

Winfred Enos Ayres

October 29, 1882 — September 5, 1951

Winfred Enos Ayres, Associate Professor of Dairy Industry, Emeritus, died September 5, 1951, in Albany City Hospital.

He was born October 29, 1882, in Brier Hill, a small town in St. Lawrence County. After attending the local schools, he worked in a creamery in Rensselaerville and was placed in complete charge of the plant in 1901. In 1903 he quit the creamery business to seek employment in the automobile industry, and for a time he was employed in Syracuse building Franklin cars. He felt the need for more education and one year later he came to Cornell.

At Cornell, his natural ability, and the value of his practical experience, were recognized by the Department of Dairy Industry and he was soon assisting in the Winter Dairy Course and then working as an extension agent when the Winter Course was not in session. This continued from 1905 until 1909 when he became a butter inspector in the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. In 1913 he left New York State and became a dairy plant inspector for the State of Vermont.

In 1914 Cornell recognized his outstanding ability as a teacher by inviting him to return and take charge of the Winter Dairy Course. That was no small task. During his first year there were 240 Winter Course students who elected courses in Dairy Industry.

As the years passed, interest in winter courses of all kinds diminished. However, Professor Ayres assumed increasing responsibilities for the teaching of four-year students as the burden of the Winter Course became lighter. He continued in charge of the Winter Course in Dairy Industry until it was finally discontinued during World War II.

By that time, he had assumed complete responsibility for the four-year courses in the manufacture of cheese, ice cream, condensed and evaporated milk, and milk powder. Because of ill health he asked to retire in 1947. At that time it did not appear possible to replace him and his sense of responsibility kept him at work for two more years until his duties could be taken over by a younger man. He retired in June of 1949, after 39 years of service to Cornell. Two years later he died from coronary thrombosis following an operation which he hoped would restore him to health. He was survived by his wife, Lena, a son, Kenneth, and by one grandchild and two great grandchildren.

Professor Ayres was a member of the American Dairy Science Association, of I.O.O.F., and of Epsilon Sigma Phi national honorary extension fraternity. For several years he was secretary-treasurer of the local chapter of this fraternity. He was a deeply religious man. He attended and supported the First Methodist Church faithfully.

Throughout his life, Professor Ayres maintained a keen interest in mechanical things. As a young man, he learned watch repairing for the fun of it. He was always interested in automobiles. He loved to discuss the latest models and to compare them with cars of long ago. It was only natural that he should become the acknowledged authority on dairy machinery in his own Department. Many investigators are indebted to him for aid in the mechanical phases of their work as well as for his aid in judging the quality of the products under investigation. His skill as a judge of dairy products was of immeasurable value in the training of the University's Dairy Products Judging teams. In addition to his teaching, Professor Ayres prepared a number of bulletins on the manufacture of frozen desserts and different kinds of cheeses.

Professor Ayres will be remembered by the thousands who knew him as an outstanding teacher and a warm friend. His kindly sympathy, his cheerful philosophy, his sense of humor, and his personal integrity earned him a warm place in the hearts of his associates who remember him with affection and respect.

A.M. Goodman, B. L. Herrington