

A Brief History  
of the First Twenty-five Years  
of  
HIGH POINT COLLEGE



by Dr. J. E. Pritchard

Written in October, 1953 and duplicated in July, 1957 at  
the request of the Board of Trustees.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF HIGH POINT COLLEGE

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Dr. J. E. Pritchard\*

Realizing the difficulty of preserving history that does not appear on the printed page, it seems fitting that some facts concerning the early years of High Point College should be recorded. In as much as High Point College was built by authority of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the former Methodist Protestant Church, now the Methodist Church, it is necessary to review conditions in that denomination in North Carolina over a rather long period of years. Very soon after the founding of the Methodist Protestant Church in 1828 the leaders of the Church in North Carolina began to think and talk in terms of a college. In the early days of the denomination when the Conference was too weak to build a college, certain colleges were endorsed and recommended to the people.

A few years before the beginning of the War between the States, the Annual Conference established what was known as Yadkin College in Davidson county. This school had a good beginning and showed signs of prospering; however, when the War began a large percentage of the young men volunteered for military service. During the four years of the War the South was so impoverished that even after the War there was very little of a material nature with which to send young people to college or to pay debts already made. Yadkin College continued as a college for a good many years, but in 1895 the Annual Conference asked the State of North Carolina to annul the charter of the College. From that time until 1924 the school was operated as a high school, but when private high schools were no longer needed it was abandoned.

Slightly before the beginning of Yadkin College the Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church established the Jamestown Female Academy which later was destroyed by fire. It was never rebuilt. For

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several years following the turn of the century the Denton High School was operated by Professor G. L. Reynolds under the sponsorship of the Annual Conference. This was later discontinued. But the question of a college would not remain dormant; it continued to arise at practically every session of the Annual Conference.

#### Dr. J. F. McCulloch Makes a Proposition

At the session of the Annual Conference of 1893, held at LaGrange, North Carolina, Dr. J. F. McCulloch, a native of Guilford county who had been a professor in and President of Adrian College at Adrian, Michigan, appeared before the Annual Conference and proposed that he establish a paper for the avowed purpose of building up sentiment for a college in North Carolina. The proposition by Dr. McCulloch was accepted, and in 1894 the first issue of Our Church Record, changed in 1910 to Methodist Protestant Herald, was released from the press. In 1896 the Annual Conference decided to build a publishing house at 302 South Elm Street in Greensboro, with the understanding that the rents from the building would be used to help pay expenses of the paper until such time as a college should be built. Then the publishing house was to be sold, and the proceeds were to be turned over to the college. While this paper was owned by Dr. McCulloch, the Annual Conference recognized its obligation to the paper in that the paper promoted the work of the Annual Conference. A board of trustees was appointed to manage the publishing house, but in 1914 the name of this board was changed to The Board of Education of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, Incorporated. At almost every session of the Annual Conference some committee would bring in a report urging the Board of Education to take steps to build a college.

#### The Conference of 1920 Takes Action

At the time of the session of the Annual Conference in 1920 the Board of Education consisted of the following persons: Dr. F. R. Harris,

President; Dr. S. W. Taylor, Vice President; Mr. J. Norman Wills, Secretary and Treasurer; Dr. T. M. Johnson; Mr. J. S. Pickett; Mr. R. H. Brooks; Dr. R. M. Andrews; Mr. George B. Harris; Dr. J. F. McCulloch; Mr. J. Ed Swain; Dr. W. R. Coley; Dr. C. W. Bates; Mr. R. F. Williams; Mr. L. L. Wren; and the President of the Conference ex officio. In his report to the Annual Conference which was held at Enfield, North Carolina, November 24-29, Dr. R. M. Andrews said:

For nearly a score of years we have talked of a college for our people in North Carolina. Committees have been formed, informed, reformed, and with the passing of the years have become deformed; but as yet no college has come from their efforts. Boys and girls who were playing around their mother's knees when we first began the agitation of this enterprise are now old enough to be professors in the halls. But, alas, not even a mound marks the site about which so many committee meetings were held.

During the past five years the number of graduates from our state high schools has increased from 800 to 3,000, and today the junior and senior colleges are full, and some have turned away hundreds who have sought admission there. But as yet we have no college, even on paper . . . . I believe the time has arrived when a definite program should be declared; when we should either move forward or declare our intention to give up the cherished hope. It is unfair to our people to keep before them the mirage of a college, of use only to fan into lively being hopes born to die. I call upon all of our people throughout the district to make a definite, determined effort to realize the dream that has become so fitful and so vague throughout the intervening years. For if resolutions could rear college walls and fill the rooms with students, surely ours would have been all that the heart could desire. And now that the time past spent in such employment seems to suffice for all kindred needs, let us launch into the work of making our hopes of a college sure and our dreams true.

At this same 1920 session of the Annual Conference the Board of Education of the Conference in its report said:

The following resolution offered by Dr. C. W. Bates was adopted: "Whereas since the resolution adopted by the last Annual Conference, there has been a decided change in the financial conditions throughout our state and Conference, that make it seem unwise to push the financial campaign, be it resolved that we state to the Conference our willingness to go forward in the establishment of a college at the earliest possible time and resolved further that we ask the Annual Conference to appoint three members from the Conference to act with a like number from the Board of Education in having charge of plans to be put on at the earliest possible moment looking forward to the carrying out of the will of the Conference!"

In response to the request from the Board of Education the Annual Conference elected the three members to confer with the Board. They were: Dr. J. E. Pritchard, Dr. L. W. Gerringer, and Mr. A. M. Rankin. The Conference adjourned leaving the matter of building a college in the hands of the Board of Education and these three members of the committee. On January 29, 1921, the Board of Education and these three members of the committee met in the offices of the Odell Hardware Company in Greensboro. A frank discussion was entered into. All of those present wanted a college, but the question was, "Had the time come to undertake it?"

At that time the Annual Conference had a membership of 24,555 which is less than the membership in some of the districts in the present Methodist Church. There were 227 church buildings, but most of these were rural and in many cases the membership was small. These churches were scattered over a large portion of the state with something like a half dozen being in Virginia and approximately a similar number in South Carolina. At this time the Annual Conference had the full-time services of a president and a young people's worker. It was also supporting the Children's Home at High Point with a complete staff of workers and approximately 50 children. The Board of Education had assets of \$79,186.82, but \$60,000.00 of this was the value of what was known as the Publishing House at 302 South Elm Street, Greensboro. The income from this publishing venture was needed badly to help pay expenses of publishing the church paper.

