

Flowers Begins Fifty-First Year of Service to University

Trinity College And Duke Professor Becomes President In Exercises Held Monday At Noon

Durham, June 1.—When Dr. Robert Lee Flowers was inducted into the presidency of Duke University this morning the ceremony was of double significance, for not only did it formally place him in the university highest office but it rounded out his fifty years of continuous service to the institution.

Ever since Trinity, now the undergraduate college and nucleus of the university, spent 1801-92 as its last year on its original campus in Randolph county, 90 miles from Durham, Dr. Flowers has been close to every phase of the university's development.

And now, he is beginning his university presidency at the start of a new aspect of the university's life, its participation in various national defense programs, including the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps. Himself a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Dr. Flowers during the next few months will have unusual satisfaction in giving much attention to the unit that four years hence will produce its first class of naval ensigns.

Born on November 5, 1870, at York College Institute, the son of George Washington and Sarah Haynes Flowers, Robert Lee Flowers was the eldest of seven children, six sons and a daughter.

Saw Dream Come True
As a youth along the banks of the Catawba River, which later in life he was to see harnessed and the source of hydroelectric power serving a great region, he yearned to have a part in the building of something great and permanent in his native state, something that would become a monument of achievement. His dreams have come true.

Patriot that he was, George Washington Flowers sought to equip his eldest son for service to his country, and after an elementary education in the public schools of the community and at the Taylorsville High School, Robert Lee Flowers entered the United States Naval Academy in 1887, having received an appointment from the Eighth Congressional District. As a midshipman his service was excellent and he soon took a place of leadership among his class mates. Graduating in 1891 after having fulfilled all requirements for a commission, he was granted a discharge from the Navy in order that he might return to North Carolina and assist in the building of the progressive educational program that was first taking shape at that time.

President John Franklin Crowell has recognized the ability of the "dapper young naval officer" and asked him to join the faculty of old Trinity, then in Randolph County. Combining the firmness necessary to a successful teacher, with a courtly manner, he soon won the respect of students and the confidence of his colleagues. His connection with Trinity began in the Fall of 1891 and has remained unbroken.

Coming to Trinity at a time when the dynamic young Crowell was instilling new ideas of education in the institution, Dr. Flowers fitted well into the progressive plan of the president. At first an instructor of Electrical Engineering, he later devoted his time to Mathematics, and revealed himself as an authority in this field. His innate ability as a teacher enabled him to carry the most backward students into the intricacies of "math" to such an extent that they were soon keenly interested in the subject.

In 1900 Dr. Flowers received the master of art degree from Trinity College, and in 1927 re-

ceived the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Davidson College.


Married in Durham.
On June 22, 1905, Dr. Flowers was married to Miss Lily Virginia Parrish, the daughter of Col. and Mrs. E. J. Parrish of Durham. Their home on Trinity campus has long been one of gracious hospitality and unsurpassed charm. They have two daughters, Mrs. Lenox D. Baker of Durham, and Mrs. Thomas F. Huey, of Anniston, Ala.

The service record of a man such as Dr. Flowers is naturally replete with incidents concerning his leadership, his ability, and his personality. Joining the institution about the time it was preparing to move from Randolph County to Durham, Dr. Flowers helped to assuage the recalcitrant conservatives who felt that Trinity should remain on its traditional site. Young and enthusiastic he soon enlarged his already wide circle of friends to include those benefactors who made possible the building of new Trinity at Duke.

When Bishop Kilgo took charge at Trinity in 1894, Dr. Flowers was found to be a capable assistant and helped put through many plans of the president. The trying days of the institution as it sought to establish itself firmly in an industrial community were marked by the enthusiasm and hard work of the young math professor.

Upon the inauguration of President Few in 1910, the Trustees sought to work out a better plan of organization for the administration of the college, and turned to Dr. Flowers. The office of the Secretary to the Corporation, embodying close contact with the public, the proper recording of faculty proceedings, and aid to students, was given to him to handle in addition to his growing teaching responsibilities. The attendant growth and organization of this phase of college work reflects his handling and the help to and gratitude of students and alumni are indicative of his successful administration. When in 1923 the Office of Treasurer became vacant, the Trustees turned to Dr. Flowers to take over these additional responsibilities. Year by year expansion has brought additional burdens and responsibilities, all of which have been handled in the same quiet manner, successful in the proper coordination of the various elements that entered into the problems, and in such a way as to win the admiration of all with whom he dealt.

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For some years Vice-President of the University in the business division, Dr. Flowers became acting president on the death of President Few on October 16, 1940. On January 29 of this year the university board of trustees elected him president of the university.

