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Speeches; Hartwell Dedication

Harry W. Rockwell

SUNY Buffalo State College

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Perhaps dedication of this beautiful structure is not so important for its use during a period of several years for the high purpose of training teachers has already dedicated it more worthily than formal words could accomplish.

1 We are, however, glad of the significance of the occasion in that the honorable Board of Regents are our guests this evening. Their meeting here to-day symbolizes a formal and official acceptance of this institution housed in its new and beautiful home, - an official house warming if you please.

2 Academic conventionalities has decreed that on the occasion of an inauguration or installation some oracular pronouncement on education should be made by the official installed. An educational periodical contained the suggestion that such expressions should be prohibited for a term of days. My word will be a brief one for the other names on this program are names of those who by distinguished service deserve acknowledgment.

3 I would not, however, be true to the high responsibility to which I have been called on to myself if I did not publicly pledge myself and my efforts to the utmost.

Edmund Burke said that liberty and its maintenance was a three cornered contest between three parties, - the noble departed of the past; the active personalities of the present and the multitudes of future generations yet unborn. Pitkin devoted and intelligent service in an educational institution involves a veneration and respect for past traditions and ideals reared by those who laid foundations; a single hearted devotion and unflinching zeal for the young of the present; and a clear sighted and far reaching policy which will insure the broadest scope of its future usefulness to those yet unborn.

In thinking of our debt to the Past, the immediate Past during which this building saw its inception is much in my thoughts. As I read a carefully compiled history of this institution it is evident that for the material part of this beautiful building we owe much to the high civic zeal and unflinching interest of the father of the President of this Board. For the arrangement and careful provision for vocational training which marked a new departure at the time in the normal schools of this state we owe much to

Note
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The present reveals more definitely than ever certain specific tasks for education. In the preparation of teachers Normal schools must take cognizance of these tasks which the war has left as a direct challenge to our most persistent efforts. The War has caused the scales to drop from our eyes and shown us a plain path of duty.

Lincoln said that the nation could not survive half slave and half free. Nor can it survive half American and half un-American. The task of Americanization means that all Americans must be taught to read and write and think in one language. Can we feel perfectly content and secure in our great democracy when 10% of the adult population cannot read the laws they are presumed to know. Can we feel perfectly content and secure in our great democracy when millions of our people are reached only thru papers printed in a foreign language? Can we feel perfectly content and sanguine in our great democracy when one of its sovereign states expends a grand total of \$6 per year per child for sustaining its school system or when as a nation we spend more for chewing gum than for text books and the average national wage of a teacher is less than that of a day labourer. Can we be satisfied with our system of physical education when 37% of our drafted men were rejected because of remediable defects which a good system of physical education would have prevented. All this and much more challenges our system of public education to-day.

If ye break faith with us who die

The Army in khaki will demobilize but the American army of American school children will re-mobilize each succeeding year for the maintenance of drills and instruction in intelligent citizenship. Dr. Finley O. Army of Present Defense - Future Defense a privilege to come to Buffalo at such a time.

Can we feel such unity of feeling and pride in our institutions can we feel that we are the nucleus of the future which is to build its American Empire in the best traditions of all times.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
BUFFALO, N. Y.

My predecessor who labored without sparing his own life energies for the realization of his dream. They are the expressions of friendly affection I have heard spoken for him. I sincerely hope that enduring tributes may be translated into terms of a ^{and enduring} "memorial" which may remind all who come within these beautiful walls of the one whose careful planning helped to rear them.

This was a large vision of vocational development. Specious shops and a perfectly equipped Household Arts department have added greatly to the creditable record already made by this school, ^{in the beginning} ^{of teachers} in the regular Normal courses and in a particularly strong kindergarten department.

A Summer school averaging a registration of 200 has been a new evidence of the enlarging usefulness of this great State Normal School and Saturday Extension classes for teachers have during the winter ^{encompassed} 200 teachers to seek its advantages. Three evenings weekly this building welcomes ^{about 70} mature, skilled craftsmen representing 10 different trades from this great city who seek additional vocational training and ability to teach the trades. Moreover a large vocational center in the city of Rochester ^{with 44 students} represents an Extension work supervised and controlled from this institution.

Since that early day in '71 when Mr. James Ketchum generously provided this beautiful plot and ^{and the name of an} ^{President of the U.S.} the School had its humble beginnings 4444 graduates have passed thru its gates ²⁴⁵ ^{8.17} who can measure the influence of this small army of teachers. Their instruction and example have lifted the ideals and purposes of thousands, have quickened and helped create an intelligence on which alone depends a ~~healthy~~ sound citizenship and an increased happiness and well being which make for a well rounded life. Such influences widen until they radiate to the very fringes of the world and they go down thru all the ages a blessing forever.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

H. W. ROCKWELL, PRINCIPAL

BUFFALO, NEW YORK

as to be unworthy of serious consideration were it not for the fact that they contribute a hindrance to the most efficient work in such important a department. Those who do not yield to any others in their sincere desire to see Education worthily advanced in our great city are profoundly thankful that when the Board of Education sought a Superintendent two years ago they secured the man who had been made President only two years before of the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association. Anyone but all familiar with the progress educational ~~among~~ ^{in the} United States knows that this body of school men and women ~~which~~ ^{which} annually brings together ~~two~~ ^{two} to ten thousand in attendance is by all odds the most representative educational body in our country.

I offer this fact as somewhat indicative of what the representative school people of the United States think of Ernest C. Hartwell's capacity for sound leadership in Education. ~~It should be soberly compared with the sources of senseless criticism.~~ Mr. Hartwell needs no defense. His record of good work speaks for itself and the unprejudiced observer as well as his friend must candidly admit its excellence.

I am naturally most familiar with his constructive work as related to the field of teacher training. Those teachers of this city who welcome the opportunity of professional growth have good reason to be grateful to Mr. Hartwell for the sound and far sighted provisions he has made for them. These are ~~and~~ ⁱⁿ the brief period of two years.

- (+) I submit the following as indicative of his best effort to improve the quality of teaching in Buffalo:-
- (1) He brought to this city last year fifteen of the faculty of Teachers College, Columbia University - America's leading teacher training institution - for thirty lectures. This arrangement these lectures were attended weekly from October to May by

800 to 1700 of the city's teachers - a striking demonstration of the interest of a majority of Buffalo's teachers in their professional

(2) In order to provide ~~the~~ encouragement which comes to the ~~overburdened~~ teacher by

(2) He has selected a group of eight excellent teachers, ^{specialized} who are bringing ^{helpful} new ideas to other teachers and who are unifying the work of the entire system by giving demonstration lessons in the ^{rooms} grades of the city.

(3) Mr. Hartwell has organized five probationary centers for beginning teachers where during their first year of experience they may be given special assistance and advice by such grouping.

(4) The Board of Education on Mr. Hartwell's recommendation has cooperated in providing a Summer School for the teachers of Buffalo at the Normal. Last summer the registration was 1004 of which number over 600 were Buffalo teachers who were willing to sacrifice a major part of their vacation for the advantages offered. The total cost of the Summer School was approximately \$10,000 ^{for instruction} of which the city paid \$2500.