

Remarks of Governor Stanley C. Wilson at the occasion of breaking ground for Bennington College, Bennington, Vt., Aug. 16, 1931. Released for use Monday, Aug. 17.

It is but natural that men and women should become pioneers in education here in Vermont, a state that for fourteen years was an independent nation hewn from a wilderness and defended against all the world by the courage of those earlier pioneers, the Green Mountain Boys. It is fitting that here in Bennington in sight of the noble Battle Monument, where the very winds bear the storied lessons of liberty, these modern pioneers should declare for freedom from rules and regulations heretofore prescribed for young people to obtain higher education. It is well that here where history tells of the deeds of individuals who stood out from their fellows in patriotic service because of their special development along certain lines, a new generation of educators should plan for education by encouraging the development of individual characteristics instead of trying to turn out all its students in the same mould.

Bennington College is the chartered child of Vermont. In behalf of the State, I am honored and privileged in having this opportunity to extend to its sponsors good wishes for its growth and successful development.

Vermont already has noble institutions of higher learning and we are proud of them all. If the proposed plan for Bennington College is carried out, it will not be just another college but one quite different from the others. To some extent it is to be an experiment in education which will be watched the country over. I trust that the experiment may turn out well and these courageous men and women who do not fear to do what they think ought to be done because it is new may have the reward of accomplishment of their ideals.

More learning in itself is not the end of education. Education is not the supreme ideal of life. Education is a means to the end of happier and more useful living. It is a training and preparation for real service in the home and the community.

May the women who here secure their education become leaders in thought, proud of their college, proud of their country, and imbued with the highest ideals of womanhood.

Vermont welcomes Bennington College. May its life be long. May its service to the cause of education be great. May it absorb the strength and beauty of these everlasting mountains. May it stand out among educational institutions as yonder monument towers above the man made structures that surround it.