



## Francis Garner Miller

**1917-1934**

Francis Garner Miller was the first dean of the School of Forestry, having assumed the position in 1917, the year the Department of Forestry was given school status. Miller held the deanship until his death in 1934.

Miller came to the UI indirectly by an act of the State of Washington legislature, and more directly through the offices of Dr. E.A. Bryan, who in 1917 was Idaho's state commissioner of Education and president emeritus of the State College of Washington (now Washington State University).

A professor of forestry at the University of Nebraska from 1903-1907, Miller was employed by the University of Washington to organize that institution's Department of Forestry. Miller did so, quite successfully. And in 1912, he left UW for a private venture in the fruit business of the Wenatchee Valley. His success at UW, however, caught the attention of Bryan, then president of the State College of Washington. Bryan persuaded Miller to come to Pullman as dean of the School of Forestry. Miller's tenure at the state college lasted only two years, until 1917 when the Washington

legislature declared that major work in forestry should be confined to UW. That same year, C.H. Shattuck resigned.

Bryan, now Idaho's state commissioner of education, offered Miller the office of dean of UI's newly created School of Forestry. Miller accepted, and held that office for seventeen years.

Born in Lanark, Illinois, in 1866, Miller graduated from Iowa State Teacher's College in 1893, and from 1893-1899 was superintendent of Iowa public schools. He left that position to return to school, and in 1900 received a B.Ph. from the State University of Iowa. He continued his education at Iowa State College, receiving a B.S. in agriculture in 1901, and then went East to Yale, where he received an M.F. degree in 1903.

Among many significant developments during Miller's tenure were the addition of the range curriculum (1917), and the acquisition of the Experimental Forest (1932).

In the 1932 *Forester*, E.A. Bryan characterized Miller as "adviser and guide to the forestry institutes of Idaho . . . . He drew together the forestry interests of the state, the timbermen, stockmen, and the United States Forest Service with remarkable success."

Two years later, in the 1934 *Forester* memorial to Dean Miller, his career was summed up more succinctly and more affectingly: "We, his students, were his life's work."