



DR. F. ERDMANN SMITH
Inaugurated President of Ottawa University

DR. F. ERDMANN SMITH IS INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT OF OTTAWA UNIVERSITY

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND INAUGURAL CEREMONIES MAKE GREATEST EVENT IN HISTORY
OF O. U.—TWO GREAT DAYS SPENT

EVERY NUMBER ON PROGRAM TENDS TO GREATER SCHOOL

Celebration Was Opened Monday Evening With Splendid Address by Dr. Evans of Kansas City on "The Nation's Need and the Function of the Church College—Male Quartet Sang—Dr. Crawford in Charge

What was perhaps the greatest event in the history of Ottawa University took place Monday and Tuesday of this week when the inauguration of our president was held in connection with the sixtieth anniversary of the college. It was a great affair and no one who is at all interested in the affairs of the institution and who was permitted to attend the different sessions of the celebration was disappointed in the way things were carried out. It was in truth a red letter lay in the history of the school. Long will the addresses of the prominent and great men be remembered and long will the academic march and the university dinner with all their side issues of interest be remembered. Everything that was carried out in connection with the ceremonies was well handled and people who came as visitors have expressed themselves as being exceedingly well pleased with the impression that they have received, not only of the college in general but also with the impression they have received of the new president.

Plans for the great event have been laid for weeks and President Smith has worked incessantly, as well as others who have been particularly interested, in preparing every phase of the ceremonies and services, in order that people over the entire United States might hear of our college and the work that is being done here. In preparation for the events of the past two days, letters were sent to alumni, pastors, workers interested in other educational institutions, and friends and parents of the students now in school, inviting them to attend the anniversary and inaugural services. Speakers of national and denominational prominence were invited. In fact everything that could possibly be done to make the affair more of a success was done.

Ottawa University has made a tremendous growth since her establishment sixty years ago and she has likewise made a marvelous contribution to thousands of people in the way of training and Christian influence. Men and women have gone out from the school and have made their mark on present and future civilization. High ideals have been the standard that the institution has held up to students when they have entered school here and as a result the standing of the school is of the highest order and it is known over a large area. Such affairs as that that has just been held will only go to make a greater institution out of it and it will be of even greater service to humanity in the future than it has been in the past. Every speaker that was heard at the different services of the series spoke in the most commendable way of the university and its standing in educational circles today. All were free in their praise of the work she is doing and has done in the past and all these men spoke very highly of Dr. Smith and his ability for the new work to which he has been called.

Dr. Smith has had a wonderful influence on the institution since being called to the presidency to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. Silas E. Price a year ago this time. Dr. Smith took up his new duties in early July of last year and has been untiring in his efforts to advance the work of the institution since that time. The results of his work can be seen very readily and they will undoubtedly be more evident when the great financial campaign contemplated, is launched. The people, especially those over the state of Kansas have come to think very highly of Dr. Smith and he has done much constructive work among groups of Christian men and women who have accordingly become fast friends of him and the college. They will remain true friends of the institution for years to come and it is with pride that the university can point to this great work being done by her leader.

There were events of interest happening at all times during the ceremonies and the students have undoubtedly enjoyed every minute of the time. The meeting held Monday evening at which time the anniversary session was formally opened was one of great interest. Dr. Evans who spoke, delivered a message that was most highly enjoyed by all who heard him. Tuesday was a full day, there

being something in connection with the celebration on at all times of the day. The academic procession which wended its way from the Administration building to the church was a splendid way in which to start the day and the Trustees, friends of the University, alumni, students, educational leaders and all others in the line of march thoroughly enjoyed it. The addresses which were heard at various times during the day were splendid and the university banquet which was held at noon was a time of extreme enjoyment. The reception for President and Mrs. Smith in the evening was a delightful affair and afforded further opportunity for visitors to become better acquainted with them. The closing session, held last night was a fitting climax to the wonderful days.

The whole affair was truly the greatest event that any now interested in the college have ever been privileged to take part in. It is with regret that a realization is had that it is over, but the ones who were in attendance have gone away with a greater vision and a nobler purpose in view for Ottawa University.

The opening session of the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Ottawa University was held at the First Baptist church Monday evening. The celebration in connection with the inaugural services had been advertised over the entire United States and a large crowd was present to hear the opening address and the special music of the evening. Many visitors from out of the city were present, many of them from other states.

Rev. J. T. Crawford, Executive Secretary of Kansas Baptist Convention, was in charge of the opening session. At 7:45, a short organ recital was given by Mrs. Paul R. Utt. The University Male Quartet sang a beautiful number, "Remember now Thy Creator," before the address and closed the service with another number, "Defiance."

The opening address of the series was given by Rev. D. J. Evans, Pastor of the First Baptist church, Kansas City, Mo. He spoke on "The Nation's Need of the Church College."

"We are all fast learning what education means and the significance of the church college and Christian education," said Dr. Evans. "The church college has already played an important part in the development of American life and its institutions. All higher education in the country began in the early church colleges."

All the large institutions which are not now denominational, were in the beginning. In the early days of their history they made a great contribution to American manhood, personalities who have made their mark in the world.

The churches of the country have felt the need of the impress of men and women who know how to interpret the facts of life in a Christian way and put the Christian emphasis on all facts. The need of a Christian education is more urgent now for civilization has grown so much more complex. There is an increased complexity in industrial, social, economic and political life of which our forefathers did not dream.

"The need of the Christian college is urgent today if the Christian college produces personalities that our civilization needs," said Mr. Evans. "If they do not furnish those personalities they do not fill the need of the world."

Three distinct functions of the Christian college were given by Rev. Evans. The first was the making of men and women that we need and demand; the development of Christian personalities. There are no products of any institution that can compare with the well trained Christian characters of men and women.

The world would encourage research and the development of science but a fact in itself is not so significant as a fact interpreted in a certain way. A Christian character and personality is the highest product of any institution and they are fundamental for progress. The fundamental function then of any church college is the development of this type of men and women.

The second distinct function of the Christian college is to interpret all

facts of life in such a way as to leave a vital faith in the souls of men and women. The gathering of facts is not the most important thing, but the interpretation of these facts. The function of the church college is to bring the hard facts from everywhere and interpret them to make one conscious that this is a living world—the living God. We want to assemble and interpret facts with the passion, insight and program of Christ. The church college is to make men conscious that the Spirit of God is running through the spirit of men.

The third function of the Christian college is "the training of men and women definitely committed to a Christian program."

The greatest peril to the Christian ministry today is the peril of cheap education. There is too much inadequately, poorly trained leadership in the churches today. A great denomination will never move ahead of its leadership. "Let us make it the prime function of the church college—to train men and women definitely committed to Christian service." The church college is to train men and women who can blaze the way through the world to a greater light, larger hope and a greater day.

"All this," said Dr. Evans, "has been the meaning and working of Ottawa, and it will continue to do such. This is the glory of the church school. That is why we ask for endowments for the carrying on of the great and glorious task."