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## MEMORANDUM

The General Education Board has three main lines of work:

- 1) The promotion of practical farming in the Southern States;
- 2) The development of a system of public high schools in the Southern States; and
- 3) The promotion of higher education throughout the United States.

### I

#### THE PROMOTION OF PRACTICAL FARMING IN THE SOUTHERN STATES

For the first three years of its existence the Board, through its representatives, made a careful study of public education in the Southern States. As a result of this study it reached the conclusion that the greatest present need of that part of our country is the increased productive efficiency of rural life. Eighty-five per cent. of the people of the Southern States live in the country and by farming.

Careful inquiry was therefore made in the United States and in other countries regarding methods of delivering to farmers the practical agricultural knowledge that has been developed by National and State Departments of Agriculture.

experimental farms, etc. In the course of this inquiry the representatives of the Board met Doctor Seaman A Knapp, who by demonstration farms was successfully combating the boll weevil in Texas and Louisiana. It was the opinion of the Board that the demonstration farm methods of Doctor Knapp could be employed successfully in promoting general agriculture, as well as in combating the specific enemy of the cotton industry. A conference was therefore had with Secretary Wilson of the United States Department of Agriculture, who agreed that Doctor Knapp, who is a special representative of the Department of Agriculture, might supervise the work in other states than Texas and Louisiana, provided funds for that purpose might be secured. The General Education Board, through the Department of Agriculture, under the above agreement, beginning in the early part of 1906, has made contributions for this purpose now aggregating \$285,700. For the fiscal year 1909-10 the appropriation was \$102,000. The latest report from Doctor Knapp shows that in the states thus aided by the General Education Board 135 men are at work supervising the demonstration farms and 13,589 farmers are pursuing improved agricultural methods under such direction. He further estimates that 187,680 farmers are pursuing similar work as influenced by those farmers who are under the immediate supervision of the agents. This work has attracted the favorable attention of the Farmers'



Union of the Southern States, of agricultural colleges, public school authorities and the public press. Under the auspices of Doctor Knapp special State agents have been appointed in the several Southern States, who are conducting demonstration work among the boys of the public schools. Several thousands of boys from twelve years of age and up, under the general designation of Boys' Corn Clubs, are "learning by doing"; that is instead of studying text books on agriculture they are performing practical agricultural demonstration on their fathers' farms and are making these experiments the basis of agricultural study in the schools. In his latest communications to our office Doctor Knapp says that the work is developing in importance and value far beyond his most sanguine expectations.

## II

### THE PROMOTION OF PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS

The general study on educational conditions in the Southern States led the Board to believe that the greatest lack in that region and, therefore, the greatest need was of public high schools. It is the policy of the Board to do this work through existing organizations. Arrangement was therefore made with the several State Universities in the Southern States whereby such universities could assume the leadership and direction of a movement designed to develop

systems of high schools. Appropriations have been made by the General Education Board to the State Universities in the following states:

Alabama  
Arkansas  
Florida  
Georgia  
Louisiana  
Mississippi  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Virginia  
West Virginia

The General Education Board appropriates to each university a sum sufficient to pay the salary and traveling expenses of a special high school representative. This man representing the University and the State Department of Education goes to counties throughout the State, arouses and organizes public sentiment favorable to high schools and secures the establishment and maintenance of public high schools. It is not possible to state the total number of high schools thus organized and established. In several of the States we are able to give exact figures. The following high schools have been established:

Alabama	33
North Carolina	131
South Carolina	59
Tennessee	43
Virginia	160

In Exhibits "A" and "B" the facts in detail with maps are given for Alabama and North Carolina. It is safe to estimate



that as a result of this cooperative initiative on the part of the General Education Board 1,000 new high schools have been established and that \$5,000,000 have been raised by the people for buildings and equipment.

Of this work President Eliot, who has recently made a journey through the Southern States has said: "It is the most valuable piece of constructive educational work now going on in the United States".

### III

#### THE PROMOTION OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

The General Education Board uniformly makes its gifts for endowment. Colleges throughout the country decide how much money they wish to raise at a given time. Application is made to the General Education Board. A careful study of the institution is made covering both its financial and educational strength. It is studied not only as a particular institution of learning, but in its relation to higher education generally in a particular state. Then to approved institutions the Board makes contributions toward the total sums which they themselves have decided to raise. These contributions are made absolutely to the trustees of the several institutions and the General Education Board exercises no supervision or control in any case. It first decides that the institution is worthy of aid and then makes its gift

without any string attached to it. It is the conviction of the members of the Board that they ought not to assume any supervision or control of the educational work in colleges.

Appropriations by the Board for higher education have been made as follows:

In the Southern States	\$1,412,500.
In the Western States	1,875,000.
In the Eastern and Middle States	<u>1,405,000.</u>
	\$4,692,500.

These gifts on the part of the General Education Board are toward an approximate total of \$18,000,000, which total sum represents the increase of educational endowment and equipment, largely made possible by the contributions of the General Education Board. A detailed statement of these appropriations is attached hereto under Exhibit "C".

#### CONCLUSION

It should be noted that the policy of the General Education Board is to work through existing institutions and agencies and not itself to undertake independent educational work. These contributions for agricultural demonstration work are expended under the supervision of the United States Department of Agriculture, which through its accredited representatives, has entire control of such expenditures. Payments are made by the General Education Board for this work on vouchers



certified by representatives of the Department of Agriculture.

It seeks to promote public high schools not by sending its own agents into the several states to do this work, but by enabling State Universities and State Departments of Education to do the work. Here, again, the direction and supervision of the work is entirely in the hands of the accredited representatives of the States.

Its contributions to colleges are not for specific departments in colleges or universities, nor for particular kinds of education. The contributions are made to the trustees of the colleges, who have full power to direct the expenditure thereof. The only promise required by the Board in making its gifts is that the money which it gives shall be invested and preserved inviolable for the endowment of the college or university.