Dwight B. Demeritt

Ames Forestry Club

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Dwight B. Demeritt

Dwight B. Demeritt is leaving Iowa State College. When the 1934 summer camp is over he will pack up his books, his boots, and his Biltmore stick and journey to his native state of Maine to take over the headship of the forestry department at the State University.

Ames foresters will miss Dwight B. Demeritt. They will miss the sight of his good-natured smile and his keen, forceful eyes as he explains some problem in forest finance. They will miss the sound of that voice with the New England drawl, telling about his experiences as extension forester in Louisiana, or about that large tract of inaccessible timberland that he owns in Pennsylvania. They will miss the sight of him behind his desk in 217 Ag Hall, with a hundred papers strewn about on all sides and a hundred and one things to do, and yet never too busy to explain an alignment chart to some thick-headed sophomore. They will miss his loud, hearty laugh, breaking out now and then in Forestry Club. They will miss his stories at the campfire.

But most of all Ames Foresters will miss a sincere friend, a
It has taken Dwight B. Demeritt only three years to bind himself thus closely to this Department. Before he came to take an associate professorship at Iowa State he held a similar position at the Pennsylvania State College.

He commenced his forestry training at the University of Maine, where he graduated in 1922. He had enrolled there in the chemical engineering course, but transferred to forestry during his sophomore year. In the summer of 1920 he had his first practical experience in forestry work—cruising timber in Canada. Although he was rated a junior in college the only study he had completed which had a bearing on this work was the course in general forestry; in spite of this handicap he soon became proficient in the cruising business—which, in its broader form of mensuration, has remained his chief interest to the present time.

In 1923 Dwight B. Demeritt took his M. F. degree at Yale. While he was there he made the acquaintance of Herman H. Chapman; their friendship continued through the following years, and in 1932 their joint book on mensuration was published.

Dwight B. Demeritt has held positions of many different sorts. He has taught, cruised timber, fought blister rust, acted as executive secretary of a state forestry association, done extension forestry work, and been a consultant forester. He says that he likes best the sort of a position which allows him to teach in the winter and get into the field in the summer.

Dwight B. Demeritt is a fine example of the successful blending of the elements which are rough and those which are refined in the forestry profession. He is equally in his element ploughing through the underbrush with an axe or persuading influential society folk to back a drive for the planting of trees. His advice to young undergraduate foresters is this: “Broaden your viewpoint; take an interest in other lines of endeavor; there are many fields which are allied to forestry—learn about them. Only in that way can you reach the top.”