

Impressions of the Teachers' Assembly

The twenty-fifth annual session of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly, as an event, is a thing of the past, but in the results and the benefits derived it is decidedly a thing of the future. Everybody seems gratified at the success of the meeting, the benefits derived from it, the spirit of co-operation and interest displayed by the citizens of Charlotte, and the high plane upon which the discussions proceeded.

Speaking of the session, State Superintendent J. J. Joyner said:

"The departmental work was unusually well attended and the work itself was inspiring, informing, exceedingly practical, and usable in the daily work of teachers and superintendents. The evening lectures were a treat of knowledge, eloquence, and racy humor, surpassing those of any previous assembly that I have ever attended. Without invidious comparison, it can be truthfully said that every speaker from abroad surpassed expectations."

"The entire programme was admirably planned and executed without hitch or confusion. The officers especially the president and secretary, deserve thanks and appreciation for the hearty appreciation of the teachers and the citizens of Charlotte for their admirable management."

"The people of Charlotte will be remembered long and affectionately by all who had the good fortune to be here this year for their courtesy and hospitality and the active interest that they manifested in our work by attending the exercises in such large numbers."

Dr. Charles W. Kent, professor of English literature in the University of Virginia, says:

"It has been my pleasure to attend summer schools and teachers' assemblies in various parts of the world, but I never saw a more earnest body of teachers. I have enjoyed watching the alert interest with which they have listened to the speakers invited here to address them. They have seemed anxious to catch in every word and every good thing said in their presence. There has been, too, a gratifying proportion of men in attendance, and many of them have represented the University and colleges of the State. The interest manifested in the assembly by the various college presidents and professors is an evidence of the unity of sentiment in this State with reference to education of all the people. If I dared make any comment on the excellent management of this assembly it would be that too much strain is put upon the teacher by the number and character of the addresses. The conscientious teachers are kept so busy as to derive the pleasure they are entitled to in this outing. Fewer speeches and more time for discussions in which the teachers themselves take large parts would be my advice, but I think that the committee to be here before this advice is taken, for I would not willingly have missed the opportunity to speak to the earnest and alert teachers of this great State."

Mrs. Sarah Jones Stevens, formerly of the State Normal College, declared:

"Socially and professionally, I believe that this has been the most successful session of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly ever held."

"The spirit of progress everywhere evident on her streets, her finely equipped public schools, the classic halls of her colleges, and the charming cordiality and interest of her people make us proud that 'Greater Charlotte' belongs to us as North Carolinians; while from the strong, helpful work of our leaders and the honest exchanges with our comrades, we have gained such enthusiasm, such sympathy, such broad views, that we shall go to our homes and our work, each a better teacher, a stronger citizen, and a more potent factor in the upbuilding of our community and State."

It was the opinion of Mr. J. I. Foust, president of the State Normal and Industrial College, that:

"In attendance, interest, enthusiasm and work the Teachers' Assembly just closing has been one of the most successful ever held. Every section of North Carolina had representatives present and all seemed animated by the desire to make the work more effective than it has been in the past. To me the most hopeful sign was the lack of despondency among the teachers. All, of course, realize that we have many grave problems yet to solve, but at the same time every one seemed to feel that the profession would be equal to the accomplishment of the task."

"The keynote of the meeting was a desire on the part of all for closer organization and more earnest, effective professional work in the future. The new plan of organization will meet these demands of the teaching and we may confidently expect greater things of the Teachers' Assembly than we have ever realized in the past."

"Charlotte did everything that could be expected of us while in her midst, and I feel that the thanks of every teacher in North Carolina is due to the generous, hospitable people of this city."

Miss Mary O. Graham, of the Charlotte city schools, president of the State Primary Teachers' Association, quoted Superintendent F. G. Blair, of Illinois, as saying:

"I have been to a great many gatherings, but nowhere have I found such earnest, interested listeners as I have had here."

Miss Graham then added:

"The assembly afforded me an opportunity to compare the teacher who has seen many years' service, and the teacher who is just beginning the work, and one is impressed with the fact that though there may be a separation in years, there is a unity of purpose and of heart in endeavors to do that which is best, and to reap the best from others for the children of North Carolina."

