

THE RED RIVER AGGIE



To the Class of 1925, Northwest School:

The day I received a request to prepare a statement for the senior class of the Northwest School and Station, the daily papers were filled with arguments for a reduction in taxation. Taxes have increased enormously in recent years, and for all sorts of reasons. I was much impressed with the arguments and with the demand for reduction in taxation. On the other hand, it was perfectly clear that these arguments were not always based upon a consideration of the facts, the desires of the people, or the needs of the case. Indiscriminate tax reduction may mean a stoppage of public improvement, a failure to provide for the safety of people or the protection of property; it may mean inefficiency in social reforms and educational work; it may mean the thwarting of progress. High taxes may prevent progress, low taxes may do the same thing. In every case the tax question, like every other question pertaining to public welfare, must be considered on its merits. Your training should lead you to consider and weigh facts, to act on the basis of an intelligent consideration of them. You will not follow blindly but only where the facts lead. If this be the outcome of your training, your training will not have been in vain.

Sincerely yours,

*L. D. Coffman*

President,

University of Minnesota.

January 19, 1925.