Mr. J. C. Roberts of Kernersville had set aside in his will the sum of \$10,000.00 toward building a college, but the time limit of 1920 had run out, and this money was then to be used in helping to educate young men for the ministry. In addition to all the things of a local nature the General Conference had asked the North Carolina Conference to raise \$50,000.00 as its part in carrying on the general work of the church. To make things even more

difficult the General Conference had put on during the previous year the "Million Dollar Drive," and many pledges which had been made in that drive had not yet been paid. Notwithstanding all of these difficulties the Board of Education and these three members of the committee, acting for the Annual Conference, voted to proceed with the college enterprise, feeling that sentiment in the Conference was so strong for a college that the question could not be postponed longer.

No vote of the Annual Conference was necessary; hence no session of the Conference was called. A committee was appointed to put on the drive for funds with which to build the college. The members appointed were Dr. R. M. Andrews, who was President of the Conference and a member of the Board of Education, Dr. L. W. Gerringier, who was pastor of the church in Asheboro, and Dr. J. E. Pritchard, who was pastor in Henderson. Dr. Andrews was free to use his time as President of the Conference in whatever way seemed best. The churches in Asheboro and Henderson granted leaves of absence to their pastors for whatever time was necessary to put on the campaign.

#### Three Cities Bid for the College

As soon as the news was released that the campaign was to be put on three cities, High Point, Greensboro, and Burlington, made offers to the Conference. High Point offered 60 acres of land and \$100,000.00. Both of the other two places made somewhat similar offers with some slight variation in the amount of land. These offers greatly encouraged the members of the Annual Conference and especially the members of the committee.

Soon after the campaign got under way, Mr. J. Norman Wills, at a luncheon meeting in Greensboro made a very generous offer, namely, that for endowment purposes he would give \$100,000.00 worth of stock in the Odell Hardware Company in Greensboro on condition that the Annual Conference raise \$300,000.00 in cash and good pledges by a given date. While this pledge was

made in good faith, financial reverses made it impossible for Mr. Wills to carry through on his pledge, though he remained a loyal friend of the college and handled the funds as secretary-treasurer of the Board of Education.

#### The Committee Plans the Campaign

The Methodist Protestant Herald was used freely to acquaint the people with the plans for the drive. The issue of March 31, 1921, carried on the front page an important message to its readers. In type much larger than ten point the following story appeared:

OUR METHODIST PROTESTANT COLLEGE. For many years it has been the dream of some of our leaders that the Methodist Protestant Church in North Carolina should build a college for our people. Never have we doubted the need of such an institution, and for years some of us have felt that our people were able to build and endow it, and that we owe it to the entire state to erect such an institution, not to disseminate denominational sectarianism in a form that would make our people less sympathetic with the worthy undertakings of other denominations, but to help us to appreciate and to love our own, to know our needs and opportunities and to make ourselves more efficient servants of Christ.

There are 25,000 of us in the North Carolina Conference. We believe that half that number working together could build and support a college that our commonwealth would be justly proud of. But we are not appealing to half of our people. Our appeal is to every member of the Methodist Protestant Church in North Carolina. We want you to have a share in this college. But it can be ours only as we have a share in erecting and endowing it.

Pray DAILY. All Christian people are people of prayer. They believe in prayer and pray daily. We would not undertake this enterprise without prayer. We have not undertaken it without prayer. And we want each step directed by Him who loves us and who gave Himself for the redemption of a lost world. Without His guidance and strength we can do but little, but with His strength and His guidance we know that we shall not fail.

We must not make a mistake that will hurt the enterprise or hinder its progress in the smallest measure. We must not fail. We are calling upon you, our people, to pray daily for this great movement. Pray daily for the committee upon whom these arduous duties are laid. They are but men, they need divine succor. They need your prayerful sympathy. They must have your cordial support if they are to succeed.

Plan to give liberally. If our people would only give as they are able our college could be built and endowed



more splendidly than was any church school in our state, when it was built . . . Let us give to all benevolent causes proportionately, that is as God has prospered us, so when the time comes for us to decide what amount we shall give to our college, let us remember the rule, as we have been blessed so shall we give.

Organize the local church. We want a committee in every church to continue during the lifetime of the campaign, for five years. There should be at least four members on the committee in order that the canvass can be conducted easily. Every member of our church should have an opportunity to make a pledge. No member should be passed by, no pledge however small should be refused. New members should be added to our college club until the full amount needed is secured. This will be the work of the committee. June 5-12 (1921) is the time chosen for the simultaneous campaign. During the two Sundays and the week between we hope to have the campaign completed and the desired amount secured. We want as many as possible of our people to attend the conferences to be held in the interest of our college. These conferences are to be held from the Albermarle Sound to Buncombe County.

This article was signed by Dr. R. M. Andrews, Dr. J. E. Pritchard, and Dr. L. W. Gerringer. Following up this appeal in the church paper, the committee started out to visit the churches. The first visit was to New Hope church near the Vance and Warren county line. At this church all the members of the committee were present. On all subsequent trips the group would go on the train or in a car to some particular place and would then scatter out over a considerable territory. In a great many cases each member of the committee would speak in three churches the same day; so that by the time of the pledging the committee had visited practically all the churches in the Conference. Many churches put on the campaign according to schedule; others put it off to a later date. In his report to the 1921 session of the Conference Dr. R. M. Andrews, the president of the conference, reported that nearly \$120,000.00 had been raised for the college and that it was hoped that the full amount would be pledged.

#### High Point's Offer is Accepted

While the Board of Education in its report to the 1921 session of the Conference does not make any reference to the matter, we know from other

sources that the Board of Education accepted the offer from High Point and decided to locate the college there. The conference Committee on Education in its report to the 1921 session of the conference had the following to say about the location of the college:

We are encouraged by the generally expressed approval on the part of our own people as to the location of our proposed college at High Point. We also cherish expressions from time to time from persons not members of our own church as to the wisdom of the selection of the High Point location. In this connection we record our appreciation as a conference of the very generous offer of land and money made by Greensboro. Likewise we would record our appreciation of the liberal offer in grounds, money, and in utilities offered by Burlington and Graham if we would build our college in their midst. So also we record our appreciation of High Point's valuable offer, now available by the decision to locate our proposed college at the gateway entrance to that city.

