

History of the Department of Plant Pathology

in

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This brief historical account refers to the teaching department of plant pathology in the College of Agriculture. Reference is made in the earlier years to Experiment Station appointments or functions, but the actual history of the development of the research division of plant pathology of the Washington Agricultural Experiment Stations is a story by itself and time here does not allow for an adequate account of the development of both units. Therefore, the research accomplishments and the expansion of the research division into the sub-stations in the State are not covered.

The history of the department of Plant Pathology in the State College of Washington is conveniently divided into two periods, namely before and after the advent of the one man about whom the destiny of the department revolved for so many years. I refer to F. D. Heald and the two periods will be called, the Pre-Healdian and the Post-Healdian periods.

The Pre-Healdian Period 1892-1914

The history of the Department of Plant Pathology of the State College of Washington is an integral part of the history of the institution itself, and so it is necessary to go back to the very beginning, when the College came into being.

"The Washington Agricultural College and School of Science" as it was called in the early days was established by the State legislature by an Act of 1889, creating a commission to establish a State College, and a second act, in 1891, accepting the grants made by Congress for the purpose, and revising the earlier Act to provide for the establishment of a State College in conformity with the grants and acts of Congress.

It is interesting, at least from the historical standpoint, to observe the prescribed course of instruction, as quoted from Sec. 3 of the Act of 1889 Legislature:

"The course of instruction of the Agricultural College, Experiment Station and School of Science shall embrace the English language, Literature, Mathematics, Philosophy, Civil and Mechanical Engineering, Chemistry, Animal and Vegetable Anatomy and Physiology, the Veterinary Art, Entomology, Geology, and Political, Rural and Household Economy, Horticulture, Moral Philosophy, History, Mechanics and such other sciences and courses of instruction as shall be prescribed by the Regents of this institution of learning."

The early administrators of the State College of Washington must have been fully aware of their responsibilities. As evidence of this I quote from the Second Annual Catalogue, 1892-93: