

97-84060-1

Bailey, Liberty Hyde

Statement made at
Rochester, New York...

[n.p.]

[1913?]

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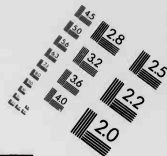
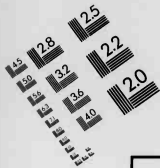
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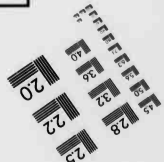
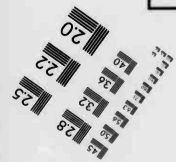
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June 3, 1914

Statement made at
Rochester, New York,
Dec. 22, 1913, by
L. H. BAILEY. ✓

STATEMENT ON THE FORESTRY SITUATION

To the Governors of the Cornell Club
of Rochester.

Gentlemen :

In response to your request, I am come to give you "some first hand information" concerning "the numerous questions being asked and criticisms being made about the forestry situation at Cornell." Although not connected in any way with Cornell University, and not an alumnus of the institution, I am nevertheless glad to be the means of placing in your hands a clear statement of the facts, without controversy and I hope without prejudice, touching the situation in which the important forestry work is now placed.

You desire an answer from me on such statements as the following :

It is reported that the College of Agriculture made no effort to resume instruction in forestry until the bill to establish the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University had been passed by the Legislature, although refused by the Governor; also that Cornell then started on a course for farmers as part of the College of Agriculture and that it had no intention of undertaking professional work until the enterprise developed at Syracuse University. It is also stated that the building at Ithaca was not appropriated by the Legislature as a forestry building but only as a part of a group of plant-industry buildings. Some people understand that Cornell University asked for a certain appropriation for forestry work and that there was a contest on this appropriation between Cornell and Syracuse University and the appropriation was secured by the latter rather than the former. It is charged that the duplication of forestry work in the state is to be laid to Cornell.

If these statements are true, then some one has acted in bad faith, and for this you, as alumni, would not wish to stand. Some of you have been uneasy about such statements. I shall give you the facts.

The gist of these reports is that Cornell University was moved to establish courses in forestry, and particularly professional courses, because another university was moving in the same direction. This certainly is an unworthy motive,

308

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Box 143

and the situation should be cleared up. Inasmuch as the present forestry work at Cornell is in the College of Agriculture and as I was director of that college in the period under dispute, I feel that in justice to that college, as well as to myself, I should acquaint you with the intentions,—for this is a question of intentions. Of course you understand that in no way am I speaking officially or for any one else : I am making a personal statement.

I ought to say at the outset that I have tried to put these matters straight with the people of the state. In a public address on the 8th of last March I gave the essential facts, and that address was printed and widely distributed. At the request of the editor, I also stated important parts of the case in *The Tribune Farmer* for May 8, 1913. Certain parts of the address have been discussed and attacked, but I am not aware that the history of the resumption of the forestry work, given in the same print, has been acknowledged.

THE OLD COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

Before taking up the matter immediately in hand, let me recall the first organization in this state for the teaching of forestry. I am doing this only to answer the questions that are in your minds, for the experience of the old College of Forestry has little or no bearing on the merits of the present situation. The history of the old litigation is the subject of another statement, which may be presented as a matter of information.

The New York State College of Forestry at Cornell University was established in 1898. I have always thought that its establishment was a mistake.

The College of Forestry undertook two kinds of work, both of which were, of course, very closely associated. One was the regular teaching at Ithaca. The other was the management for educational purposes of a large tract of land in the Adirondack region. The regular appropriation for the College of Forestry was \$10,000 a year, although special appropriations had been made for the forestry work in the Adirondack tract.

The system of clear-cutting and replanting that was introduced in the Adirondack tract, aroused the objection of persons in the vicinity and an agitation arose against it. As a result, in 1903 the Governor declined to sign the regular appropriation for the College; and the staff was then dis-

banded. That is, the appropriation, and not the college, was discontinued by the Governor.