#### The Election of a Board of Trustees is Authorized

The Board of Education in its report to the 1921 session recommended that the Board hold title to the college property and assume all indebtedness, but that the Conference elect a Board of Trustees to manage the affairs of the college. This recommendation was adopted, and the Board of Trustees was elected. The Board nominating one-half of the trustees and the Conference nominating the other half. All were confirmed by the Conference. The members of this Board of Trustees were: for one year; Dr. F. R. Harris, Dr. J. F. McCulloch, Dr. J. D. Williams, and Rev. O. W. Holmes. For two years; Dr. T. M. Johnson, Dr. R. M. Andrews, Mr. C. F. Finch, and Dr. C. L. Whitaker; for three years, Dr. J. T. Burris, Mr. M. J. Wren, Mr. R. F. Williams, and Mr. A. M. Rankin; for four years; Mr. J. Ed Swain; Mr. John S. Pickett; Mrs. J. M. Millikan, and Mrs. J. S. Williams; for five years; Mr. J. Norman Wills, Mr. Frank Wineski, Mr. John W. Hedrick, and Dr. Henry Cutchin.

In making his report to the 1921 session of the Annual Conference the treasurer of the Board of Education listed an expense account of Dr. R. M. Andrews and Mr. J. Norman Wills for visiting various colleges. This was done in order that the most modern ideas might be used in the construction of the new college which was to be located at High Point. The annual conference re-elected Dr. R. M. Andrews as president of the Conference for another year and then voted to allow him to use as much of his time as was necessary in pushing the work of the college.

#### The College Campaign Goes On

The 1922 session of the Annual Conference was held in Henderson November 1-6, 1922. By that time plans for the various buildings had materialized. The Board of Education had had blue prints made of the proposed buildings which were thrown on a screen so that all might see what kind of buildings were to be erected. The original plans called for four buildings, namely, the heating plant, the main administration building to be called Roberts Hall, and two dormitories. Roberts Hall was named in honor of the late J. C. Roberts who had left in his will \$10,000.00 toward building a college, but which could not be used for this purpose because of the time limit but which was used for educating young men for the ministry. One of the dormitories was to be known as Woman's Hall in honor of the women who had taken such an active part in promoting the college. The other one was to be known as McCulloch Hall in memory of Dr. J. F. McCulloch who had done so much to foster sentiment for a college.

Dr. R. M. Andrews in his report to the 1922 Conference said:

As almost every issue of the Herald has carried some statements of the progress of our college this year, we do not deem it necessary to say more here than that the work is progressing in a satisfactory manner. Roberts Hall is closed in, the roof will be on soon, and the work has been paid for up to date. If all of our people will pay as they have pledged, we hope to be able to complete this building by early spring. Plans are now being formulated for the erection of the girls' dormitory next year.

This building will cost about \$75,000.00, and all of this will have to be subscribed and paid in before we can complete this much needed building. This fact should challenge our devotion to a cause which is as deep as human need, by calling forth a new dedication of our strength and the pledging of our resources to insure its success.

It might be said here that the Board of Education started out with the idea of paying for everything as it was built; however, it became necessary to depart from that schedule. The people of High Point had donated the land and had paid their pledge to the building fund. A good many people from outside of High Point had paid their pledges, in many cases their young people were ready to enter college, and they wanted them to go to High Point. As a result of the pressure brought from many sources the Board of Education abandoned its plan of paying as you go and began to go in debt.

The Annual Conference session at Henderson in November, 1922, marked the close of Dr. R. M. Andrews' administration as president. He had served five years which was the constitutional limit. Dr. A. G. Dixon was elected president of the Annual Conference at that time, and Dr. Andrews was employed by the Board of Education to act as field agent for the college for the ensuing year. At the end of Dr. Dixon's first year, in his report to the annual session which was held in the Community Church in Thomasville October 31-November 5, 1923, Dr. Dixon said:

Our hearts are made glad as we watch the progress of our college in High Point. True, it is going a bit more slowly than many of us would like to see, but after all, wonderful progress is being made. By far the greatest amount of money ever raised in one year has been raised for the college this year. Everybody who has worked for the college deserves credit, but everyone knows that the greater part of the credit for the success of the movement during the year is due Dr. R. M. Andrews. He has faithfully pushed forward amid encouragements and discouragements with a smile that did not come off and with a heart that knew no failure.

At this same 1923 Conference the committee on Literature and Education in its report said:

We are grateful to our Heavenly Father for the success of our own college enterprise at High Point. It ought to fill every heart with pride to see the new administration building which is about complete. But while we are grateful for what has been done we want to see more accomplished. We want to see the dormitories built and the student body assembled. Therefore we urge our people who have not contributed to do so at once and those who have already pledged to pledge more if possible. We also urge our people who have pledged to pay their pledges as early as possible, so that the completion of the building may be made possible at an early date.

Mr. J. Norman Wills, treasurer of the Board of Education, reported to the 1923 Conference that the Board had spent \$120,306.09 on Roberts Hall.

#### The College is Opened

The projected college becomes a reality. The conference year of 1923-24 was indeed a notable one so far as the College was concerned. During that year Dr. R. M. Andrews was elected the first president of the College, and both of the dormitories were completed in time for the College to open on September 16, 1924. Dr. A. G. Dixon, in his report to the Conference which met in Reidsville October 29-November 3, had this to say:

We can speak of our College as a reality now for it is open and running and doing fine. Perhaps the day of greatest significance to this Conference in all of its history was September 16, 1924, which marked the opening of High Point College. It was a happy day for every one of us who have looked forward longingly for the time when we would have such an institution. The College will be the very center of our hopes and ambitions through the coming years.

Rev. J. Elwood Carroll in his History of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church and who was one of the first students to enter the College says:

High Point College was opened on September 16, 1924. Four buildings and a muddy campus constituted the equipment. During the first year High Point College offered courses in the first and second years of college work and to students of the tenth and eleventh grades high school. The second year the junior class was added, and the tenth-grade work was discontinued. With the third year, high-school work was eliminated altogether, and the school became a grade A College. The first commencement was held in 1927 with thirteen students graduating.

