



Service Bulletin

U. S. FOREST SERVICE
(Contents Confidential)

Vol. VII, No. 7.

Washington, D. C.

February 12, 1923.

DR. FERNOW DIES AT TORONTO

Dr. Bernard Edward Fernow, author, pioneer educator, organizer of the forestry movement, and the first United States Forester, died on the morning of February 6 at Toronto.

Dr. Fernow was born in Posen, Prussia, in 1851, and studied under the famous Heyer and other noted foresters. He first came to this country in 1878 and soon took an active part in the forestry movement of New York State, where he formulated legislation establishing the Forest Reserve in the Adirondacks. From 1885 to 1898 he was Editor of the Proceedings of the American Forestry Association. Largely because of the activities of this association, the greatest piece of forest legislation so far adopted in our country was enacted - the law of 1891, authorizing the President of the United States to establish National Forest reserves. This act led to the creation of the present National Forests.

In 1886 Dr. Fernow's great work for the nation really began when he accepted the position of organizer and director of the forestry work of the Government for the Department of Agriculture, a position which he occupied until 1898.

During twelve years spent in Washington, Dr. Fernow kept in close touch with the forestry work in the various States, and there was little of State forest legislation passed during this time in which his opinion was not consulted. He secured the cooperation of many prominent men of science. Numerous bulletins and circulars, including monographs on White Pine, the Southern Timber Pines; results of tests and studies in timber physics, the first complete discussion of the metal railway tie as a possible substitute; studies on timber impregnation and other subjects, all of immediate value in wood utilization, are evidence to-day of the painstaking work of the guiding spirit which directed them and edited their results for publication.

Throughout the twelve years in the Bureau of Forestry, Dr. Fernow never ceased to write articles and addresses. In these years the larger part of two hundred articles and addresses, over twenty circulars, and over thirty bulletins and reports were prepared and edited.

In 1898 Dr. Fernow was called to Cornell to organize the first forestry school in the new world. Here he inaugurated the beginnings of professional education. After leaving Cornell he worked for four years as consulting forester. During these four years he continued the Forestry Quarterly; delivered lectures at Yale University, and started the forest school at Pennsylvania State College. In 1907 Dr. Fernow accepted an invitation to Toronto University and organized the first forest school in the Dominion. At the time of his death he was Professor Emeritus of that institution.

His well known "History of Forestry" is a masterpiece of its kind, covering the subject for both the Old and New World.

Three years ago, when Dr. Fernow retired from active teaching, there was published in AMERICAN FORESTRY a tribute by Raphael Zon to the father of forestry in the new world. To-day the words assume an added significance. "While the period which Dr. Fernow typifies is rapidly becoming history, his teachings and his contributions have the quality of

DR. FERNOW DIES AT TORONTO (Cont.)

permanence. They have been always a source of inspiration and guidance to the pioneers of forestry; they will be infinitely more so to the actual managers of our forest lands as soon as real woods forestry comes into general practice. As with any great teacher, it is not the kind of theory that he happens to advocate that really counts, but the ability to teach how to think in his particular field. Theories come and go, but the ability to orient oneself in the details of complex problems is a lasting asset; he who teaches to meet ever-changing problems, not by a ready-made theory or hypothesis, but by a critical attitude and ability to discern between the essential and nonessential, is building on a solid foundation. With him forestry was not merely theory, but a movement ever changing as life itself, and for him problems became soluble not in ready-made formulas but in the forces, economic and natural, that are at work."

To Mrs. Fernow the Forest Service has sent the following message: "In this hour of sorrow may the thought console you that Dr. Fernow's work will never die but will be carried on as long as the Forest Service endures. The members of the Forest Service extend to you and your family their deepest sympathy in your loss."--T.H.G. *Thomas H. Gill*

THE MATTER WITH OUR LAND EXCHANGE BUSINESS

By Clinton G. Smith, D-7

Mr. Kneipp, in a recent issue of the Bulletin, asks "What is the matter with our Land Exchange?" This partial answer is given on the basis of the Florida Exchange Act of July 3, 1916.

If it takes over two years to put an exchange through the Department of the Interior, the effect on the exchange business can readily be anticipated. With four exchanges pending since 1919, no exchanges have been offered since May, 1920. See following table of Florida exchanges to date:

Name of applicant:	Date approved :	Area of Agriculture :	Area of Govt. land (selected) :	Area of Priv. land (base) :	Date patent Interior :
Ewing, D. A.	6-7-17	80		164	2-20-18
Harrison, W. W.	7-16-18	3,513		7,373	11-10-20
Sutton & Harrison:	12-26-17	749		1,603	10-13-21
Ferdon, C. B.	8-16-19	2,311		6,219	
McCaskill, R. E. L.	1-6-20	4,216		11,021	
(Flournoy Lands):					
(C16510)					
Bryan, R. E.	11-18-19	2,200		7,107	11-3-22
Bryan, R. E.	1-14-20	78		321	1-19-23
(Faircloth Land):					
(C16511)					
McCaskill, R. E. L.	1-6-20	4,904		13,502	
(Walton Land & Timber Co.)					
(C16509)					
Rose, E. P.	1-26-20	2,440		6,100	
Ratio, 1 to 26 :	Totals	20,491		53,410	