An appropriation was made in that year, however, for doing certain work in the Adirondack tract and this appropriation continued even after the teaching work in the College of Forestry was discontinued. Litigation arose over the title to the Adirondack lands and it was finally determined that the University was an agent of the state and the lands have, therefore, become state property. The tract of about thirty thousand acres was secured for the state at \$5.00 per acre, which is a low price for the tract, and the area is now a part of the general State Adirondack Park. Much has been made of the discontinuation of the old College of Forestry, but the circumstances arose in connection with the management of lands in the Adirondack region and not in connection with the regular teaching work of the College.

The law establishing the College of Forestry was not repealed. It is still on the statute books. In fact, the business connected with the old College of Forestry necessitated the continuation of the legal organization, and Mynderse VanCleaf, of the Board of Trustees of Cornell University, was made the Director of the New York State College of Forestry at Cornell University.

It has been asked why the forestry work at Cornell was not resumed by securing another appropriation and re-officering the College of Forestry. The reason is that in the meantime a State College of Agriculture was established, and a separate College of Forestry was not necessary, nor was the resumption of that institution the best way of reaching the forestry situation there. Of course, the forestry work at Cornell can be accomplished much more effectively and also with less outlay by developing it in the State College of Agriculture than by maintaining two independent establishments. With two establishments, it would have been very difficult to have prevented duplication.

You probably have not forgotten that the reason for establishing the College of Forestry at Cornell University is that Cornell University is founded on the Federal Land-Grant Act of 1862, which places a college in the different states for the teach-

ing of agriculture and mechanic arts and related subjects, in co-operation with the states. The charter given originally by the Legislature obligates Cornell University to teach agriculture and the mechanic arts. In 1894 the state had established the Veterinary College at the University, and the founding of the College of Forestry was in continuation of its policy. The subsequent establishment of the State College of Agriculture was a further continuation of the policy.

THE EARLY INTENTION IN THE RESUMPTION OF THE FORESTRY WORK

I now come to the question of the personal intention or motive in resuming the forestry work at Cornell. I can speak positively, for the intention was mine.

From the very first discussion of forestry teaching and experimenting in this state, I have held that the work is primarily agricultural (in the broad sense in which the term "agriculture" is used in state departments of agriculture, colleges of agriculture, the agricultural experiment stations, and the United States Department of Agriculture), and that the agricultural and professional phases should be developed together, both in the interest of effectiveness and of good public policy; and also in the interest of economy. These matters were the subjects of many conferences and recommendations.

In 1903, when the discussions touching the old College of Forestry were acute, the late S. F. Nixon, then Speaker of the Assembly, wrote me for advice. My reply I considered to be so important at that juncture that I submitted it to the President of Cornell University before I mailed it; and here is the letter with the President's approval. [Letter exhibited]. It was written Oct. 26, 1903,—note that this was before the State College of Agriculture was established. Most of the part relating to instruction in forestry is as follows:—

"In regard to the forestry question concerning which you ask, there are two distinct phases. * * * As I already have explained to you, the forestry problem in New York State is essentially an agricultural problem. * * * * * The larger part of these lands is probably on farms and not in forest preserves. Almost every farm in the state has its woodlot. We are giving advice in respect to butter, and poultry, and green-houses, and many other agricultural interests, but no

agency in this state is taking up the subject of farm forestry. These farm forests are the source of much direct revenue to the farming interests; more than seven and one half million dollars per year is the value of the farm-forest products of New York State and this state leads the Union in the value of such products. These forests also have a very important relation to the public welfare. They are concerned with the whole question of maintenance of streams, preventing of floods, controlling of water power, preserving of fish and game, and sheltering the country from sweeping winds.

"I believe that a school of forestry should train professional foresters, for a certain number of these will always be needed."