Dr. R. M. Andrews, in his first report as president of the college, had this to say:

In submitting this, my first report, to the Conference, I am conscious of my inability to give you an adequate idea of what has been done, much less of what should be done. Because of the fact that we now have three college buildings where we had none; because of the fact that we now have nearly half a million dollars invested where previously we had only the Publishing House; because of the fact that we now have enrolled 122 students in the first month of our existence; because of these facts there comes a challenge to the Methodist Protestant Church which it has never known before. And ought not the fact that we have eighty students enrolled in the freshman class be accepted as prophetic of a fine graduating class four years hence.

At this same session of the Annual Conference in 1924, Mr. J. Norman Wills, in reporting for the Board of Education, listed assets as \$495,660.04 with liabilities of \$273,371.08. Mr. Wills said:

It is to be regretted that it has been found necessary to incur such a heavy indebtedness. This is contrary to the policy first agreed upon by the Board, but it was found that we could hardly hope to open the College for several years if we adhered to the policy of pay as you go. We felt, therefore, that faith in God and faith in our church justified the erection of the dormitories. We trust that the members of the Conference, both ministers and laymen, as well as our membership throughout the state will rally enthusiastically to this enterprise.

At the 1925 session of the Annual Conference, held in High Point, First Methodist Church, November 4-9, Dr. A. G. Dixon, president of the conference, spoke of the fine spirit prevailing on the campus. Dr. R. M. Andrews reported 198 students enrolled.

At the 1926 session of the Conference, held in Grace Methodist Church, Greensboro, November 3-8, Dr. R. M. Andrews reported the enrollment as 217 and said that the deficit in the running expenses would amount to approximately \$12,000.00 for the year. In this same conference Mr. Wills reporting for the Board of Education asked for greater co-operation on the part of the people and requested that local enterprises wait until the College could get in better financial condition. In 1927 President Andrews reported an enrollment of 316 students and said the operating deficit would be smaller than usual.

In his report to the 1928 session of the Annual Conference, held at Winston-Salem, President Andrews did not mention the enrollment but did say that the operating deficit for the previous year was \$11,389.28. Dr. S. W. Taylor who had been elected president of the Annual Conference in 1927, in his first annual report to the Conference, pled for a larger support for the College and requested that the conference raise \$1,000.00 to apply on the operating expenses of the College. During this year, 1927, the official legal name of the Board of Education had been changed to read: The Board of Education of the Methodist Protestant Church in North Carolina, Incorporated.

#### The Darkness Deepens

The years of 1929 and 1930 were indeed dark days for the College. At the 1929 session of the Conference, held in Calvary Methodist Church in Greensboro, Mr. Wills in reporting for the Board of Education stated that the combined indebtedness of the Board and the College amounted to \$335,203.40. Following the 1929 session of the Conference, Dr. R. M. Andrews who had served as president of the College for the first six years, resigned to become effective May 30, 1930.

Before the resignation of Dr. Andrews became effective Dr. Gideon Ireland Humphreys of Maryland was elected president of the College to assume office June 1, 1930. Dr. Humphreys was a graduate of Western Maryland College and of the Westminster Theological Seminary. He had been president of the Maryland Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, the strongest conference in the denomination, for three years which was the maximum time any man could serve as president in that particular conference. He had also been president for a number of years of the Board of Education of the General Conference. Dr. Humphreys remained president of the College for nineteen years. Dr. S. W. Taylor, president of the Annual Conference, in his report to the 1930 session held in Albemarle, November 5-10, said:

High Point College is entering hopefully upon the seventh year in its existence. The student enrollment is just slightly short of 300 and is made up of earnest, capable, and promising young men and young women, representing several states and religious bodies. The new president, Dr. Gideon Ireland Humphreys, came to the institution on June 1 of this year and was associated with Dr. R. M. Andrews in the management until September. Dr. Humphreys took full charge of the school on that date. He has entered hopefully and enthusiastically upon his duties and is optimistic for the continued usefulness and growth of the school. He has full confidence in the institution and will give to it the full measure of his devotion. . . One of the great achievements of the Methodist Protestant Church is the building of High Point College. It was an adventure of faith and courage, the like of which has seldom been seen.

Dr. Gideon Ireland Humphreys was inaugurated President of the College on Saturday, November 15, 1930. A committee composed of Dr. S. W. Taylor, the Honorable R. N. Cox, and Dr. C. R. Hinshaw, was appointed by the Board of Trustees to make arrangements for the inauguration exercises. Dr. Hinshaw presided over the inauguration program. Greetings were brought to the new president by Chancellor Robert P. House of the University of North Carolina, representing the state institutions; Dr. Walter Lee Lingle, President of Davidson College, representing the denominational institutions; Dr. Frank W. Stephenson, Secretary of the Board of Education of the General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church; and Dr. J. C. Broomfield, President of the General Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. Dr. Lucius C. Clark, Chancellor of the American University, delivered the principal address using as his subject, "Flaming Youth." The Honorable R. N. Cox, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, presented Dr. Humphreys to Dr. S. W. Taylor, President of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, who made the installation address.

Dr. Humphreys chose as the subject of his inaugural address, "The Educational Ideal." In developing his subject the President discussed three main topics:



1. The Place of the College.
2. The Privilege of the Student.
3. The Purpose of the Administration.

In concluding his address, Dr. Humphreys said, "The Educational Ideal, through the Place of the College, The Privilege of the Student, and the Program of the Administration, is to produce in human experience a workable philosophy of life that shall keep life sane and steady amidst the cross currents of thought, the shifting sands of philosophy, and the changing tides of ambition."<sup>1</sup>

At this same 1930 session of the Annual Conference Mr. J. Norman Wills, treasurer of the Board of Education, reported a capital indebtedness of \$369,897.50. He also stated that this amount did not include the operating indebtedness of the College which was approximately \$58,000.00

#### A Bond Issue is Floated

While it is not definitely stated in the report of the treasurer of the Board of Education, it is known that the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company of Greensboro enabled the Board of Education to float a bond issue to cover the more than \$100,000 which the Board of Education had borrowed from that company. In the report of the Board in 1930, this item appeared: Expense of bond issue, \$1,335.55. Another item in the report read: Expense and commission, bonds sold (\$25,000), \$2,583.00. As a friendly gesture and out of respect for Dr. G. I. Humphreys, President of the College, who was still a member of the Maryland Annual Conference, Western Maryland College bought \$25,000 worth of bonds which it later donated to High Point College. Several individuals and churches bought bonds and never cashed them. Other churches and individuals made loans to the College which they later donated. Still other churches paid the interest on loans until such time that the College was able to pay off the loan.

