

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

JOHN C. L. FISH (1870 – 1962)

John C. L. Fish was born on June 3, 1870, in Huron County, Ohio. His boyhood was spent in Ohio near Lake Erie. He attended Oberlin College and later graduated from the School of Civil Engineering at Cornell University in 1892. In 1893, he joined the Stanford faculty and spent the next 42 years teaching civil engineering there. He was Executive Head of his Department from 1928 until he retired in 1935. Professor Fish taught many undergraduate courses in surveying, descriptive geometry, and railroad engineering, and was the author of a number of books in these subjects. However, he is best remembered as one of the pioneers in the field of engineering economy. His book on this subject, first published in 1915, was a leading text for the next twenty years. In recognition of this work he was awarded a Fuentes Gold Medal for original research by Cornell University in 1915. This activity, and the courses that developed from it, laid the foundation for the strong position Stanford still *possesses* in the field of engineering economy, and also started the chain of events that led to the establishment of what is now the Department of Industrial Engineering. After his retirement from the University, Professor Fish and Dean Theodore Hoover- wrote a book entitled "The Engineering Profession" published in 1941.

Professor Fish was a firm advocate of the idea that the solution of engineering problems should be sought through the application of basic principles rather than by following precedent. He emphasized simple fundamental principles throughout his teaching and writing, and he is remembered and appreciated for this by his former students. Graduates remember Professor Fish *as* a fair and able teacher who inspired them to get the most from their years at Stanford. He was always ready to discuss with them their scholastic work or their personal problems. Younger students sometimes interpreted his sense of justice and his high standards as severity and sternness. As they continued their association with him, however, they learned to recognize his generous and sympathetic nature and to appreciate the sincere interest which he took in their welfare. Many students continued to visit him and to correspond with him for the rest of his life.

Professor Fish died in Santa Monica, California, on June 15, 1962, at the age of 92. He is survived by his son Lounsbury S. Fish and by his daughter, Frances Fish Young. Other survivors include four grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, his daughter-in-law, Roberta Hellman Fish, and his son-in-law, Garth L. Young. To them, we of the Academic Council, extend our deepest sympathy.

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