

1875 - 1925

SEMI-CENTENNIAL

OF THE

Connecticut
Agricultural Experiment
Station



NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

OCTOBER TWELVE

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE

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PROGRAM

MONDAY AFTERNOON, TWO O'CLOCK

GREETING

Professor William L. Slate, Jr., Director, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

THE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION AND THE STATE

His Excellency, John H. Trumbull, Governor of Connecticut. President, Station Board of Control.

RELATIONS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE STATES IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Dr. E. W. Allen, Chief, Office of Experiment Stations, United States Department of Agriculture.

INFLUENCE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS ON AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Dr. R. W. Thatcher, Director, New York Agricultural Experiment Stations.

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT

Dr. Henry S. Graves, Provost of Yale University.

RESPONSE

Director Slate.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

1875 - 1925

Professor Samuel W. Johnson may well be called the Father of the Agricultural Experiment Station movement in this country.

Beginning in 1835, his writings for the agricultural press on the progress and results of scientific agriculture in Europe, his reports on commercial fertilizers as chemist of the State Agricultural Society and later of the State Board of Agriculture, his frequent addresses at farmers' meetings in all parts of the state and his papers on Science as an aid to agricultural practice, prepared the way and urged on the movement to found an Agricultural Experiment Station in Connecticut. It was the first Station established in America and so proved its value as to encourage other states immediately to follow the example.

At a meeting of the Connecticut Board of Agriculture in 1874 a committee, with Prof. Johnson as chairman, was appointed to interest farmers and to bring the matter before the General Assembly. Mr. Orange Judd, a trustee of Wesleyan University, gave \$1,000.00 and the University offered the free use of its laboratory. The Legislature deferred action for some time, but finally by an Act approved July 20, 1875, it accepted both offers and established such a Station at Wesleyan University at Middletown and appropriated for its use \$2,800.00 yearly, for two years.

Professor W. O. Atwater, of Wesleyan, a former pupil and assistant of Prof. Johnson, who had greatly assisted in the preliminary work, was chosen Director. Wesleyan University became its foster mother, providing a laboratory and other facilities for its use without charge.

The thought uppermost with many farmers who urged the establishment of the Station was of its use in protecting from frauds in the sale of fertilizers. But Prof. Atwater's first statement shows a wise understanding of the true function of an Agricultural Station:

"It has been felt from the first that more abstract scientific investigation would afford not only the proper, but also the more widely and permanently useful work of the Agricultural Station.

"Such an institution will be worthy of the name in proportion as it carries on thorough investigation and experiment in agricultural science." This, from the first, has been its unchanging attitude and policy.

Those first two years under Prof. Atwater's wise direction so fully proved the value of the Station, that the General Assembly, in 1877, established it on a permanent basis. Prof. S. W. Johnson was appointed Director and it was placed at New Haven. Here a laboratory, office and other equipment were furnished without charge by the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale, for five years. In 1882 the State provided the present site with laboratory and office.

In organization this Station differs from all others in the country. Besides having no organic connection with any other institution, it is an independent unit, having the general character of a corporation with power to sue and be sued in the state courts, to receive for itself gifts and to hold real and personal estate.

To trace its history and growth would be too long a story. With a fuller public understanding of its value both to farmers and to the general public the demands for its help have greatly enlarged, its resources have been increased and it has taken up one by one, as it was able, new lines of work. These, with the approximate dates of their establishment, are as follows: Chemistry, 1875. Botany, 1888. Biological Chemistry, 1890. Entomology, 1896. Forestry, 1901. Plant Breeding, 1905. Soil Research, 1923.

The State owns, for the Station use, six acres of land on Huntington Street, New Haven, on which are its offices, library and laboratories. The Station owns the Mt. Carmel Farm, an experimental field of thirty-five acres five miles north of the City; the Rainbow Experiment Forest of one hundred acres and the Tobacco Station Farm of thirteen acres, both in the town of Windsor.

It is supported by federal and state funds and also by the income of a trust fund left to the Station for its general uses by the will of Mr. William R. Lockwood of South Norwalk.

What it has done for the art of agriculture in the state is recorded in part in the forty-eight volumes of its reports, in two hundred and seventy bulletins, in the volumes of the reprints of papers published in the technical journals of the country, in some

special treatises written by members of its staff and, often unobserved, in a safer and more profitable agricultural practice.

Aside from the distinctively agricultural work of the Station, it has also served in many ways the whole community. Examples of this service are its work in promoting forest planting, in checking the trade within the state of inferior foods, drugs and "patent medicines," the analysis of diabetic foods, and its many contributions to our knowledge of nutrition.

Within the bounds of its means its aims are fundamental research, the spread of agricultural knowledge and service to the people of the state.