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1. Methodist Protestant Herald, Vol. 37, no. 3, pp. 2-4, November 20, 1930.

### Children's Home Property Is Deeded to the Board of Trustees

As additional collateral for the loan from the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company and to make the bonds more saleable, a special session of the Annual Conference was held to authorize the trustees of the Children's Home, which was then located near High Point, to deed the Children's Home property to the Board of Education. In his report to the 1931 session of the Conference Mr. J. Norman Wills, treasurer of the Board of Education, lists the Children's Home property for the first time as a part of the assets of the Board. This property had a book value of \$250,000.00. In his report Mr. Wills said:

There has been incorporated in this statement the Children's Home Property, the charter of the Board of Education having been amended so that it could hold the title to this property which was duly deeded to it. This Board does not handle any of the money or accounts of the Children's Home.

Although, there was no change in the management of the Children's Home, there were many people throughout the Conference who never became reconciled to the idea of the Children's Home being made a part of the assets of the Board of Education. Some years later when the indebtedness on the College had been considerably reduced, the insurance company agreed to the deeding back of the Home property to the Trustees of the Home. When Methodist Union came in 1939 this Children's Home was merged with the Home at Winston-Salem. Since much of the money for the Children's Home in High Point had been raised in High Point, it was thought advisable to deed the larger part of the assets of the Home to High Point College which was done.

At this same 1931 session of the Annual Conference Mr. Wills who had been secretary-treasurer of the Board since its beginning asked in his report to be relieved of the duties of secretary and treasurer of the Board. He reported further that the Board had elected Dr. C. R. Hinshaw of the faculty of High Point College to succeed him, feeling that it was advisable to have all the finances of the College handled by the president's office.

### Board of College Trustees and Board of Education

The names of the members of the Board of Trustees of the College and the Board of Education as of 1921 were listed early in this history. Now it seems appropriate to give the names of the members of these two boards as of 1931, ten years later. The personnel of the Board of Trustees of the College in 1931 was as follows: Dr. R. M. Andrews, Dr. J. T. Burris, Mr. R. M. Cox, Dr. J. H. Cutchin, Dr. L. W. Gerringer, Mr. C. F. Finch, Mr. R. N. Hauser, Mr. W. M. Loy, Mr. J. M. Millikan, Mr. H. A. Millis, Mr. J. S. Pickett, Mr. C. C. Robbins, Mr. A. M. Rankin, Mr. J. D. Ross, Mr. W. L. Ward, Mr. J. Norman Wills, Mr. Frank Wineski, Dr. J. D. Williams, Mr. M. J. Wrenn. The pastor of the First Methodist Church of High Point was an honorary member, and Dr. S. W. Taylor, president of the Annual Conference was an ex officio member.

The Board of Education consisted of the following: Mr. J. H. Allen, Dr. R. M. Andrews, Dr. C. W. Bates, Dr. J. M. Cutchin, Mr. W. T. Hanner, Dr. F. R. Harris, Mr. J. B. Hicks, Dr. C. R. Hinshaw, secretary-treasurer, Dr. T. M. Johnson, president, Mr. V. W. Idol, Dr. J. F. McCulloch, vice-president, Mr. J. S. Pickett, Dr. J. E. Pritchard, Dr. S. W. Taylor, and Mr. L. L. Wren.

### The President of the College Is Encouraged

The report of President Humphreys to the 1932 session of the Annual Conference is so full of information that it seems wise to quote from it extensively. Here are some things mentioned:

I am glad to be able to report that a \$1,000 scholarship has been established by Mr. A. E. Alexander and sisters, to be known as the Ida E. Alexander Scholarship. The income from this is paid annually to a worthy student designated by the president.

The Woman's Club of High Point has created a Scholarship Loan Fund known as the Annie Laurie Johnston Loan Fund. This is a revolving fund; \$200.00 this first year is available to a Junior and Senior.

The Garden Clubs of High Point have taken as their combined project for this year the improving and beautifying of the College campus. I feel sure that with these women interested the College campus will be greatly improved.

For more than a year Dr. N. M. Harrison, the promotional secretary of the College, has been working for a gymnasium. He has been securing donations of materials and money. Recently the Business Men's Club of High Point made a donation of \$1,000.00 which will make possible the completion of the project. The building is now under construction, and we hope to have it finished before the new year. This building, while spoken of as a temporary one, will be such in construction and size as to serve our needs for some years. The thanks of the administration, student body, and friends of the College are due Dr. Harrison for his interest and persistent efforts in securing this much needed building.

The enrollment for the eighth year, ending June, 1932, was 275. Thirty-nine were graduated in June, and four more at the end of the summer session in August.

Last November we came to you with an appeal for your support of a bond selling campaign and a conference-wide effort together with an appeal to High Point as the objectives. Plans for this work were well laid and begun. Sixty days after Conference adjourned the banks of the state began to close. To do what we had set out to do was impossible. In all, \$17,000.00 worth of bonds were sold throughout the church in the state. A total of \$6,000.00 in bonds were placed in High Point, which, with the \$7,000.00 previously sold, amounted to \$13,000.00. This was a long way from the goal, but what was done was a great relief to the burden. There are bonds now outstanding of \$64,500.00

As the College year drew to a close the necessity of finding some means of relieving the pressure arising from the accumulated debt in current operations became more insistent; in fact, it threatened most seriously the continued operation of the College. After deliberation the Trustees authorized me to proceed with the plan I had outlined to them of asking the city of High Point and nearby communities to raise for us the sum of \$50,000.00. The money is to be used for three specific purposes, accrued interest on all obligations to August 15, trade accounts, and notes and accumulated salaries.

