

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

CHARLES BENJAMN WING (1864 – 1945)

Charles Benjamin Wing, Professor of Civil Engineering, Emeritus since 1929, died in Palo Alto on August 22, 1945. Professor Wing was born at Clinton Corners, New York, on January 8, 1864. Following college preparatory work at Poughkeepsie Unitary Institute, he entered Cornell University and received the degree of Civil Engineer from Cornell in 1886. From 1886 to 1890 he served as Instructor in Civil Engineering at Cornell. During 1891-92, he served as Professor of Bridge and Hydraulic Engineering at the University of Wisconsin. In 1892, at the request of Dr. David Starr Jordan, whom he had known at Cornell, Professor Wing came to Stanford, where, from 1892 to 1929, he served as professor of Structural Engineering. From 1923 to 1929, he was executive head of the Civil Engineering Department.

On September 18, 1888, while at Cornell, Professor Wing married Maria Paddock. They had four sons: Sumner Paddock, Winchester Paddock, Charles Benjamin and Robert Lewis. Mrs. Wing died in 1905. In 1909 Professor Wing married Mrs. Marion Colt Browne who had two children Ashley Colt and Frances. Professor Wing is survived by Mrs. Wing and the above mentioned children.

Students and colleagues knew Professor Wing for his sound and thorough professional knowledge, his effective teaching, his sympathetic kindly advice and great patience. His genuine interest in his students continued through the years after their graduations. His concern for the qualified, but needy student was exemplified by his action in donating the fee which he received for designing the Stanford stadium in 1921, to establish a scholarship fund for Civil Engineering students.

Professor Wing had many interests and applied his ability in many activities outside the field of his academic work. He was a consultant on many important engineering projects, both public and private. He was an authority on highway construction, one of the first designers of large radio towers, a consultant on the Hetch Hetchy Dam, and in the construction of bridges at Hood River, Oregon, and Bremerton, Washington. He, with professors Durand and Marx, supervised the reconstruction and repair of the Stanford buildings damaged in the earthquake of 1906, and later he took a leading part in the study of earthquake resistant construction in California.

In addition to his professional activities, Professor Wing gave generously of his time and ability to his local community, the state and the nation. He took an active part in the city government of Palo Alto. He was elected mayor in 1910, and for twenty years thereafter served as a member of the City Council. Policies which he helped to formulate have done much to give the city its present sound status.

His greatest personal interest, outside the field of his professional activities, was the conservation of the natural resources of California, particularly the redwoods. As

early as 1894, he started a movement to preserve the redwood forests. For many years he served as Chief of the Division of Parks in the California State Department of Natural Resources, and was instrumental in increasing the number of state parks from three to eighty, during the period of his service.

During World War I, Professor Wing enlisted in the Army and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, serving with the 23 Engineers in France.

Few men have left the work of fine achievement in so many fields. On the Stanford campus, in the continued progress of the University, which he loved, the influence of his ability and constructive work will long endure. Those who knew him, worked with and learned from him, will always cherish his memory.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Academic Council of Stanford University that this memorial to our departed colleague be recorded in the minutes of the Council and that a transcript thereof be sent to his wife and family together with an expression of our deepest sympathy.

William B. Owens
Harry A. Williams
J. Bertrand Wells, Chairman