

ALUMNI SYSTEM IS NOW FAVORED

Coach F. M. Simmons Gives His Views On Proposition Now Pending

UNIVERSITY MEN ARE ANXIOUS FOR CHANGE

Under Plan Proposed, Former Official at University Contends That a Man Should be Employed for Period of Three Years to Supervise Coaching in Football—Other Points in New Scheme Are Vigorously Defended by Mr. Simmons.

Since the recent disaster (which almost resulted in annihilation, not only of the State University football team, but also of the spirit of each alumnus of the university), which occurred in Richmond on Thanksgiving Day, there has been much comment, argument and agitation.

Since the recent meeting of several alumni at Chapel Hill, former Coach F. M. Simmons has been asked to make comment upon the proposed proposition.

Mr. Simmons said: "With one accord, everyone whether familiar with the present system at Chapel Hill, believes that a change is necessary. They may not know why it is necessary other than that the team annually meets defeat at the hands of Virginia, or at least has done so for half a dozen years, the cause of these defeats may be attributed to some, or all of the following reasons: Collegiate politics, employing of men to take charge who are heretofore unknown, lack of material. Under the head of employing 'unknown coaches,' we may expect to find the following difficulties which he meets and are always serious toward gaining victories. He is not familiar with local conditions, that is, he is not familiar with the temperament of the boys with whom he works. He is unfamiliar with past history and lastly, he knows not how to judge the strength of his opponents, which to my mind is the greatest asset toward a victorious season.

Long-Term Employment. "It would seem at this recent meeting of the alumni and faculty at Chapel Hill, that all these matters were fully discussed and that those members present each realized that these were points which must be overcome, in order to place Carolina in the football firmament, where she rightly belongs.

"In reading the account of the meeting, I infer it to be the idea of the committee to employ a man who not only understands and is thoroughly familiar with the game, but one who is known and also knows his opponents. I understand that this man is to be employed for a period of three years. I have heard it discussed that it might be dangerous to employ a person to take charge under a definite contract, for a period of over one year and that it might be necessary to employ him with the privilege of recall. Such discussion to my mind, is merely idle talk, because when a coach is employed to take charge of a football squad and he is successful there is no one who realizes his success better than the coach himself. When he has failed to turn out a winning team, there is no one who knows that feature better than the coach and as a usual thing, when the coach is unsuccessful the first year, he cares little about remaining the balance of his contract and if there is any recall, I think that can be expected from him.

"I note there is a movement on foot to secure the service of Mr. Trenchard. I believe he would be an admirable man at the head of football affairs at Carolina. He knows what to expect. 'Forewarned is forearmed.'"

The Alumni System. "I have long been a believer in the straight alumni system of coaching. It has been utilized with excellent results at many institutions of similar caliber and of a lesser student body than has Chapel Hill. It may be that where the alumni system is employed in other institutions, local conditions may be different, as for that I am unable to say. I do know that Will Tillett of this year's squad tried hard to have alumni football men return to the hill this fall, and with but few exceptions he was unsuccessful. The vast majority of alumni, after leaving college, engage themselves in a profession or business and it is very hard for a man to leave his home and his business, even though it be but for a week, and run down to Chapel Hill. I experienced this situation myself after I had received a call to assist at Chapel Hill. I was willing

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to go, but unable to get away, and I imagine other alumni were in the same position.

"It seems to me that the plan as outlined by the committee, with such a man as Mr. Trenchard in the foreground, conducting affairs generally and with the little assistance which may be tendered from time to time by the alumni, the season of 1913 should mark a new era in footballdom at Carolina. I sincerely trust the committee may be able to make it sufficiently attractive to land him.

A Sad Lack of Funds. "A matter which has always been seriously detrimental to Carolina's success is the lack of funds. Funds not only to equip the team as it should be, but sufficient funds to make it attractive for a successful man to give up the business he is engaged in at the time and devote his entire attention toward operating a successful football team. It has been my observation that a man who had the "gimp" and the energy to turn out a winning football machine, by utilizing singular methods does well in business, and if he is successful in business it would be mighty poor business to drop that which he has in order to consider a financial proposition of a lesser caliber. In order to have a successful team it is quite necessary to have a successful man and successful men must be paid for former successes attained and their present effort.

"Numbers of times I have heard alumni express themselves, 'that something must be done down at the Hill,' and yet I am quite convinced that should an alumni representative come down from the Hill and make a solicitation of funds to help pay an efficient coach these same alumni would crawl back in their shell. I

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agree that something ought to be done and one of the important things is for some of us alumni to financially assist each year the administration.

"As heretofore stated, I believe the committee is camping on the right trail and if the hundreds of alumni throughout the State back stand their efforts and are willing to back them up in any way they think advisable, and if they issue a call for finances give it to them I feel that Carolina's lost laurels may be regained and that Virginia will not have any cause to consider taking on Vanderbilt for a Thanksgiving Day game in lieu of the time-honored event with the Tar Heels.

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