We employed the George Williams Company of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, to conduct the campaign. Many folks said that it could not be done. No one seemed to believe that it could be done. In the midst of the effort 6,000 workers in the textile industry of the city went on strike for two weeks. This delayed our drive for more than two weeks just at the peak of the interest and support. But it was done. To this amount of \$50,000.00, the citizens of High Point subscribed

\$30,274.00; Thomasville, \$1,100.00; Asheboro, \$1,025.00; Winston-Salem, \$208.00; The Board of Christian Education, \$5,000.00; contributions from concessions on trade accounts and notes amounted to \$8,410.00; and the faculty absorbed \$5,000.00 of back salaries.

The money is coming in slowly but surely. I believe the shrinkage will be small. The campaign does not yet give us a clean sheet on the current deficit, since approximately \$10,000 must go for interest and insurance, but it reduces the total by about \$40,000 and will enable us, if the church will stand by, to pull through ultimately.

I cannot too highly express my gratitude for the success of the campaign. I cannot pay too great a tribute to the spirit of High Point. Amidst general depression and the knowledge that the church at that time could not greatly aid the city came to the support of High Point College and saved it to the community and for the Methodist Protestant Church. What other city in North Carolina, what other city anywhere, has been more generous and more loyal to a denominational institution in its midst and under operation less than ten years . . . . .

At the 1932 session of the Conference Dr. C. R. Hinshaw, treasurer of the Board of Education, reported assets of \$927,737.45 with liabilities of \$309,313.29.

#### The Long Hard Pull

The report of President Humphreys to the Annual Conference which met in Thomasville, November 15-20, 1933, shows that the peak registration for the previous year was 286, and that the average enrollment for the past six years had been exactly 300. It is shown in this report that 43 students were graduated in June of that year. The average number of graduates since the first commencement in 1927 had been 41. The following paragraph in this report might be of interest:

My goal has been a balanced budget. For this year, in which we are operating, we set up a budget based on last year's student enrollment that is nearly \$12,500.00 less than last year. And that the church may fully appreciate the fact that the faculty is sharing with the church the lean years, I am reminding you that the total of salaries for the present year is less than last year by \$8,750.00 and less than the first year of my administration by \$17,403.00. And to remind you further, as a way of tribute to the faculty, all salaries

are behind and have been for several years. And now a word of encouragement. This, that after another year's operation, with a deficit because the church could not under the difficult times do the usual for the College, the College still has a very much lower net liability than in September, 1932. When the final of the emergency pledges are in and the books are audited a complete report will be made.

Mention is made in the report of Dr. C. R. Hinshaw, treasurer of the Board of Education, of the death of Dr. F. R. Harris of Henderson who had been president of the Board ever since the College was built. Dr. T. M. Johnson was elected president of the Board of Education with Dr. J. E. Pritchard serving as vice president. Due to the fact that during the last few years before Methodist Union in 1939 Dr. Johnson served churches in South Carolina and later the condition of Dr. Johnson's health, Dr. J. E. Pritchard served as acting chairman of the Board and Dr. C. R. Hinshaw as secretary-treasurer until the charter of the Board was suspended in 1949.

The report of President Humphreys to the Annual Conference held in Grace Methodist Church, Greensboro, in 1934, has some facts which ought to be preserved. Here are extracts from it:

The recent audit shows that the net obligations over assets (in current operations) is \$27,949.17 less than two years ago. This fact, in fact of the depression of the past two years is something of which we can be proud. This reduction in indebtedness is due to receipts from the Emergency Campaign Fund, from the General Board, and from the church in this state. You are particularly interested in what the church did in these two years. From the General Board came \$3,790; from the churches, \$1,386.28; from the Woman's Auxiliary, \$1,767.90; total from all church sources from 1932 to 1934, \$6,944.18 . . . .

In February, 1930, by conference action the bond issue was authorized. In the following November, when the conference met, the Board of Education reported net obligations of \$288,317.02. At that time the total net obligations of the Board and the College approximated \$347,317.00. The report of the Board of Education for this year will show net obligations of \$333,000.00. This is an increase of a little more than \$44,000.00, but \$40,000.00 of this is occasioned by the loss suffered in having to take back the Elm Street property in Greensboro and assumed interest and taxes. It is, in reality, a book loss. But even with this, today the combined indebtedness of the Board and the College is only about \$22,000.00 more than in November 1930 (the conference

following the bond issue) after the Board has suffered this more than \$40,000.00 loss. Had this property not had to be taken back and the loss assumed, our combined net indebtedness would be more than \$12,000.00 less than four years ago. We have therefore, it seems to me, no occasion for any one to be alarmed or discouraged; in fact, we ought to thank God and take courage.

#### The Library Is Being Built

The report of President Humphreys to the 1936 session of the Annual Conference mentioned several things of importance in connection with the College, but one outstanding thing was his reference to the building of the M. J. Wrenn Memorial Library. This building was erected by Mrs. Wrenn in memory of her husband who had been a trustee of the College from the beginning. The president had this to say:

Friday, October 30, the contract for the Wrenn Memorial Library was signed. Monday following the work started, and the contractor is driving ahead rapidly on the construction . . . . The completed building will probably cost nearly \$30,000.00. The Harrison Gymnasium, erected in 1933, but not completed, is now being finished. Last year dressing rooms in the wings, for students, were completed with installation of showers, cement floors, lavatories, toilets, and lights. A heating system was installed, and cement walks were laid. On October 6, work was renewed on the college athletic field under W.P.A. supervision and through sponsorship of the city of High Point. The allocation of funds to complete the field calls for a total expenditure of about \$30,000.00 for materials and labor. When completed we will have one of the finest stadiums in the state. Present plans, within the allocation, will give a concrete grandstand seating capacity to about 7,500 people.

#### How the Debts Were Paid

To keep this story from being tedious it becomes necessary to leave out a great many details; however, it is reasonable for people to want to know how High Point College paid its debts. In answer to this question it can be said that many methods were used. Some business men who had endorsed notes for rather large sums found that it was somewhat of a handicap to them in their business relations, and in some cases they agreed to pay

off part of the obligation if the College would pay the remainder. The College cooperated, and the account was settled. In another case a bank in Greensboro held notes amounting to a considerable sum, the personal endorsers went bankrupt, the bank closed in the days of the depression and the assets of the bank were sold and brought only a small percentage of the original amount. The College bought up the paper at a great reduction. The assets of the College continued to increase, and the liabilities decreased. In 1938, the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company agreed for the Children's Home property to be released from the mortgage, and the Board of Education deeded this property back to the College Board of Trustees.