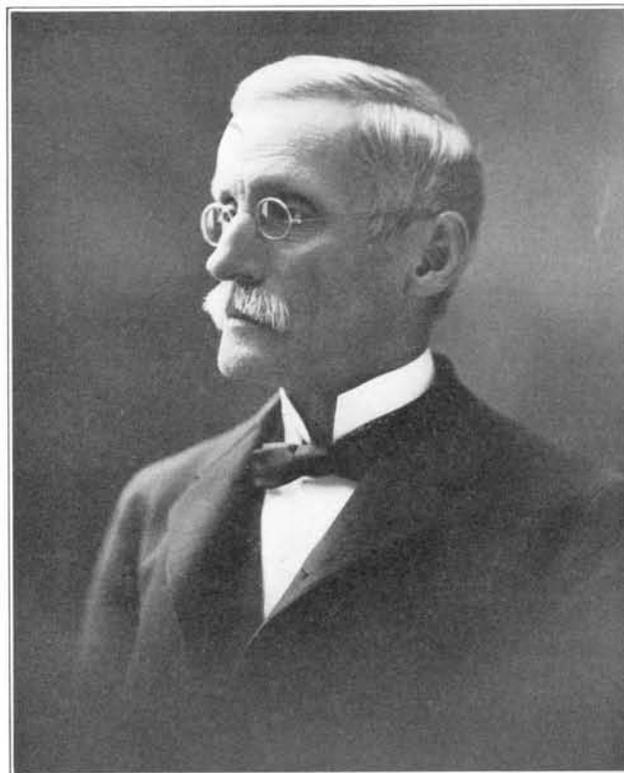


WILBUR O. ATWATER, PH.D., LL.D.

First Director, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 1875-1877.

Graduated from Wesleyan University (A.B.), 1865; graduate student, Yale University (Ph.D.), 1869, Leipzig and Berlin, 1869-1871; Professor of Chemistry, Tennessee, 1871-1873; Maine State College, 1873; Wesleyan University, 1873-1907; First Director, Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station, 1888-1902; Founder and Director, Office of Experiment Stations, United States Department of Agriculture, 1888-1891; Established the series of United States Farmers' Bulletins, 1889; Special Agent, Nutrition Investigations, 1891, Chief in 1893, and until some three years before his death carried on the long series of dietary studies and investigations with the respiration calorimeter; Honorary LL.D., University of Vermont, 1904; Recipient of the Elliot Cresson gold medal of the Franklin Institute, and gold medal from the Paris Exposition in 1900, and other medals. Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; member American Chemical Society, American Physiological Society, Washington Academy of Sciences, and of many foreign societies. Born, Johnsbury, N. Y., May 3, 1844. Died, Middletown, Conn., September 22, 1907.

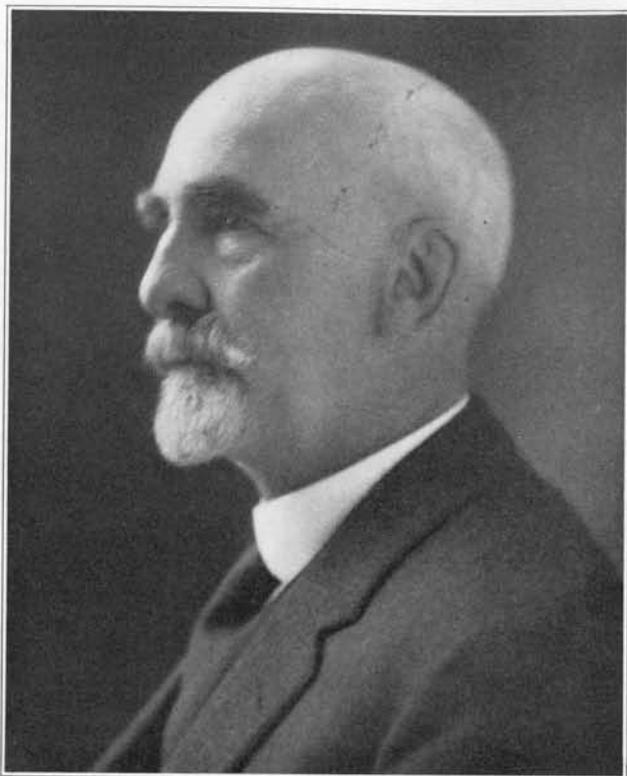
(Illustration by courtesy of the Wesleyan University Alumni Association.)



SAMUEL W. JOHNSON, M.A.

Director, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 1877-1899.

Student, Yale University, 1849-1850; Instructor in Chemistry, Physics and Human Physiology, State Normal School, Albany, N. Y., 1851-1852; Student, Leipzig, 1853-1854, Munich, 1854-1855; Honorary M.A., Yale University, 1857; Professor of Agricultural Chemistry, Yale University, 1856-1896; Emeritus, 1896; Associate Editor, *American Journal of Sciences*, 1869-1880; member National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science, and American Chemical Society, of which he was president in 1878. Author of "How Crops Grow," 1868, translated into six other languages; "How Crops Feed," 1870, translated into four other languages. Born, Kingsboro, N. Y., July 3, 1830. Died, New Haven, Conn., July 21, 1909.



EDWARD H. JENKINS, PH.D.