From that time to this, I have persistently advised that an organization for teaching and investigating forestry should cover the two phases of the subject—the agricultural application and the professional training. The desire to establish forestry work in the new College of Agriculture, professional and otherwise, was formulated and explained before I ever heard that any other institution in the state desired to enter the field.

In 1903 (before the State established the State College of Agriculture) I made a report or statement for Speaker Nixon and others, of which the following is a part:—

"Nearly every farm in the State has woodland. The value of the farm-forest products is more than seven and one-half millions of dollars yearly, being greater than in any other state. No college or institution in the State gives advice for the management of these farm woodlands. Advice is needed for the management of orchards, dairies, green-houses, gardens and corn fields.

"All private woodlands have important relations with the public welfare—with preventing of floods, maintaining of water power, preserving of game, providing wind-breaks and shelter-belts.

"Aside from the preservation and policing of its own reservations, the State needs two kinds of forestry enterprise:—

1. Education on the management of private woodlands.
2. Training of professional foresters.

"This work should be conducted by the College of Agriculture, for all forestry is an agricultural subject and farm forestry is inextricably associated with agricultural teaching."

THE STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE SUCCEEDS TO THE
FORESTRY WORK

Fortunately, some of my early recommendations are matters of printed and other record, as I shall now relate. The recommendation for the professional work is continuous and is sufficient to show that it was always considered to be an essential part of a forestry program.

The State established the New York State College of Agriculture at Cornell University in 1904. The Administration Act to govern the College was passed in 1906 and the first regular appropriation for maintenance was made at that time.

In my report as Director of the College of Agriculture to the President of the University for the college year 1905-06, I outlined in skeleton form the main lines of work that the College should undertake in order to fulfill the requirements of the law and to meet the needs of the people of the state. In this outline, "forestry" is mentioned, as recorded in the President's published report for that year and subsequently in the Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture published by the State.

In my report for the year 1906-07, I made two special recommendations looking to the organization of large departments in the College and one of these was for a Department of Forestry, some of the reasons being as follows :

"The forests are important sources of wealth and prosperity in New York State. There are great tracts of public forests. Almost every farm of any size also has its forest. Almost one-third of New York is in woodland. In the last census year New York led all the states in the Union in the value of farm-forest products. These forests are related also to maintenance of streams, water power, water supplies, floods, fish and game, climate and the general attractiveness of the country. No institution in the state is teaching forestry. The state is greatly in need of an enlightened intelligence on these questions. They are primarily agricultural questions. The forest is a crop. Whatever forestry work is done by the University should

be a part of the College of Agriculture. This College of Agriculture is giving advice on many crops of much less importance than the forest crop.

It should be able to make a beginning towards meeting the economic needs of the people, providing one more agency to educate persons in terms of their daily lives, and to train professional foresters."

Under the head of "Other Departments Now Needed," the above recommendation appeared in the Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the year 1907; and although the special title was given there as "farm forestry", the recommendation as to the training of professional foresters was retained.

In the report of the following year, 1907-08, I called attention again to the need of a Department of Forestry.

In an address delivered on the occasion of Farmers' Week in February, 1909, on the relation of the College to the State, I made a statement of the need of developing forestry work, and this address was published in pamphlet form and widely distributed.

In the year 1909-10, Acting Director Webber in my absence made a strong argument for instruction in forestry, as published in the President's annual report of that year. He called attention to the fact that "the closely allied branches of study, such as plant physiology, plant pathology, principles of agriculture, horticulture, soils, climatology, and the like, are now regularly given in this College, so that a strong course in forestry can easily be arranged. The importance of instructing farmers of the state on these problems in connection with our extension work will also be clearly recognized."

In the summer of 1910, the Board of Trustees of Cornell University established a Department of Forestry in the College of Agriculture. In November, 1910, a definite program of organization was laid out, including professional forestry and farm forestry. In the following month a professor of forestry was secured. In July, 1911, Governor Dix signed the bill establishing the State College of Forestry at Syracuse University, the bill having been vetoed the year before by Governor Hughes.

It will be seen, therefore, that the intention to establish forestry work in the College of Agriculture was recommended from a time preceding the organization of the College on a state basis until the establishment was finally secured. Such equipment as the old College of Forestry had is now the property of the Forestry Department. The Department of Forestry in the State College of Agriculture is the natural successor of the old College of Forestry: what the denomination of the organization is—whether department or college—is of no consequence. The College of Agriculture gives a professional forestry degree (M.F.), the same in grade as is given by separate colleges of forestry; and it does the same kind of professional work, and in addition it reaches the rural situation so far as it is equipped to do so. It would have been a violation of all rules of modern efficiency to have resumed the College of Forestry to train professional foresters and to have maintained a department in the College of Agriculture for the practical farm applications.

When the staff of the old College of Forestry was disbanded, it had a faculty of three professors and an enrollment of 70 students. The Department of Forestry in the State College of Agriculture now has five professors of forestry and various assistants, and an enrollment in classes of some 260 students. More than 125 students are pursuing the professional forestry course. The forestry work in the State College of Agriculture, therefore, is a larger teaching enterprise than was the old College of Forestry, although, because of the allied and fundamental departments provided at public expense, the maintenance outlay is not very greatly increased.

THE ACTUAL BEGINNING OF THE FORESTRY WORK

It has been charged that in the first few months of the development of the present Department of Forestry at Cornell, those connected with it repeatedly said that the only purpose was to teach farm forestry, implying that the teaching of professional forestry was an afterthought and purposely in opposition to the plans of another institution. I know of no reason for such a charge. I have tried to discover any statements of this kind by responsible parties at Cornell but have not been able to do so. Certainly my own recommendations and my correspondence with prospective teachers are clear in ex-

pressing the intention to develop professional forestry with the rest.

In the first letter that I wrote Walter Mulford, now head of the Department, Oct. 13, 1910, I made these statements: "I want to reach the farm forest situation in the State as a part of our regular work. I want at the same time to train professional foresters, and I think that the facilities will be got for it." In reply, under date of Oct. 15, Professor Mulford wrote: "The two lines of effort (help for the farm woodlot and the training of professional foresters) which you outline for the future forestry department are both vital. And I hope that Cornell will soon be able to add a third very important line of forestry work,—a thoroughly equipped experiment station at Ithaca, as a part of the Agricultural Experiment Station."

On Nov. 7, 1910, the provisional plans for the forestry work were made in my office with Professor Mulford, and these plans very definitely included both professional and farm forestry. In fact, nothing else could have been expected in an institution of the grade of Cornell, in which post-graduate work is anticipated as a matter of course. Professor Mulford agreed to take up the work with that understanding, and the following month (Dec. 1910) the Board of Trustees elected him professor of forestry. Professor Mulford was on duty at Cornell from January 26 to February 23, 1911, and on June 15, 1911, he took up his residence in Ithaca.

It was not possible, however, to bring together at once a sufficient staff and equipment to warrant the offering of such a professional course in 1911 as would be worthy of the institution. On Aug. 14, 1911, a mimeographed sheet (for use in answering questions) was issued, indicating the courses then available, and only farm forestry courses were mentioned. Much has been made of this circular as showing that the College intended giving only farm forestry work, but nothing was said in the circular to indicate that other courses were not in contemplation, and the circular very distinctly said that the proposed lines of work were to be given for "the present year," "for the year 1911-1912," "during the year 1911-12." I clearly remember

authorizing this statement of the work then ready, not for professional foresters and not leading to a forestry degree, but there was no intention whatever of giving up the projected plan of professional training. The development of it was only postponed.

