



Professor James W. Toumey Dies

Professor James W. Toumey, a member of the faculty of the Yale School of Forestry since its foundation in 1900, and former dean of the School, died suddenly May 6. Although he suffered a heart attack three weeks ago, his death was unexpected. He was sixty-seven years old.

For thirty-two years, from the opening of the institution until his death, Professor Toumey was continuously associated with the Yale School of Forestry. Graduating from Michigan State College in 1889, he served as an assistant in the Department of Botany of that College until 1891, when he became assistant professor of biology at the University of Arizona. He remained at the latter institution for eight years, serving as assistant professor, later as professor of botany, and finally as director of the Agricultural Experiment Station. In 1899, he resigned to accept a position in the United States Forest Service, in charge of the cooperative work in tree planting conducted by the government. This position he held until 1900 when he was called to Yale.

Mr. Toumey's training had been chiefly in botanical fields and his approach to forestry was essentially from the botanical side. His chief interest lay toward dendrology and silviculture, and his coming to Yale placed the new School of Forestry in a position of leadership in these two fields. It also brought to the school the gift of Mr. Toumey's personal herbarium of 2,500 species of American trees and shrubs. In 1903, he was promoted to professor of forestry and later he was appointed Morris K. Jessup Professor of Silviculture, which chair he held at the time of his death.

When Dean Henry S. Graves was called to Washington in 1910, to assume the duties of chief of the United States Forest Service, Professor Toumey became acting dean, and later dean, of the Yale School of Forestry. This position he held until the return of Colonel Graves in 1922. During this period the activities of the school were notably expanded and through Professor Toumey's efforts important endowments were made to widen the scope and increase the effectiveness of the work of the school. Mr. Toumey also served as the head of the Committee on Forest Education of the

Society of American Foresters, which met in New Haven in 1920 and had a marked influence in shaping the educational policies of the forest schools in the country.

After resigning the deanship, he devoted the greater share of his time to research and to the development of graduate study, which increased greatly in scope and importance under his leadership. In 1928 Mr. Toumey was instrumental in organizing the Plant Science



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Research Club, which brings together the botanists of the University and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and the students who are interested in research in the general field of plant science. Among other activities he organized and built up the Yale Demonstration and Research Forest at Keene, New Hampshire. He secured funds to increase the holdings, to reforest the open and poorly stocked lands, and to improve the property generally. He created a forest experiment

station of capital importance which is already widely known. Each summer a group of advanced students work on the property, and the researches conducted on it are contributing materially to our knowledge of forestry under conditions prevailing in that region. The Keene Forest will stand as a distinctive memorial to Mr. Toumey's work at Yale.

Professor Toumey held the honorary degrees of Doctor of Science from Syracuse University and Doctor of Forestry from Michigan State College. He was the author of two widely used forestry textbooks, "Seeding and Planting in the Practice of Forestry," published in 1916 and revised in 1931, with the aid of C. F. Korstian, and "Foundations of Silviculture," which appeared in 1929.

Vigilante Committees Formed to Combat Forest Fires in Northwest

Led by Governors J. E. Erickson and C. Ben Ross, more than 3,000 representative citizens of Montana and Idaho have signed up as volunteer fire wardens to help cope with the forest fire situation this year.

Governor Erickson of Montana, in enlisting as a volunteer fire warden, likened the group to the old-time vigilante committees of the West.

"Montana's forests constitute one of her biggest assets," he said. "They provide timber, universally used in one form or another by more than 90 per cent of her inhabitants. They help regulate stream flow; providing a more constant supply of water for power, for domestic purposes and for irrigation of mountain and valley ranches. They help prevent destructive erosion and the silting of reservoirs and irrigation canals. They provide shelter, refuge and breeding grounds for our fur-bearing animals and our wild game. They offer our most accessible and best-loved recreation grounds—for hunting and fishing; for camping, picnicking and for summer homes in the cool, green forests and beside beautiful, placid lakes.

"One of the worst enemies of our forests is fire. During the period 1908 to 1930 inclusive, forest fires in Montana swept over more than 2,900,000 acres; destroyed resources valued at almost \$14,000,000. Within this period there were reported more than 17,500 individual forest fires; in their suppression twenty-seven