Retains His Vitality.
Retaining much of that vitality so characteristic of his earlier years, Dr. Flowers has been able to "carry on" and do the work that ordinarily men of less vigorous health would have broken under. In addition to his vast responsibilities, none of which suffer for like of attention, he has been active in the affairs of the community. Local civic affairs have made large inroads in his time, but he has been able to do justice to all of these varied interests. As a director of the Durham Chamber of Commerce, he has contributed much of wisdom and counsel to the proper working out community problems; as a Rotarian he has fittingly lived the motto "He profits most who serves best, and has enacted the prestige of the Durham Rotary Club during his administration as president of that organization. He is also interested in, and whenever possible partakes of, the social life of the community and adds much to fraternal occasions when he can banquet with members of his fraternity, Alpha Tau Omega, and other societies and organizations.

Following the death of James B. Duke in 1825, Professor Flowers in 1926 succeeded the Founder of the Duke Endowment on the Board of Trustees on that body.

Being identified with an educational institution of prominence, and since his services have always commended attention, it is little wonder that he has been so frequently called upon for advice to other educational and

religious institutions. His active interest in the cause of Negro education is evidenced in his services as Trustee of the North Carolina College for Negroes. Never forgetting the struggle of the less fortunate, he has done much in the case of the orphans of the state during his tenure as Trustee of the Masonic Orphanage at Oxford. His connection with the Durham Young Men's Christian Association as a director has been of great value to the community. Since 1916 he has been a member of the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and of the North Carolina Conference Board of Education. As a member of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, he is frequently in attendance upon the sessions of that body and has become a prominent churchman of outstanding ability. His active official connection with Memorial M. E. Church, Durham, has maintained all these years.

Dr. Flowers also is a trustee of Greensboro College, the Methodist Orphanage at Raleigh, Lincoln Hospital, the North Carolina College for Negroes and is a director of the Durham Chamber of Commerce and the Durham and Southern Railway. He is a member of the North Carolina Academy of Science, Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta, and numerous campus organizations, and is a Mason.

CONVINCING
C. S. Young, a demonstration farmer of the Shoal Creek section of Yancey County, has a convincing demonstration that alfalfa can be grown successfully in the county, says Farm Agent R. H. Crouse.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE IN THE TIMES

HUGH WALPOLE DIES IN LONDON

Heart Attack Is Fatal To Prolific Novelist Who Saw Hitler Weeping

London, June 1.—Sir Hugh Walpole, the British novelist who wrote almost a book a year from the age of 25, died of a heart attack early today. He was 57. He had been ill for a week at his Lakeland home, Brackenburn, near Keswick in the Cumberland mountains.

He was known in the States not only by his "Jeremy" books and his "Herries" sage but for frequent lectures, visits and a stay on the West Coast. In his novel "Roman Fountain," published last year, Walpole recalled an occasion when Adolf Hitler wept. He met Hitler in Bayreuth in 1924 soon after Hitler had served a prison sentence for the Munich beer cellar putsch and had written "Mein Kampf."

"I remember he cried," wrote Walpole, "and that I felt his passion for Germany so sincere it seemed to burn through his ugly boots into the ground and that I liked him and thought him in every way tenth rate." He wrote almost to the end. One of his main contributions was the regular book review section of a London newspaper. It was an example of his dislike for inactivity and his joy in literary labor which he found comparatively easy. "I write as I breath," he once remarked. And again, "I never had any impulse but one, to put people down in words as I see them." Compared to that of most authors, Walpole's career was a bed of roses, yet as a fledgling writer he was not without discouragement.

"When I started as a writer everyone was against me. I was told I had no creative gifts at all; if I had any they were critical gifts. Everyone to whom I showed my work told me it was shocking. But I didn't mind. There was never any question in my mind that I was going to be a novelist."

Outwardly the most placid and composed of men he was actually a person of great exuberance. But he was meager of gesture and avoided pose. He liked to converse from a deep armchair, his soothing resonant voice giving the impression of extraordinary repose. Some of his comment on writing:


"What I'm sure of now is that unless you have got the impulse very definitely I don't think taking up the profession of writing should be encouraged..."

"My supreme piece of luck was in being completely fascinated by the work I was doing. I adore writing. If you can be absorbed in something you're doing, find enough in it to live on, then I think you're inevitably a happy man..."

"Nothing is worse for an author than inactivity unless it is too much work which drives writers close to insanity."

MATTRESSES
The two mattress centers in Northampton County have turned out 2,073 mattresses for low income farm families since the project was started, reports Assistant Farm Agent H. G. Snipes.

RESOLUTION
The Jamesville 4-H Club in Martin County has resolved to hold regular monthly meetings during the summer so as to stimulate more interest in club work, says Assistant Farm Agent J. I. Eagles.



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