many of the evils that country is facing today. In this country the plan that was laid down by Woodrow Wilson was defeated in the Senate by one vote. Later it was found that that particular vote was cast by a man who was not honestly elected. The President's scheme failed to go through because of dishonesty in our people. Our newspapers are constantly filled with perplexing problems confronting various kinds of industries. Dr. Frank talked to you yesterday about the railroad and automobile industries. If those people would be honest and make fair statements when they sit around a conference table and work for the common good there would be no trouble in settling their difficulties. The trouble is they are not doing what we people in the south call "toting fair." If they would be fair in their dealings with one another industries would soon get back on their feet; if people were playing fair in politics, government and business we would soon be a prosperous people. Then if nations would do the same thing, realizing that all nations do not need the same type of government,--because the people of Japan honestly believe in a different type from ours in America--and be willing to make concessions it would take only a short time to iron out their difficulties. If only we were willing to live and let live. I sometimes think our nationalism, often erroneously called patriotism, is one of the big handicaps we and other nations have.

We can't force our type of government on the whole world. We went into the world war to make the world safe for democracy and it looks today that we destroyed democracy. We certainly do not have in this country what we went into the war to fight for. We have lost it because we haven't been willing to be absolutely fair with other people. That's a tremendous charge to make, but it can be substantiated without any trouble. We almost put the watchmakers of Switzerland, the best watchmakers in the world, out of business. We were their largest customers and we built a wall around our country until those people were almost starved out of business. I don't think that's toting fair with Switzerland. We must learn to live and let live. We must get the spirit of love. You may say that's not being loyal to one's own government, but that is really the finest type of loyalty. Right now England is up in the air because of what we are doing to build up our shipping and yet England is carrying practically one-half the commerce of the world. We don't think she is "toting fair" with us.

Young folks, be honest through and through.