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MAY ----- 1931

My dear Colleagues:

Announcements

(a) The Regular Session of 1930-31 will come to a close at Monday Noon, May 18, 1931.

(b) The Summer Session will begin June 1, 1931.

(c) A general meeting of all employees will be held at 7:30 o'clock, Friday evening, May 29, 1931.

Forecast

(a) The Texas Legislature is now tackling the problem of providing sufficient funds for the support of all the branches of the government and its institutions. There is every indication of lean budgets for all state supported institutions. This means here at Prairie View a possible reduction of salaries, the elimination of some employees, the discontinuance of some departments and combining small classes. A general retrenchment program is the slogan of all state governments.

(b) In spite of the reduction of the teaching forces, our faculty must be strengthened, more Masters must be added in order that we may meet the approval of the Southern Association of Colleges.

Returning

I am pleased to announce that the following teachers will resume work at Prairie View next year with the work completed for their advanced degrees:

- 1. Miss Mabel Lucas, Chicago
- 2. Miss Thomye Collins, Atlanta
- 3. Mrs. M. E. V. Hunter, Ames
- 4. Miss Myrtle T. Hibbler, Columbia

Anniversary -

In the hills of Northeast Georgia, August 8, 1881, about 3:00 o'clock in the stillness of the morning, while the neighbors slept soundly, a tall brown man, lean and lank, rushed excitedly, half-dressed, through the woods, to the cabin of Aunt Nancy. He pounded sharply upon the rickety door, arousing the old soul of ninety years from a deep slumber. He said distractedly to her, "I came for you. Laura is sick." After kneeling by her bed for a brief prayer--folks prayed twice a day then--she dressed slowly; all women dress slowly but when they pass three score and

ten, they dress with a more deliberate slowness. While she was getting ready, this brown man paced the little yard, restless and impatient. When she was ready, she lighted her cob pipe, took her walking stick, and, on foot, went with the man to his cabin. They entered quietly. Laura was in great pain. While she writhed in pain, in the shadows of death, Aunt Mancy took from her a handful of human flesh, weighing four pounds. Holding it in her hands, she whispered to this brown, lean, lank man these words: "It's a ole boy." This boy was named Willette Rutherford Banks, better known by nickname as "Scrap."

For twenty years I never went more than twenty miles from the place Aunt Nancy left me. I romped, went to school, to church, worked hard on the farm and grew to manhood-time to

go to Atlanta University -- on that spot.

During these fifty years, I have witnessed many things -

(a) The world Changing and Advancing

(b) The passing of men and women from this world into eternity

(c) The miserable failure of Falsehood and Error

(d) Wrong dethroned and Right triumph

(e) The Reward of the Faithful and the True.

I have learned a great many valuable lessons -

(a) To have Faith in and Love for Humanity

(b) The value of Things

(c) I have succeeded most with the task at which I

worked longest and hardest

(d) The certain danger of Hate, Prejudice, Selfishness, Littleness and Sham in paralyzing one's usefulness and making him incapable of appreciating and administering simple and even-handed Justice to all men.

In these next fifty years, it is left with Him; I shall do my best--I shall march forward, unafraid, in the Light of the richness of my experiences, with men and things, in the simple discharge of my Duty in every task that falls to my hands. I Want to live more Completely for those Finer Things that will make the greatest contribution to a Better Social Order and I Can do this if the Kindly Light leads me. I want to live -

"For the wrongs that need my Resistance, For the causes that need my assistance, For the Future in the Distance, And the good that I can do."

I am

Gratefully yours,

Willette Rutherford Banks

Workers' Meeting tonight.