

May 9th, 1917.

The Board of Trustees of the State Normal School met in the office of the Chairman, Honorable J. L. Bond, May 9th, 1917, with the following members present:

- Bond
- Oliver
- Lenon
- Owen
- Dunaway
- Hutchins
- McDaniel

A letter from Dr. Jewell declining the presidency of the Normal School was read and ordered spread upon the minutes. It is as follows:

April 30th, 1917.

Honorable J. L. Bond,
President Board of Trustees, State Normal School,
Little Rock, Arkansas.

My dear Sir:--

It is with a deep sense of regret that I have come to the final decision that I must decline the honor of the presidency of the State Normal School which your honorable Board so graciously offered me on your own initiative and without any candidacy of my own. Let me assure you that I am not insensible to the honor done me at your hands, and that I decline the trust with a deep sense of regret.

After returning from Little Rock last week I went into the salary schedule carefully, to see what adjustments could be made. Then I wired to a few men whom I would have wanted to help with the putting through of the plans for reorganization that we discussed together at Conway, to see at what figures they could be brought to the State Normal School. The replies just received this evening show that the present salary budget is not sufficient to carry out these new plans with the trained teachers that one should have to ensure their success. The dilemma presented two alternatives: (1) To cut elsewhere on the salary schedule and so have a couple of experts available for making the Training School and the School for Rural Life what they ought to be, or (2) the putting of untried men into these important places, and watching them closely at all times to see that no plans miscarried.

The first plan would not be just to those loyal members of the faculty who are already working up to the limits of their strength with large classes. The second might probably be feasible; but it presents the personal matter of which I spoke to you Thursday--my own health. It would demand for a couple of years a greater strain than my physician will allow or than I ought to undertake. I regret that I have not yet recovered from last summer's operations so thoroly but that I must deny myself the pleasure of doing this great work for Arkansas.

I am positive that the State Normal School can be made a great institution in every sense of the word: great in number of students, in power and in influence as it moulds the teachers of the boys and girls of our commonwealth. I sincerely wish that my health would permit me to undertake the task that development would involve. From our meeting together last week I know that you will select for this position, than which none other in Arkansas is of more importance, a school man of training and experience in normal-school work, and I shall hope for opportunities to cooperate with him in the up-building of the educational interests of the state.

I promised Mr. Frank E. Robins, editor of the Log Cabin

Democrat at Conway, that I would wire him my decision when it was made. I realize however that I am in no way the person to give out any news concerning this matter. I am refusing both the Little Rock Democrat and the Fayetteville Daily any statement whatever. May I ask you to do Mr. Robins the courtesy of letting him have any news story you do give out as soon as anyone else?

Very sincerely yours,

Signed----- J. R. Jewell.

Upon motion the diploma of Miss Ethel Beck was ordered signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the board. This diploma was issued last July but for some reason the signing of same was overlooked.

Several applications for the presidency of the Normal School were read but upon roll call Mr. B. W. Torreyson was unanimously elected President.

Mr. Torreyson was added to the Building Committee of the new administration building.

Mr. Doyme reported that it was necessary for several young men to leave the school at present on account of being called back to the farm or enlisting in the army and asked that the faculty be authorized to use its discretion as to giving diplomas to the young men. Same was granted and faculty authorized to grant diplomas wherever warranted.

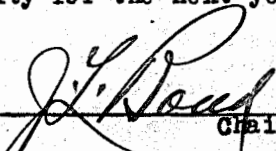
The President of the Normal School was authorized to increase pay of janitor to \$50.00 per month if necessary.

The traveling expenses of members were allowed as follows:

Mr. Owen	\$ 9.00
Mr. Hutchins	9.40

The Board adjourned to meet again Monday May 14th, at 10 o'clock for the purpose of selecting a faculty for the next year.


Secretary.


Chairman.