

Tribute to the Late Dr. B. E. Fernow

Address given by Sir Robert Falconer, President, University of Toronto, at the funeral of Dr. Fernow, which was held in the chapel of Knox College, Toronto, Thursday, February 8th, 1923.

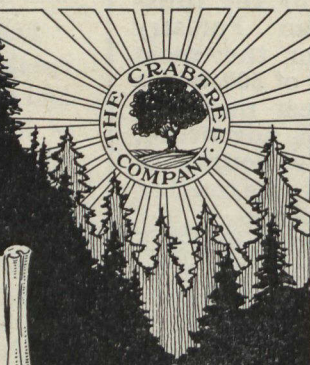
DEATH came gently to Dr. Fernow. He had no long wrestle with his last foe, but fell into unconsciousness several hours before the end and never came out of it. But he would have faced death, we may be sure, had he been in full possession of his natural powers, with the same courage that he displayed in his other experiences. His last appearance among his friends was on January 19th in Hart House, when he came in to hear Dean Graves of Yale address the Foresters' Club, and he must have been greatly pleased to receive the expressions of respect for his work and regard for his personal worth that were made by experts and former students. His feebleness on that occasion was a token to most of us that his remaining days would be few, and we cannot but be thankful that he has gone before his powers had so failed as to leave him little pleasure in life.

We wish to think of Dr. Fernow as he was in the fullness of his powers. He was then a man of great consistency of character. His walk and bearing were those of an upright man, and such he was. He was also one of the leading authorities on his subject in this continent, so much so that he has been called "the father of American Forestry." Dr. Fernow was born in Prussia 72 years ago, was educated in the Forest Academy of Münden and in the University of Königsberg and was six years in the Prussian Forest

Department. He came to the United States in 1876 and engaged in the metallurgical business. In 1886 he became Chief of the Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture at Washington, where he remained until 1898. From 1898 to 1903 he was Director and Dean of the State College of Forestry in Cornell, and for one year afterward was Professor of Forestry in State College, Pennsylvania. In 1907, he accepted the position of Dean of the new Faculty of Forestry in the University of Toronto, which he held until in 1919 he retired after having passed the age limit and on account of approaching infirmity. During all these years he was a prolific contributor on forestry subjects; he established a *Forestry Quarterly*, wrote a *History of Forestry, Economics of Forestry*, and *Care of Trees*.

Dr. Graves of Yale University on the occasion above referred to spoke of Dr. Fernow as the creator of Modern Forestry in the United States. Few in Toronto probably realized the position which he held in this department. Probably the years he spent in Cornell were those in which he had most unalloyed satisfaction, and the impression he made in those five years is shown by the fact that even till to-day he is most warmly remembered in that University, and not many months ago a memorial was erected there to perpetuate his name.

In Toronto, Dr. Fernow had to inaugurate a new faculty and that on a comparatively small scale. With all respect to his associates it may be said

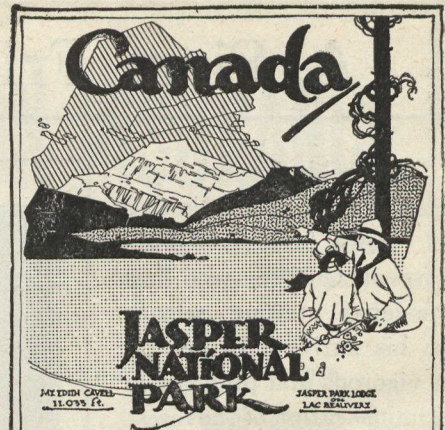


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