

Elton James Dyce

July 15, 1900 — February 23, 1976

Professor Emeritus E. J. Dyce passed away at his winter home in Florida on February 23, 1976. Dyce served as assistant professor, associate professor, and professor of apiculture in the University's Department of Entomology for twenty-three years. He had retired on December 31, 1965. A native of Ontario, Dyce served as demonstrator, lecturer, and professor of apiculture at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, now Guelph University, from 1924 to 1940. He was the first manager of the Finger Lakes Honey Producers Cooperative in Groton, New York, between 1940 and 1942; in that position he worked to develop a wide market for New York State honey.

Dr. Dyce was born and raised in Meaford, Ontario. He obtained his B.S.A. from Ontario Agricultural College in 1923. He earned his M.S. degree at McGill University where he was a Macdonald scholar. He obtained his Ph.D. degree at Cornell under the direction of Professor E.F. Phillips.

Dyce was best known for his process for controlling the crystallization and fermentation of honey. His process is used throughout the world in all major honey-producing countries. The United States patent rights were given to Cornell University with the stipulation that any monies earned be used solely for research on bees and honey. The patent earned more money than any other patent ever held by the University. In Canada the patent was granted to the Province of Ontario. A small portion of the monies earned in the United States was used to endow the E.F. Phillips' Library, the world's most complete collection of apicultural literature.

Money earned by the Dyce patent was also used to build the Dyce Laboratory for honey bee studies on the Freese Road near Varna in 1968. The three-thousand-square-foot laboratory is devoted exclusively to honey bee studies, especially studies on reproduction and behavior.

During his tenure at Cornell, Dyce traveled to many of the major honey-producing countries in the world and wrote extensively about bees and beekeeping problems that he witnessed. He advised on methods of bee management, honey production, and marketing; his advice has had a profound effect on the development of the worldwide beekeeping industry.

Professor Dyce spent one sabbatic leave in Central America where he was engaged by the Institute of Inter-American Affairs to make a survey of the beekeeping industry in Costa Rica and Peru. On a separate tour, he was invited by the government of the Dominican Republic to advise on honey processing and handling in that

country. During one period he went around the world and spent considerable time in Australia and New Zealand, major honey-producing countries, advising on honey processing techniques there. He subsequently visited India, the East, and Europe.

Students came from many countries to study under Professor Dyce, both to obtain degrees and just to study. He trained more professional apiculturists during his time at Cornell than any other man in the United States had ever trained before him. Several men had also obtained advanced degrees under his tutelage at Guelph as well.

Dyce was elected an honorary member in the International Bee Research Association; he was the second American apiculturist to be so honored. He was also honored by being elected a vice president of that organization. He was awarded the Silver Medal of the Apiculture Society of Argentina and was elected to honorary membership in the Pan American Association for apicultural investigators. He was a member of Sigma Xi, Epsilon Sigma Phi, the Entomological Society of America, the American Beekeeping Federation, and the Empire State Honey Producers Association for which he acted as field secretary for a great number of years.

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