

John Wingate Weeks
ADDRESS OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR AT THE FORMAL OPENING
OF
THE ARMY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL - FEBRUARY 21, 1924.

It is a pleasure for me to be here this afternoon to express my personal interest in the Army Industrial School, which is formally opened today, and to assure the Assistant Secretary of War and the officers associated with him in establishing this school of the desire of the War Department for the success of the school.

The World War demonstrated the wisdom of establishing the Army War College, which is the university of the Army, and the Service Schools at Leavenworth, Benning, Sill, Riley and Humphreys. There is no question but that the officers who graduated from these schools are better fitted for service with troops in war than those who have not received such training. In order to determine the value of the training at the service schools I had a study made of the records of a number of officers who served with troops in France. I concluded that the greater percentage of the men who made good over there were graduates of these schools.

Our recent experience has demonstrated the practicability of selective service as a means of providing man-power in the event of war. We have solved the problem of the method of raising the man-power for a war army, but the problem of feeding, clothing, and equipping that army has not been satisfactorily solved. The War Department, through the agency of the Assistant Secretary of War, is endeavoring to prepare the nation industrially in order that the munitions of war - food, clothing, arms, transportation, and so forth - shall be supplied as expeditiously and efficiently as man-power. No less important than man-power itself is the equipment with which man-power can make itself an effective instrument of warfare. In case of war it is imperative to undertake active hostilities with as little delay as possible and endeavor to strike a decisive blow before the enemy is equally prepared. Every day of delay in furnishing an army with its necessary supplies increases the loss of life, prolongs the conflict, and adds to the financial burden the country must assume.

We have seen the value of the army service schools to the combatant branches of the military service, and we believe their usefulness demonstrates the need for a school which shall specialize on the supply problems of the army. That is what we are inaugurating here this afternoon. We want to train officers in the supply branches in order to provide key men on every type of equipment needed by an army. Eventually all members of the Supply Branches should receive instruction in industrial subjects. That is our hope for this school. The school is more or less of an experiment, to be sure, but we believe the experiment will be successful and that the school will prove of great benefit to the nation. I want to assure you that the Army Industrial School will have the support of the War Department and the Secretary of War. The responsibility of making the school a success depends largely on you men who are to be its first faculty and its first student body. In undertaking this work you are performing a patriotic service and I hope and believe you will devote yourselves to this duty with energy and intelligence and the determination to make this experiment an important permanent institution in the United States Army.

END

Speech *Weeks*

Permanent School