

Harold Ellis Ross

October 23, 1881 — July 1, 1966

In the death of Professor Harold Ellis Ross, Cornell University lost an outstanding teacher who trained hundreds of students during the forty years from 1906 to 1946.

Professor Ross was born in Leadville, Colorado, while that town was still a turbulent mining center; but while he was yet very young his family elected to move to the then more peaceful atmosphere of central southern New York State. His early education was gained in the rural schools of that region, and in the high school at Waverly, New York. In 1906, he was graduated from the College of Agriculture at Cornell University, with the degree of Bachelor of Science in agriculture.

Before graduation, he was employed on a part-time basis by the department of dairy industry as a student assistant, and immediately upon graduating he entered a full-time position as assistant in that department. In 1907, he was advanced to an instructorship. In 1909, he obtained the degree of Master of Science in agriculture and was appointed Assistant Professor in Dairy Industry. In 1912, he was appointed to a full professorship in the department, in which position he continued until his retirement on October 31, 1946.

For many years Professor Ross was actively affiliated with the Society of American Bacteriologists, and with the American Dairy Science Association. His university fraternal memberships include Sigma Xi and Gamma Alpha.

Although he had a keen interest in all matters pertaining to dairying, Professor Ross specialized in the teaching of fluid milk-processing, in the course popularly known as "market milk." Both by training and experience, and in personality, he was admirably fitted for this work. Actually, he pioneered in this field, being credited with having given the first course in market milk procedure ever offered in an American college. In periods free from classwork, he contributed substantially to the development of extension work in his department, in cooperation with county agents, through direct contacts with farmers and dairy plant operators, and by means of educational exhibits at county and state fairs. During all these years he was also actively concerned with the administration of the business affairs of the department. He was especially concerned with operating the College dairy plant in order that it would function to provide materials for teaching purposes and to provide promising students with an opportunity to gain experience under practical conditions.

With all this to occupy him, Professor Ross still found occasional time for research and writing. Either alone, or jointly with associates, he published a number of bulletins, and wrote on various dairy topics for dairy journals. He was also the author of four books which have been widely recognized: *A Dairy Laboratory Guide*; *A Laboratory Guide for High Schools*; *A Laboratory Guide in Market Milk*; and *The Care and Handling of Milk*. The titles of the first three definitely indicate their respective fields of application. The fourth book is much broader in its scope and is planned to serve all persons interested in its phase of dairying—the teacher, the student, the milk plant operator, and others.

During World War I, Professor Ross was released from his University duties for a period in order that he might assist the federal government in a national campaign for better utilization of the by-products of milk. During a sabbatic leave in 1917-18 he pursued additional studies along these lines at the University of Chicago. Again in 1925, he was released to permit his spending a year in Argentina, where at the request of the Argentinian government he established and equipped in Buenos Aires a laboratory for the production of modified milk for infant feeding, and trained resident physicians and nurses in the proper procedures of preparation and distribution.

Professor Ross was active in any movement which he felt led toward better dairy practices. Upon his retirement, the American Dairy Science Association conferred a life membership upon him in recognition of his service in teaching and research, and his contributions to the commercial dairy industry.

Professor Ross was an inspiring teacher, and untiring co-worker, and a faithful friend. Occupied though he was with the varied duties of his position, Professor Ross always found time to take an active part in the civic and social activities of his community.

R. F. Holland, J. C. White, W. F. Shipe