

*Dean
W. C. Coffey*



TO SENIOR CLASS OF 1923, NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE:

Faith is peculiar to man. Without it, his plight would indeed be sad, for human progress would scarcely be possible. Before anyone can attain a desired end there must be faith that said end can be attained. It is faith in the child that causes the parent to send it to school. It is faith in self that causes the young man or young woman to leave home for school or college. It is faith in self that causes the young man or young woman to undertake a profession.

We need an abiding and unswerving faith in agriculture today. Agriculture in the United States has been and still is suffering from disparity between the prices farmers receive for their products and the prices they must pay for what they have to buy. Because the prices they pay are comparatively so much higher than the prices they receive, the returns from agriculture are disappointing and even ruinous in a number of cases for farmers in the northwest. As a result there is a rather wide spread attitude of discouragement amongst the farmers in this region.

Is there room for faith in agriculture? Yes. Why? Its necessity is so obvious to all; all see that it is an industry which is fundamental to national prosperity. As never before in the history of this nation, the whole people have become interested in the welfare of agriculture. In the whole course of human history it is doubtful whether any other nation has been as much interested in agriculture as is the United States today. Sixty-one years ago provision was made by the federal government for agricultural education, and ever since both the national government and the various state governments have become more and more liberal in their support of this type of education. This is an expression of faith both in agriculture and in the power of education to foster it.

If we have faith in the American nation, we must have faith in agriculture. You who are graduating from the Northwest School of Agriculture at this time are to be congratulated for the faith that is in you. You will see prosperity return to agriculture, and when the brighter day dawns you will be grateful that you prepared for your life work in an hour that was dark and uninviting.

Sincerely yours,

- DEAN WALTER C. COFFEY.

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