Hon. O. T. Carson, of Columbus, Ohio, was delighted with the meeting. He declared that:

"The self-sacrificing devotion of teachers to the interests of their calling is always impressive. In all sections of our land they are found spending a part of their vacation, much needed by them for rest after the hard strain of the long school year, in attendance upon teachers' assemblies, summer schools, associations, and institutes, paying their own expenses, but in the results which are nearly always small."

"This self-sacrificing devotion is a prominent characteristic of the teachers of North Carolina."

"It is a pleasure to talk to them in their meetings because of their splendid attention and to meet with them socially because of their beautiful courtesy."

"The spirit of the late Dr. McIver seems to live everywhere in the hearts and lives of students and friends, and the kindly sympathetic and able leadership of State Superintendent Joyner so influences all departments of education as to result in a singleness of purpose and a unity of effort which are most beneficial to all grades of school work."

"Charlotte is a truly beautiful city, whose history makes it very interesting to strangers, whose fine homes indicate the culture and refinement of its people, whose splendid churches are a guarantee of the high moral tone which pervades their life, whose public schools, public and private, furnish the rising generation with opportunities to equip themselves for the active duties of life, and last, but not least to one who is much of the time away from home, whose excellent hotels provide comforts of a high order."

"I shall carry with me many pleasant memories of my experiences in the twenty-fifth meeting of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly and shall always wish the schools of the Old North State the success that I feel certain will result from the united efforts of her consecrated teachers."

Dr. Gorson's work with the city superintendents was especially effective. Superintendent Harry Howell, of the city schools of Washington, declared that Dr. Gorson's very presence was an inspiration, said he:

"In the section of city superintendents, Dr. Gorson has been an inspiration to the meeting, and everyone has felt the uplift of his presence. His practical ideas, so forcibly expressed, made every school man approachable and inspired. We found in him the ideal counselor as he accepted the good in the new, but clings to the best in the old. The enthusiastic spirit which dominated the discussion of the school superintendents was more forcibly shown than ever before in the history of the assembly and should carry us back with renewed energy and zeal to our work."

Our older members, Superintendents Graham and Thompson and President F. P. Hobgood, entered into the spirit of the meetings with all the vigor and energy of the younger members, thus emphasizing the fact that the work is one of continual growth and that one need never become old in the school room."

The professional spirit displayed by the teachers was, in the opinion of Miss Mary K. Applegate, of the department of pedagogy in the Baptist University for Women, the most impressive feature of the meeting. She declared that "the most significant note of the Teachers' Assembly" was the professional spirit. Every teacher in attendance seemed thoroughly alive to the interests of the profession."

"The discussions of each section showed a thorough realization of the problems confronting the educational world of to-day, and a great faith that these problems will be solved in such a way as to make for the best development of each phase of school work."

"The addresses of the president of the assembly and of the visitors showed plainly that they realized that the teachers of the State had caught the larger vision of the work, and the fundamentals of educational thought and growth."

"Hearty good will and harmony of interests added much to the pleasure of the meeting, while the beautiful courtesy of both the officers of the assembly and the townspeople made the session, held in Charlotte, the most successful one in the history of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly."

The same thing impressed Mrs. Charles D. McIver, whom the teachers were delighted to have present.

"Professional spirit and the earnestness of the effective worker are the marks that characterized the meeting of this Teachers' Assembly," she said. "If our civilization is to stand, our teachers must be of our best material, well prepared, well paid and heartily supported in their work for our children. Whether or not we realize it, not every man who is doing honest work, is working that those who come after him may find the world better than he found it. Let us all work together to make this Old North State the best it is, the dearest place in the world."

Though not herself a teacher, Mrs. E. E. Moffett, of Raleigh, was of the opinion that:

"Anyone who must feel benefited after attending a session of the Teachers' Assembly. This opportunity for exchanging experiences, of hearing addresses on the various phases of educational work cannot fail of its purpose. The harmony that prevailed and the excellent attention given was due in a great measure to the committee on arrangements, who had so admirably planned the programme."

"The work of the Woman's Department for the Public School Houses and Grounds" was emphasized to the extent of giving it two sections of time in which to re-organize and make more effective the already established factor in educational progress. It now remains for the citizen women of the State to come forward in greater numbers giving their influence and force to a work that comes within their sphere. She can in this way help in the world's work and not a whit put herself in the limelight or detract from her modest worth and gentle demeanor."

"A movement to connect the work with that of the State department of education was opportune and will insure more general and widespread interest. Those who have engaged in the work have considered it a privilege of service to those who are engaged in that 'divine calling' teaching."