#### The Last Report Read to the Conference

We come now to the last full report made by President Humphreys to the Annual Conference. This was in October, 1939. The Annual Conferences in this state were being merged following Methodist Union. The North Carolina Annual Conference of the former Methodist Protestant Church met in Grace Methodist Church, Greensboro, two days before the meetings of the Western North Carolina Conference of the former Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Blue Ridge Atlantic Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. These early meetings were necessary to conclude certain matters of business before the merging of the conferences. The report of President Humphreys is referred to as the last, because in the United Church the presidents of colleges do not make reports in open conference. This report is of special significance because it gives facts and figures at the time of the merging of the conferences. Only extracts from this report will be quoted:

I am glad to report that our regular enrollment for the first semester totals 456. This is 17 more than a year ago. Anticipating the usual additions to be made at the second semester, we will probably reach an enrollment of 475 for this year. Adding to this the summer-school and extension students, we will likely reach a high of 750 for the year . . . . For the fifth consecutive



year we report that expenditures for current operations were less by an appreciable margin than student income . . . . In addition to the regular college property, since 1932 we have purchased the Andrews property at a cost of more than \$14,000 and the property at Montlieu Avenue valued at \$4,000. By arrangement with the trustees of the Conference the parsonage at 909 West College Drive will be deeded to the College, subject to the obligation due Mrs. H. A. Garrett. These three residences represent values at replacement figures, conservatively, I think of \$30,000.00 in which we now have equities of \$13,000.00.

The total indebtedness, first and secondary, on both college and residence properties, amounts to \$212,425.00. This is \$105,000 less than in 1936, which was the peak of our indebtedness and before we purchased the Montlieu and West College Drive properties, and before the Library was erected, Woman's Hall, and Gymnasium additions were made, and the Stadium built. The total valuation is \$734,500.00. The total debt is therefore less than 30 per cent of conservative values.

Since we have come to the time when the title to the property of High Point College rests in the Methodist Church and not in the Methodist Protestant Church, and since the names of the members of the 1939 Board of Education and the College Board of Trustees were given in 1921 and again in 1931, it seems wise to give them again so that posterity may know who assisted the presidents of the College in carrying the load through these days of struggle. The officers and members of the Board of Education were: Mr. J. H. Allen; Dr. R. M. Andrews; Dr. C. W. Bates; Mr. J. M. Cutchin; Mr. W. T. Hanner; Mr. J. B. Hicks; Dr. C. R. Hinshaw, secretary and treasurer; Dr. G. I. Humphreys (honorary); Mr. V. W. Idol; Dr. T. M. Johnson, president; Dr. F. W. Paschall; Mr. J. S. Pickett; Dr. J. E. Pritchard, vice-president; Mr. J. G. Rogers; Dr. S. W. Taylor; Mr. J. Norman Wills; Mr. L. L. Wren (honorary).

The college trustees were: Dr. R. M. Andrews; Mr. J. C. Auman; Mr. R. M. Cox; Dr. J. H. Cutchin; Mr. C. F. Finch; Dr. N. M. Harrison; Dr. G. I. Humphreys, president; Mr. W. F. Hunsucker; Mr. G. H. Kearns; Mr. R. O. Lindsay; Mr. D. K. Millaway; Mr. J. M. Millikan; Mr. H. A. Millis;

Mr. J. S. Pickett; Mr. F. Logan Porter; Dr. J. E. Pritchard; Mr. A. M. Rankin; Mr. C. C. Robbins; Mr. L. F. Ross; Dr. S. W. Taylor; Mr. Ernest Teague; Mr. W. L. Ward; Dr. J. D. Williams; Mr. J. N. Wills; and Mrs. M. J. Wrenn.

Statistics Following Methodist Union

Since only a few statistics are available from the Conference Journals following Methodist Union it seems wise to list these year by year.

1940: Officers and teachers, 36; regular student enrollment, 481; summer-school enrollment, 108; estension students, 107; value of property, \$740,544.06; indebtedness, \$204,342.65.

1941: Officers and teachers, 38; regular student enrollment, 492; summer-school enrollment, 136; estension students, 80; value of property, \$886,616.03; indebtedness, \$203,368.89; conference appropriation, \$3,525.00.

1942: Officers and teachers, 31; regular student enrollment, 448; summer-school enrollment, 123; assets, \$900,318; indebtedness \$191,594.85; conference appropriation, \$4,880.58.

1943: Officers and teachers, 33; regular student enrollment, 471; extension students, 70; summer-school enrollment, 123; value of buildings and equipment, \$785,471.06; endowment property assets, \$137,218.04; indebtedness, \$148,475.00; conference appropriation, \$6,000.00.

1944: Officers and teachers, 33; regular student enrollment, 280; summer-school enrollment, 111; extension students, 53; value of buildings and equipment, \$800,629.96; endowment property assets, \$137,218.04; indebtedness, \$55,000.00; conference appropriation, \$6,000.00.

1945: Officers and teachers, 27; regular student enrollment, 334; summer-school and extension, 120; value of buildings and equipment, \$860,337.00; endowment property assets, \$137,218.00; indebtedness, \$23,092 (covered by cash and pledges); conference appropriation, \$6,000.00.

1946: Officers and teachers, 40; regular student enrollment, 681; summer-school enrollment, 87; extension, 99; value of buildings and equipment, \$865,382.40; endowment property assets, \$157,426.17; indebtedness, none. Western North Carolina Conference appropriation, \$7,500.00.

1947: The report of the Board of Education as found in the 1947 Journal is in slightly different form and is quoted here: "High Point College reported an enrollment for the year ending June 1, 1947, of 859 - inclusive in this number were 403 summer-school students, and 23 extension students. Property owned by the College totals \$841,772.01 and endowment \$306,951.91. No indebtedness. The Western North Carolina Conference appropriation was \$7,500.00."

1948: High Point College reported an enrollment for the year ending June 1, 1948, of 871 with a summer-school enrollment of 435, and faculty members numbered 40. Property owned by the College was \$964,080.94, and the endowment was \$410,212.48. There was no indebtedness.

The conference appropriations listed by years is from the Western North Carolina Conference. Figures from the North Carolina Conference were not available.