*Director, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 1900-1923;
Emeritus, 1923.*

Director, Storrs Agricultural Experiment Station, 1912-1923; graduated Yale University (A.B.), 1872; graduate student at Leipzig, 1875-1876, and then at Yale, receiving the Ph.D. in 1879. Chemist, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, 1877-1900, Vice Director, 1884-1900, Treasurer, 1901-1923; Chairman, Connecticut State Sewerage Commission, 1897-1903; Charter member and President, Association of Official Agricultural Chemists and member of its first Committee on Food Standards; President, 1913, Association of American Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations; Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; member, Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science; Author of *Agriculture in Osborn's History of Connecticut*, 1925. Born, Falmouth, Mass., May 31, 1850, now lives at 108 East Rock Road, New Haven, Conn.



ORANGE JUDD HALL, WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, MIDDLETOWN.

This building housed the Station during the first two years, 1875-1877. The Station quarters were on the ground floor in the southwest corner and are shown at the right of the picture.



SHEFFIELD LABORATORY, YALE UNIVERSITY, NEW HAVEN.

Here the Station was quartered for five years, 1877-1882. The rooms used by the Station were on the ground floor of the wing and are shown at the right of the picture.



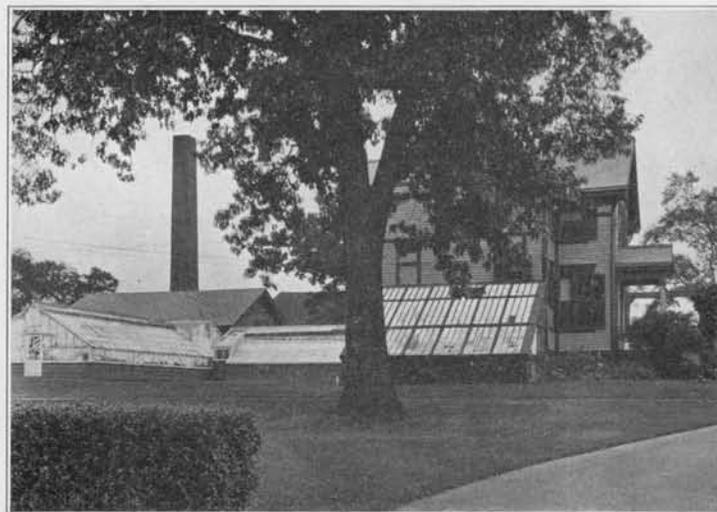
JOHNSON LABORATORY.

The present building occupied by the Departments of Analytical Chemistry, Biochemistry, Botany, Entomology and Forestry. The easterly wing was erected in 1905, and the larger portion of the building completed in 1910.



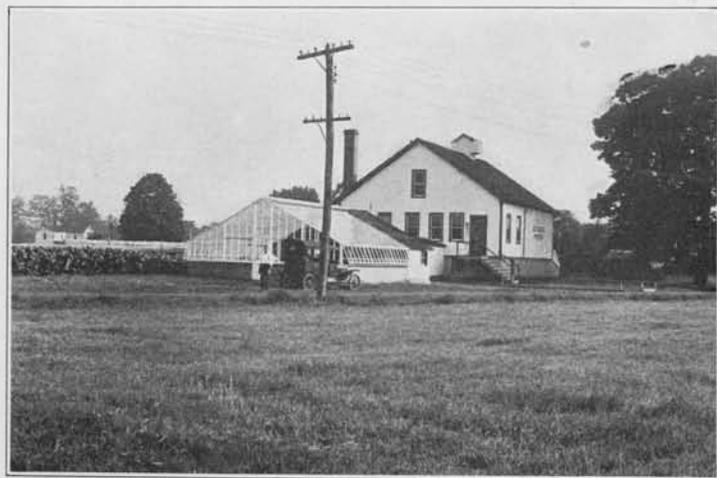
GENERAL OFFICE AND LIBRARY.

Director's residence and office at right, General Library at left. Property purchased in 1882. Brick building was erected in 1882, equipped as a chemical laboratory and used for that purpose until the completion of Johnson Laboratory in 1910. Then it was fitted with book shelves and has since been used as the General Library of the Station.



LABORATORY, GREENHOUSE AND HEATING PLANT.

The wood building at the right houses on the first floor the Department of Soil Research and on the second floor the Department of Plant Breeding. The building was erected in 1888 for the Botanical Department and later the Entomological Department used the second floor, both Departments moving into Johnson Laboratory on its completion in 1910. The greenhouse was erected in 1895, and the central heating plant marked by the tall chimney was constructed in 1917; this contains a small assembly room.



TOBACCO EXPERIMENT FARM, WINDSOR.

Thirteen acres purchased in 1921. View showing laboratory and greenhouse erected in 1924.



STATION FARM, MOUNT CARMEL.

View during Field Day, August 1924. This farm contains thirty-five acres, of which twenty acres were purchased in 1911, and fifteen acres in 1915. On this farm are conducted many experiments in plant breeding, spraying and fertilizing of orchard, field and garden crops.



EXPERIMENTAL FOREST, LOCKWOOD FIELD, WINDSOR.

This field was purchased in 1900, with additions in 1905 and 1908 totaling about 100 acres. In background at left, red pine and at right Scotch pine, seventeen years after setting. In foreground, white pine, six years after setting.