Perhaps no man present had attended as many sessions of the assembly as President F. P. Hobgood, of the Oxford Seminary. He was enthusiastic over the meeting, declaring it the best in the assembly's history.

Dr. W. G. Whitsett, a former president of the assembly, thought:

"The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly was a most excellent session. The attendance on the general sessions and the various department sessions," he said, "was unusually high throughout. The speakers never failed to bring good results to the attention of the assembly."

"In one particular this session is

especially notable. It marks the beginning of a new era in the assembly. Its new plan of organization gives to North Carolina teachers compact and thoroughly united organization capable of greater and much more effective work than has heretofore been possible. We have had much interest in educational matters, and many educational forces and sections and departments, but these may all now receive the added power and influence resulting from the new plan of organization adopted at this session."

"Having attended twenty-three of the twenty-five sessions of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly," he said, "I do not hesitate to say that this has been the most interesting and the most profitable of all. Not to speak of the unusually large attendance, the lectures by the speakers from abroad and by our own home have been the best, the most practical, and the most timely that I have ever heard before the teachers."

Miss Mary Taylor Moore, secretary of the State Audubon Society, declared:

"Well arranged programme filled with interesting speakers, fine attendance, and a spirit of earnestness on the part of those in attendance combined to make the twenty-fifth annual session of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly one of the best, if not the very best, of the four sessions that I have had the pleasure of attending."

"The thing that impressed me most was the realization of the broadening influence of this meeting to the hundreds of teachers from all sections of the State. Impelled by professional loyalty and a desire for self-improvement, they came; the college president and the college teacher, the high school teacher and the primary teacher, the county superintendent and the city superintendent, the city teacher and the country teacher, the teacher grown old in the service and the young one just graduated from the Normal College. They came together, they rubbed elbows, they talked, they listened. The result—An exchange of helpful suggestions, new ideas gained, new ideals implanted, and best of all, a broadening of horizon, personally and professionally."

Inspiration and enthusiasm, in the judgment of Miss Nettie A. Lea, of the Normal College Training School, were the keynotes of the session.

"The greatest thing to be gained by an individual in a gathering of his own particular 'clan' is the inspiration and enthusiasm which comes from exchange of ideas at close range with those who are trying to do the same work in the world as himself. This was certainly true of the hundreds of teachers who have been assembled in the Queen City during the past week. From beginning to end it was a feast of good things for all of us, ranging in service as we did from the primary teacher to the college president. To think that this is for everybody, and, too, the beauty of it was the unity in diversity—there were specialists to address the various sections, but each speaker impressed the thought that the end and aim of education was something for everybody. The management was wise in providing for the section work and especially wise in so arranging it that the meetings did not conflict, thus giving opportunity for supervisors and superintendents to meet on common ground."

"The best feature (if there be any comparison, where all was best) was the spirit of optimism pervading the entire assembly. The glad, hopeful note was struck by every speaker and found hearty echo from those earnest teachers. I recall an expression used by Dr. Kent in amplifying a point. 'Morality we cannot be taught, it must be caught.' That was with this gathering of North Carolina teachers—their buoyant, hopeful, earnest spirit can not be reduced to type, it must be caught. This spirit is the most lasting impression we will carry with us to our homes and our work as we leave this beautiful city, which gave us such glad welcome."

Mrs. James A. Robinson, for many years a primary teacher in the Durham city schools thought it:

"A happy coincidence that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Teachers' Assembly was celebrated in the historic City of Charlotte, with the best meeting ever held by that organization and the largest number of representative teachers ever in attendance. A notable feature of the occasion was the unusually large number of brilliant addresses delivered by prominent educators from other States. There were also many interesting and helpful talks and papers by our own successful teachers. Another distinctive feature from former sessions was the excellent attendance at every meeting of the different departments. It was impressed with the display of interest in all phases of educational work by teachers of every department. It was evident that the members of the assembly were there for work, and they certainly took advantage of every opportunity offered to them."

I am sure the meeting was an inspiration and help to every teacher in attendance, the results of which will be felt throughout our city and rural schools during the coming session."

Miss Annie Meade Michaux, vice president of the Primary Teachers' Association, said:

"The session of the Teachers' Assembly which has just closed marks a new era in the educational spirit of North Carolina. The teachers who attended cannot fail to be broader from both a personal and professional standpoint. I wish that every teacher in the State could know how much enthusiasm and inspiration the speakers have brought us through their addresses and through our personal contact with them."

