

State Teachers College *News Letter*

VOL. II

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., NOVEMBER, 1944

NO. 2

American Education Week Observed

From November 5-10, American Education Week was observed on the campus. One speaker said, "Because of the war, American Education Week means more than before so I want to do more," much more than ever before was done.

Under the auspices of Miss Pauline Robinson, in the Art Department, the Sophomores and Juniors prepared posters that were in keeping with the topics of the week.

Interesting and inspiring speeches were delivered. At Vesper on Sunday afternoon, November 5, President Harold L. Trigg presented to the student body Rev. M. S. Rudd who spoke to us on "World-wide Brotherhood."

On Monday, November 6, at 10:30 a. m., Dr. Allen P. Brantley, pastor of the First Methodist Church of this city, delivered a scholarly address on "Winning the War." Dr. Brantley presented a historical survey of the rise of totalitarian governments from the time of the last Czar of Russia to the time of the present dictatorship. He then contrasted those governments with that of a democracy. "Will democracy or dictatorship be our government of tomorrow?" he asked. In relating to us the facts about the causes of wars, dictators and their governments, and the causes of dictatorship, he made it possible for us to answer the question.

On Tuesday, November 7, our attention was turned to "Improving Schools for Tomorrow." As prospective teachers, we will always remember the advice which was given us by Mr. J. G. McCracken, Superintendent of City Schools, Elizabeth City, N. C. Mr. McCracken's philosophy of education was stated by him. "As teachers," said the speaker, "we ought to do many things well. School is erected for the child and not for the teacher, so give

the child all advantages. The new teacher is an understanding teacher, he is considerate of the child's problems. The teacher's effort should be to bring out the best in each child and not to try to surpress the bad." He finally admonished the teacher to be honest, teach honesty and live honesty.

On Wednesday, November 8, 1944, Professor Joseph Ancrum, Principal of the Training School, brought to us the Glee Club and the seventh grade class to further our entertainment. The Glee Club sang three selections: "Lorely," "Liebestrum," and finally, "My Lord Delivered Daniel." The group presented a radio skit on "Winning the War." This skit made us aware of what the community may do in winning the war.

Mr. Edward Jones on Thursday morning held the audience spellbound and caused his audience to be somewhat skeptical as he vividly painted the picture of the achievements of science for tomorrow. His topic was "Preparing for the New Technology." The speaker defined the term for the audience then divided his presentation into two parts: (1) definite goals of technology which in most likelihood will be reached in this decade, and (2) Future goals and possibilities. "We are about to see the dawn of the age of plastics. In the next five years we shall have plastic furniture, dishes, houses, shoes and plastic automobiles." In the goals and possibilities, the speaker embossed travel and the span of life. "Instead of taking a trip to Richmond, Va., for a week-end, our children's children's children will go to the planet Venus for a few hours visitation and drop in on the planet Mars for a short visit on the way back." In the Technology of Engineering Mechanics, the speaker states, "Engineering is in its infancy." A basic fact on the verge of discovery is that there is no essential differences in the basic natures of what we call heat, light, and electricity other than certain technical

differences such as frequency and wave length. This important fact means (1) Much of tomorrow's power of locomotion will come from sunlight; (2) Practically all homes of the future will be heated by means of light rays. He states that the proof of this fact is possible mathematically and experimentally. Mr. Jones concludes by stating that education as we now know it is in its infancy, and suffers a radical revision. Education for the masses will more definitely enter the training sphere with its chief objective that of preparing an individual to live and to fit into a scheme of living. Highly technical training and drill will assume new importance. Apprenticeship as a means to specialization will make a come-back. The motto of the technological world of education will be survival of the fittest and the key of keys will be specialization.

The celebration of American Education Week was brought to a close by a panel discussion sponsored by the Senior Class Friday, November 10, 1944 at ten thirty a. m.

The assembly was opened with Dean Williams presiding. The student body sang "America." The Twenty-third Psalm was repeated by all and then we were led in prayer by Rev. John T. Doles.

The coordinator of the panel, Miss Virginia D. Parker, then introduced the topic for discussion: "Educating All the People." Miss Parker stated that "the part played by education in modern life has been brought home to us by the war. More than ever before we are aware of the necessity of educating all the people. The 1940 census showed that 131½ per cent of the adult population of the United States is functionally illiterate, that is, having only a 4th grade education or less. Only 24.1 per cent of the population 25 years of age or over were high school graduates. Only 39.1 per cent had completed one year of high school.

Great differences in educational level exist between the

states. For example, according to 1940 reports, New York spends \$156.86 per year per pupil, while North Carolina spends only \$40.86 per year per pupil and Mississippi spends still less, the sum of \$30.72 per year per pupil. In all cases, the children are citizens of America—of the nation that we seek to build in the future.

According to hearings in July before a Senate subcommittee on education and health, five million selective service registrants have been rejected or discharged for health or educational deficiencies. Hundreds of thousands of physically fit men were rejected because they were functionally illiterate.

Miss Carolyn A. Billups gave some suggestive means of developing communities capable of dealing with the problem of juvenile delinquency. Miss Billups thinks that "a community capable of dealing with the juvenile delinquency problem is one whose home, school, and church work together to aid such persons in finding a better way of life."

Miss Carrie Barnes discussed the role of home economics in the post-war world. Miss Barnes said that "home economics in the post-war world will have such a program as to give all people knowledge and information dealing with the home situation."

Miss Gracie J. Nichols pointed out some methods that could be used in each community to decrease illiteracy. Miss Nichols agrees that "schools should redirect education for children as well as adults."

Miss Willie Alice Jones told the listeners what kind of an educational program is wanted after the war. Miss Jones emphasized the fact that "after the war, a universal education that prepares youth for life instead of for college is wanted."

Questions were asked by persons in the audience and answered by members of the panel. Remarks were made by Dean Williams. Assembly was dismissed.