In the same year (Dec. 11, 1911), I wrote as follows to the President of the University when recommending another professor of forestry :

"Forestry is naturally a part of agriculture. An institution really has no right to call itself a college of agriculture unless it is allowed to develop forestry work, as well as dairying, horticulture, farm crops, animal husbandry, soils, plant-breeding, and other subjects. About twenty-seven per cent of the State of New York is in woodland. Nearly every farm has more or less timber. These farm forests are really farm crops, as much as corn, grass, or potatoes. These forest crops are relatively very unproductive at the present time. The subject of forest cropping must be taught along with other farm subjects. It would be just as illogical to separate the forestry from a college of agriculture as to separate the animal husbandry or the pomology. The subject of farm management, for example, cannot be taught without considering the forest as a part of the farm, just as much as we consider the meadow or the grain fields as a part of the farm. Of necessity, a college of agriculture must teach forestry if it reaches the rural situation.

"It has sometimes been said that the College of Agriculture here might concern itself only with farm forestry; but there really is no such subject as farm forestry, any more than there is farm physics or farm geology or farm dairying or farm entomology. In other words, the farm forestry is only an application of the general principles and practices of good forestry, and the whole subject must be developed in order to have teaching in forestry that is really substantial and worth the while. It is impossible to separate it into its different applications, and yet have those applications founded on good scientific principles. Practically the same equipment that is needed for teaching forestry in general must be established for the good teaching of farm forestry. Moreover, it will be impossible to secure the best men if the department is limited merely to what is called farm forestry. There must be sufficient organization and momentum to cover the ground and to attract the ablest experts."

I do not see how it is possible for any serious misapprehension to arise respecting the nature of the forestry work in

the College of Agriculture. The plans have been published as freely as the plans of other work in the College. I have explained the forestry work at Albany, the same as I have explained other work of the institution. The forestry has been included with the other matters in the reports required by law to the Commissioner of Agriculture. The subject has been presented and explained in many conferences and lectures.

THE INTENTION LIES IN THE NATURE OF THINGS

But even if there were no records of the intention to introduce professional forestry work to meet the natural and necessary demand, every person acquainted with the situation would have expected,—as I have explained,—that this phase would normally develop. Farm forestry is only a special application of the general principles of forestry. These principles must be taught. They must be taught well. At Cornell they must be of university standards. Post-graduate work (that is, professional work) must be developed in forestry as well as in plant-breeding or soils or dairying or entomology. I should never have been interested in a department of forestry at an institution like Cornell if there could not have been prospect of sufficient equipment and a staff of sufficient size and capacity to handle the whole field; all parts of the subject should go together,—this is important for the professional work as well as for the distinctly agricultural work.

Forestry work is an essential part of a fully developed college of agriculture. The subjects of instruction interlock. One department aids another. The necessary fundamental and accessory subjects are already provided in a college of agriculture, and relatively small expense and little overhead outlay are entailed to add the specialties.

THE OTHER MISAPPREHENSIONS

The statement that the forestry building at Cornell was not appropriated separately for forestry needs explanation, for this further indicates the articulation of the work. A group-building for plant-industry is projected in the College of Agriculture. In this compound it is intended to headquarter such subjects as plant-breeding, forestry, pomology, plant

pathology, farm crops, and others. The appropriation by the Legislature of 1912 of \$100,000 was for the "forestry section of the plant industry building." The Legislature subsequently appropriated \$20,000 "for equipment of the forestry building." It is the first section of the plant-industry group, and of course it is yet standing alone; it is nearly completed. The design is to connect it and the forthcoming sections into one general building or group. But these discussions are really of no consequence: the building is by statute a forestry building and it will house the forestry work.

The statement I hear to the effect that there was contest between two institutions as to which one should secure a certain appropriation is wholly without meaning or foundation.

CONCLUSION

I hope that I have now explained to you my attitude on the forestry situation, in so far as it relates to the introduction of courses in the College of Agriculture, in sufficient fullness to answer your questions. I have made the statements in no spirit of controversy, but only that you may know.

L. H. BAILEY

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