RESOLUTIONS.

Following is the full text of the resolutions adopted by the special committee appointed for that purpose:

"Resolved, By the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly, that the twenty-fifth annual session has been one of its most successful and profitable has been due in a great measure to the generous financial support of the citizens of Charlotte, and to the hearty co-operation of the Greater Charlotte Club, through its Secretary, Mr. W. T. Corwith, to all of whom this body wishes to express its grateful thanks and appreciation, believing that by such interest and public spirit they have assisted, in giving a further impetus to education in North Carolina."

Resolved, That the thanks of the assembly are gratefully offered the

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citizens of Charlotte for the open-hearted hospitality with which they have welcomed and entertained this body, and particularly to the several women's clubs for their thoughtful and acceptable entertainment. The courtesy of the Presbyterian College for Women having kindly placed their building at the service of the Teachers' Assembly, permitting the free use of their splendid auditorium and class rooms, and having rendered every effort, personal and official, to make the transaction of its business easy and convenient, therefore, be it

Resolved, Unanimously, that the secretary be instructed to express to the authorities of the colleges the thanks and appreciation of the assembly for the interest they have shown and the trouble they have undergone to make this session a notable success; and to further express to Dr. J. R. Bridges, the president of the college, the regret each member feels at his absence and sincere wishes for his early recovery from the illness which has prevented his presence.

Resolved, That the thanks of the assembly be extended to Mr. Henry F. Anderson for the enjoyment which he has furnished by his delightful and artistic music, and for the readiness and cheerfulness with which he has responded to requests of that nature. We desire through this means, both for the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly, and personally, to express the appreciation of the members of the assembly for the generous support which the citizens of Charlotte have accorded, and the hospitable interest they have displayed in this twenty-fifth annual session. The success of the meeting is due in a large measure to this support and interest, and the teachers of North Carolina who attended this session return to their homes and their work feeling proud of their association with this city which has contributed so much to North Carolina's splendid past and still more splendid present. Everything was done, and nothing neglected to contribute to our comfort, pleasure and profit, and for all of which we feel deeply grateful.

J. A. MATHESON, President.
T. R. FOUST, Vice President.
R. D. W. CONNOR, Secretary.

MIVYER MEMORIAL.

President Hobgood, of Oxford Seminary, offered the following, which was adopted:

Charles Duncan McIver, A. M., L. D., having been removed from his earthly labors since the last meeting of this assembly, it is altogether fitting that we should take this opportunity of putting on record our estimate of his character and work. His claims to our consideration are many.

1. He was one of the strong personalities of this body, and one of its trusted leaders.

2. He was aggressive in his policy. He was the prime mover in the organization of our great Normal and Industrial College at Greensboro, of which he became the honored president, and was a member of the committee appointed session after session to memorialize the Legislature for the establishment of this school.

3. He was one of the earliest and strongest advocates of local taxation for extending the term of the public schools.

4. He was the first to begin the agitation in favor of more thorough supervision of our public schools. By John Charles McNeill, several counties should unite in the support of a man who should give his entire time to this work. In this matter he builded more wisely than he supposed.

5. He was richly endowed intellectually, always active, always busy about some great benevolent work.

6. He was an unselfish man—in the strongest manner may this be affirmed.

7. He was a generous man, ready to help any that needed his help. No man or woman, boy or girl, was ever turned away by him. He had a conquering desire to bring the advantages of education within the reach of every boy and girl in the land.

8. To him more than to any other man in our State is the credit to be given for the wide educational awakening in our State and in the South. I wish that every citizen could realize that he was the strongest educational force that ever blessed our State. We lament his removal from us in the prime of manhood, but are deeply grateful to a gracious Providence for the years of usefulness he lived among us."

Political Rumors in Rockingham.

Special to the Observer.

Rockingham, June 20.—There is a rumor to the effect that the name of "Squire W. I. Witly, of New Bethel, will be presented to the Democratic primaries for the nomination for a seat in the lower branch of the Legislature. Mr. P. A. Ferrell, of Mayfield, is also spoken of in this connection. A Leaksville gentleman is said to have remarked that Mr. J. B. Tarkenton, of the Senate, could make a canvass for the ticket in the coming campaign that would do the party much good.

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