

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
SECONDARY EDUCATION AND
ITS PROBLEMS. HELD AT
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY,
OCTOBER 30 AND 31, 1903**

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National Conference on Secondary Education and Its Problems. Held at Northwestern University, October 30 and 31, 1903 by V. K. Froula

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V. K. FROULA

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OCTOBER 30 AND 31, 1903

STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

EDITED BY V. K. FROULA

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INTRODUCTION.

When Northwestern University decided in the spring of 1903 to celebrate in some appropriate way the completion by Dr. Herbert Franklin Fisk of thirty years of service as principal of the Northwestern University Academy, it seemed proper to associate with the celebration some more important features than the ordinary elements of congratulatory oratory, torchlight processions, banquets and receptions which have come to be indispensable in all such functions. It was consequently resolved that without neglecting these features, the celebration should be made a unique one by calling a national conference to discuss the important topics relating to secondary education. It was intended that the Conference should be quite different from the ordinary teachers' convention or association called to discuss purely pedagogical questions in the narrow sense. It did not propose to deal with the problem of teaching arithmetic or algebra or Latin or Greek, nor with the best methods of integrating the branches of study which constitute the curriculum nor was it to discuss the respective merits of the classics and modern languages, or natural science as means of literary culture. It was decided to leave all such questions relating to pedagogy in the narrow sense of the term to one side, and concentrate the interest of the Conference upon what may be called the broader elements of educational statesmanship involved in the organization of a national system of secondary education.

The Conference was to deal with such topics as the relation of the endowed academy, the private high school and the seminary and private preparatory school to the public high school as an essential element in the general scheme of secondary education. It was to raise the question of the proper relations between the high school and the college; whether, for example, the high school should be considered primarily as a preparatory school for the college and university, or whether it should be regarded as an independent institution with its own ends and aims, and if the latter were true, whether the college and the university should adapt themselves

frankly to this situation and accept the curriculum which the high school works out as most suitable for its own purposes as a satisfactory training for the college and university. It was proposed further to discuss the question of religious instruction in public and private schools and to treat in some detail the defects and abuses to be found in our present system of secondary education.

A list of suggested topics was sent to leading high school and academy principals asking their opinion as to which would be of most interest in such a Conference. As a result of these questions, the following program was prepared:

PROGRAM OF EXERCISES.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1903.

8:00 P. M.

Reception by President and Mrs. James to Members of the Conference, 2204
Orrington Avenue, Evanston.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1903.

9:00 A. M.

First Session of the CONFERENCE ON SECONDARY EDUCATION AND ITS PROBLEMS,
Fisk Hall, University Campus.

CHAPEL SERVICE:

Led by the University Chaplain.

Greeting to the Members of the Conference by the President of the University.

OPENING ADDRESS—"THE PRESENT SITUATION IN SECONDARY EDUCATION."

Alfred E. Stearns, Principal of Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts.

I.

What is the Place and Function of the Endowed Academy or of the Private
High School for Boys and Girls in our Present System of Education?

DISCUSSION:

Homer T. Fuller, President of Drury College, Springfield, Missouri.

Arthur Gilman, Director of the Gilman School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Principal of the Girls' Classical School, Indianapolis, Indiana.

J. Henry Bartlett, Superintendent of the Friends' Select School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

GENERAL DISCUSSION.

12:00 M.

Luncheon to the Delegates in Fisk Hall.

1:00 P. M.

Second Session of the Conference.

II.

What is the True Function of the Free Public High School?

DISCUSSION:

- William J. S. Bryan, Principal of the St. Louis High School, St. Louis, Missouri.
- B. F. Buck, Principal of the Lake View High School, Chicago, Illinois.
- C. P. Cary, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Madison, Wisconsin.
- Charles De Garmo, Professor of Education, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.
- John E. Boodin, Professor of Philosophy, Iowa College, Grinnell, Iowa.
- Frederick E. Bolton, Professor of Education, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.
- W. W. Folwell, Professor of Political Science, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- A. F. Nightingale, Superintendent of Schools, Cook County, Chicago, Illinois.

GENERAL DISCUSSION.

III.

What is the Effect of the System of Accrediting Schools by the Universities upon the High School and its Development?

DISCUSSION:

- Edwin G. Dexter, Professor of Education, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.
- A. W. Tressler, Inspector of High Schools, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.
- J. F. Brown, Inspector of Schools, State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.
- H. A. Hollister, Inspector of High Schools, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois.

GENERAL DISCUSSION.

8:00 P. M.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH, EVANSTON.

Anniversary Oration Commemorating the Completion of Thirty Years of Service by Rev. Herbert Franklin Fisk as Principal of the Northwestern University Academy.

Hon. Henry Sherman Boutell.

Address of Congratulation from the College Faculty.

Professor Amos W. Patten.