Annutl Report Of The President Of Washington College

Commencement Day June 6, 1927

As usual the President's report at this time is an attempt to acquaint the public with some of the high spots only in college activities and progress.

Financial Condition

Last year I had the unpleasant duty of reporting a growing indebtedness of the College and no definite prospect of release from the burden. At the present time I am rejoiced to say that, probably within six weeks' time, Washington will be completely out of debt and besides will possess a small surplus or emergency fund.

This fiscal year just passing has been very good to us. Thanks to Governor Ritchie and our friends in the Maryland legislature, the $100,000 contingent appropriation, passed by the legislature of 1924, is now about to come to us without restriction. The Board of State Aid and Charities increased our maintenance appropriation from $45,000 to $50,000, to which amount, Governor Ritchie of his own volition later added $10,000 more, making our annual income from the State $60,000 after the first of next October.

Thus during the life of the legislature that adjourned two months ago Washington College achieved two-thirds of its program. There remains now the boys' dormitory to be secured. This building will undoubtedly be the objective in our campaign before the legislature of 1929—the same body which has dealt generously with us this year.

One of the advances of the year was the institution of the office of Business Manager and the installation of a modern accounting system adequate to the needs of the College. As a result the Board now knows the exact amount of college indebtedness and resources, and college officials are in position to direct wisely, curtail and control expenditure. For this quiet but thoroughgoing revolution in our bookkeeping we are indebteded to Col. Brown and Col. Hodson and to the men in their respective offices who, together with Mr. Snyder, have worked long and hard to achieve this, one of the pieces of major progress of the current year.

Last year I had the privilege of reporting that the College had achieved Grade A ranking. By reason of the financial work of the year, Washington College has certainly reached an equivalent ranking in finance and business management. Thus the last two years have seen the establishment of this institution upon a modest but firm basis of collegiate and financial integrity.

Registration

Registration this year reached the high water mark of 227, as against 182 last year and 126 the year before. 137 of these students come from the Eastern Shore, 48 from out of the State, and 42 from Western Maryland. There were 65 girls in College this year and a considerably larger per cent of day-students than ever before. This year, we are graduating the largest class, I believe, in the history of the institution—25.

Present prospects seem to indicate that the enrollment next fall may reach 250. More than that number we do not expect to take in. Indeed, it is possible that, in order not to exceed that number, we may be obliged to limit the freshman class to 90 and to let go some of the present student body who seemed unfitted for college work.

The aim of the present administration is not bigness but substance and value. With registration limited to 250 students and with our increasing income, it should be possible, by conservative stages, to build up a college which in faculty, equipment, buildings, and grounds, and in its wholesome, stimulating college atmosphere should be a quality institution of which the Eastern Shore and Maryland should be proud.

Freshman Week And Conference Of Rural Pastors

In mentioning some outstanding features of the year I must certainly include two: Freshman Week and the Delmarva Summer School for Town and Country Ministers.

The former called the incoming class of this year together at the beginning of the college year for three days of instruction in college methods and ideals and thus better enabled the present freshmen class to start the year on the jump, so to speak. The Week was a decided success in easing over the abrupt transition from high school to college ways of working for this year's freshmen.

The summer school for Rural Pastors, which was attended by some 50 ministers from the Peninsula, was most enthusiastically received. The College has had a unanimous request that the school be repeated this summer. Accordingly the 1927 session will take place from August 29 to September 3. Cooperating with Washington College in the direction of this summer school are Dr. M. A. Dawber, Superintendent of Rural Work of the M. E. Board of Home Missions; Bishop George W. Davenport of the Diocese of Easton; Rev. O. E. Jones, District Supt. of the Middletown District of the M. E. Church; and Dr. E. C. Makosky, President of the Maryland Conference of the M. P. Church.

Some Contributions Of The Year

It is pleasant to record here some of the contributions to the College this year. First come the contributions of Col. Hodson and chief among his gifts is the Schauber House which is now being remodelled to house ten girls, a needed addition to the rooming accommodation of the College. In recognition of Dr. Hall's long service to science at Washington College, Col. Hodson has likewise made a most contribution to Dr. Hall to be used for enlarging the equipment of the departments of science.

Dr. S. W. Wiley, of Baltimore, has this year started the "S. W. Wiley Collection" in our library by a gift of money for the purchase of books.

The Sophomore Class, with the help of the Washington Players, has this year given the College this beautiful curtain which adorns our stage. It has long been needed and is highly appreciated.

The Philadelphia Chapter of the Alumni Association has established this year a substantial loan fund which this active Chapter is constantly augmenting. The fund is already helping a number of students who find themselves more or less momentarily in financial embarrassment. This fund, and the others lately started, are a tremendous help to the College and represent a business like way of helping students to help themselves through college. May many other organizations and individuals be prompted to similar wise benefactions.

I have received the resignation of Dr. James R. Micou from the chair of ancient languages, of Dr. A. Sager Hall from the leadership of the department of science, and Dr. Randolph Faries from the English Department. It is with great regret that I have recommended the acceptance of their resignations. Dr. Micou retires after more than forty and Dr. Hall after more than thirty years of sacrificial service to Washington. Dr. Faries is finishing his third year here.

Drs. Errol L. Fox, of Atlantic Christian College, Wilson, N. C., and Robert L. Lasley will head the departments of Chemistry and English respectively.

Dr. Fox, an Ohioan, 35 years of age, was graduated with the degree of A. B. from Ohio State University in 1917; received his A. M. in 1925, and expects to secure his Ph. D. in 1927 from the University of Indiana. His experience comprises two years of teaching military subjects in the army, two years in Rose Polytechnic Institute. two years at Indiana and two years at Atlantic Christian College in North Carolina. Prof. Fox is a wholesome mature man, an enthusiastic student of chemistry and a scholarly and capable teacher.

Dr. Robert L. Lasley is a native of North Carolina, 40 years of age, and unmarried. A graduate and an M. A. from the University of North Carolina, he is taking his Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin this summer. He has taught in the high schools of Greenville, N. C., and Stoneville, N. C., was assistant in English at his Alma Mater, has taught two years in Georgia Institute of Technology and six years in the University of Wisconsin. He is a gentleman, loyal, cooperative, industrious, forceful, a conscientious instructor of superior ability.

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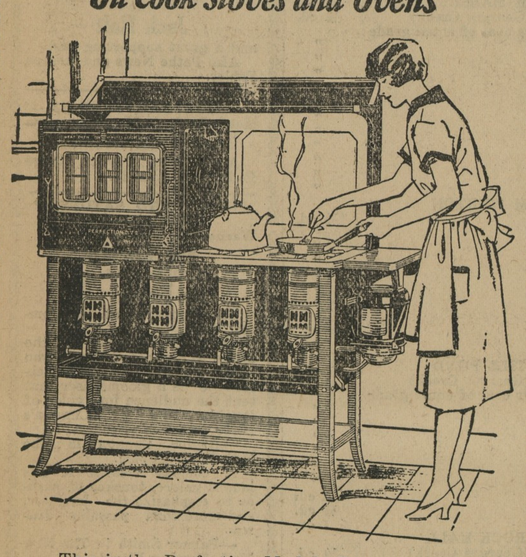

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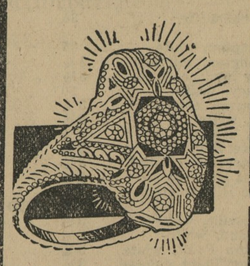

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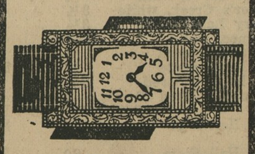

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