#### The Methodist College Advance

The Methodist College Advance was put on by both North Carolina conferences in 1945. Its purpose was to create interest in the colleges owned by the two conferences and to raise sufficient funds to enable these colleges to do better work. The Western North Carolina Conference reached its goal in financial matters, while the North Carolina Conference did not meet with such success. In the report of the conference treasurer there are two payments to High Point College listed, the first under the heading of directed funds and the other out of the general funds. The former amounted to \$18,365.26, and the latter amounted to \$124,468.96.

The total amount collected by the Advance in the Western North Carolina Conference was a little more than \$1,000,000, and of this amount James A. Gray of Winston-Salem gave \$300,000.00, and H. A. Dunham of Asheville gave \$100,000.00.

The Methodist College Foundation of North Carolina Incorporated  
Was Organized

The Methodist College Advance concluded with the Annual Conference of 1949, and its successor, the Methodist College Foundation of North Carolina, Incorporated, came into being. The goal set for the two conferences in this new organization was \$2,500,000. The Western North Carolina Conference went to work immediately on this new project; however, the North Carolina Conference did not adopt the program until 1952. Part of the amount of \$1,000,000 for that conference is to be collected on pledges, while the remainder is to be put in the budget over a period of years. The City of High Point entered heartily into this new campaign and launched a drive to raise \$200,000.00 in High Point for High Point College. This goal was finally reached. The various districts throughout the Conference have launched drives to raise the amount allotted to them. Some have reached the goal allotted them, and others are still working to that end. Dr. B. Joseph Martin was the director of this organization for two years and after his resignation in 1952, Reverend D. D. Holt was elected as his successor. He is now giving full time to this work. In the allocation of funds from this drive High Point College is to receive approximately \$765,000.00.

The College Observes its Twenty-fifth Birthday

The commencement exercises of 1949 were planned as a celebration of the twenty-five years of the College's existence. The graduating class of that year which numbered 231 members dedicated the Zenith, the senior class annual, to the five members of the faculty who had been with the

College since its beginning and to the only member surviving of the original committee appointed by the Conference to raise funds for the building of the College. These six persons were pictured with an appropriate tribute to each. These tributes were as follows:

To Dr. J. E. Pritchard, a stalwart Christian, for many years an outstanding leader in Methodism, the only living member of the original committee that campaigned for funds to establish High Point College; and to Dean Percy E. Lindley, Professor Alice Paige White, Professor E. Vera Idol, Professor J. Hobart Allred, and Professor J. Harley Mourane, faculty members of High Point College from its beginning twenty-five years ago, whose service to the College and to the community through character, leadership, and professional ability cannot be measured by material standards, the staff appreciatively dedicates the 1949 Zenith.

Instead of the usual outside speaker at commencement Dr. J. E. Pritchard reviewed the activities leading up to the building of the College and on through the six years of Dr. R. M. Andrews' administration as president. President Humphreys then spoke of the progress of the College during the nineteen years that he had been connected with the institution. On another page of the Zenith was printed the following:

Dr. N. M. Harrison, formerly vice president of the College, designed the College seal before the institution opened for business. The seal bears appropriate symbolism and the College motto - Nil Sine Numine - Nothing Without Divine Light.

Mrs. C. L. Whitaker, Housemother of Woman's Hall, has been with the College from its beginning. Mrs. Whitaker has seen many young women come and go during the past twenty-five years.

Ed White, College fireman and handy man, and George Sharp, the chief cook, also have been with the College for the entire quarter century. George has dished up food to many a nostalgic freshman. Ed White continues to entertain the boys on the campus with an interesting fund of stories.

Professor H. E. Coble of the Department of Education was the first member of the class of 1927 to receive a degree. Thus he became the first graduate of the College. It was he who gave the College Annual its appropriate name . . . .

High Point College graduates have made names for themselves in all fields of endeavor. Several have returned as administrative officers and faculty members: Louise Adams, Assistant Professor of Mathematics; Herman E. Coble, Associate Professor of Education; William Faircloth, Assistant Coach; Clifford Reginald Hinshaw, Jr., Assistant Professor of History; John W. Farlow, Instructor in Business Administration; Richard A. Short, Bursar and Graduate Manager of Athletics; Henry I. Ridenhour, Counselor for Men; and Mrs. Henry I. Ridenhour, Assistant Librarian.

#### President Humphreys Decides to Retire

Early in 1949 Dr. G. I. Humphreys, who had served as the president of the College for nineteen years, announced that it was his desire to retire at the close of the college year. Dr. Humphreys had passed through many trials in piloting the College through the years when financial problems were always pressing. But he had lived to see the College out of debt and the student body larger than its founders ever expected. It could be said truthfully that everybody who knew anything about his work considered that he had done a marvelous piece of work in saving the College to the church and to the community.

#### The Board of Trustees Is Reorganized

During practically all of the administration of Dr. Humphreys Mr. H. A. Millis of High Point served as chairman of the Board of Trustees. The Annual Conference Journal did not list the names of the officers of the Board; however, the name of Mr. Millis as a trustee appeared for the first time in the Conference Journal of 1931. Mr. Millis not only acted as chairman of the Board of Trustees, he was the largest contributor to the building of the Stadium. It was fitting, therefore, that the Stadium be named The Albion Millis Stadium. The vice chairman of the Board for many years has been Mr. F. Logan Porter, also of High Point. His name appears as a trustee of the College for the first time in the Conference Journal of 1935. During the larger part of the administration of Dr. Humphreys, Dr. N. M. Harrison was secretary of the Board. Dr. Harrison was first elected as

promotional secretary of the Board and served in this capacity for a good many years. Later he was named vice president of the College which position he held for some four or five years.

On July 20, 1949, when Mr. Millis' health became too impaired for him to carry the load as chairman of the Board, he was elected as Chairman Emeritus for life. At that time Mr. L. F. Ross was elected chairman. Mr. Ross' name appeared in the Conference Journal as a trustee for the first time in 1934. Since 1949 Mr. Ross has ably presided over the regular meetings of the Board as well as the monthly meetings of the Executive Committee, seldom ever missing a meeting except for the time that he served in the Senate during the 1953 session of the State Legislature. When Mr. L. F. Ross was elected chairman of the Board, Mr. F. Logan Porter was continued as vice chairman, a position he still holds with distinction. On the same date Dr. C. L. Gray was elected secretary of the Board, succeeding Dr. N. M. Harrison.