

California Avocado Association Annual Report 1918 and 1919 4:38-39

CHARLES SILENT—AN APPRECIATION

PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

F. O. POPENOE

ALTADENA

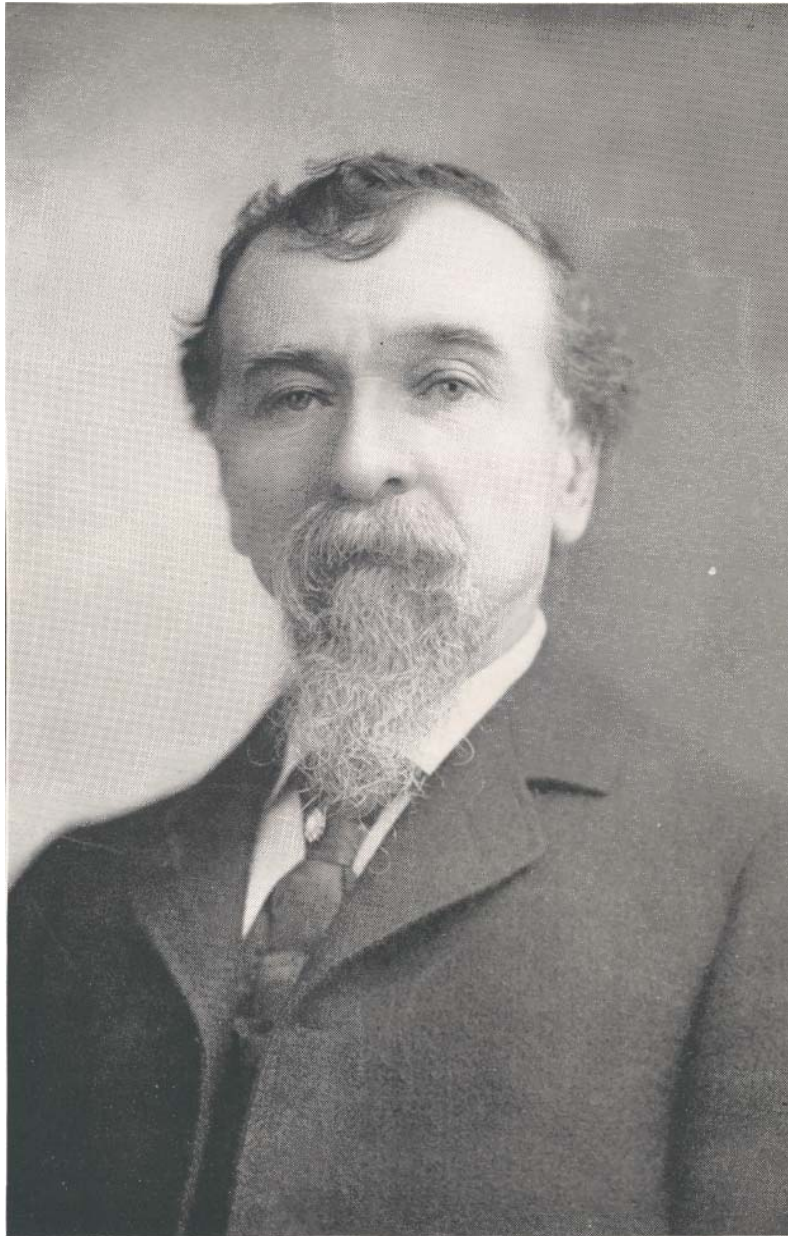


Plate II.

Judge Charles Silent
Pioneer Avocado Grower.

Judge Charles Silent was regarded by the members of this association as a solid, cornerstone friend of the avocado industry. He believed in its great future. He was convinced of the value of the avocado as a food to nourish generations yet unborn. His love of horticulture and his instinctive interests in all that might bless mankind made him early realize the value of the growing industry.

In turning his attention to the study and investigation of its possibilities, the natural tendency of his generous nature came into full play, leading him to give liberally of his time, talent and money in co-operation with the efforts of the association to cultivate the understanding of the public. Each member of the board of directors soon came to regard him not only as the friend of the avocado, but as a personal friend as well. And I am sure the members of the board can never forget the pilgrimages made to his beautiful foothill home, the Rancho del Aliso, near Glendora. These pilgrimages were red letter days to everyone privileged to make them.

At board meetings and at many other times the Judge's counsel was sought and always freely given.

Beyond his interest in helping to start the young and growing avocado industry, the crowning purpose of Judge Silent's life was the perfect development of Rancho del Aliso. Here, it may be said, was his ultimate effort to impress himself, his feelings, and his spirit upon his fellow men. One who had known Judge Silent in earlier years as a busy, absorbed, successful lawyer, might well have wondered at this expression of his finer nature as a lover of quiet, the country, trees and flowers. His purpose was to impress upon all who came to Rancho del Aliso how great and unmatched were the possibilities of open air life in Southern California. The combination of the beautiful and fruitful brought about by him here never failed to lift every visitor somewhat out of himself. Certainly not in California, and perhaps nowhere can be found such expression of refinement and love of the beautiful worked into practical grove and garden. To understand the mass of detail involved in the making of the beauty found there, required not hours, but days of study. The idea of wealth was always subordinate to the idea of pleasure and simplicity. And it may be said that this wonderful thing he carved out, the expression of his inner self, has influenced his neighbors and the thousands who have been fortunate enough to come into contact with it. I believe it was the Judge's greatest pleasure to guide an appreciative friend through his beautiful gardens and over this lovely estate. Here was something he had founded, not alone for himself, but more for others, and it was in sharing their enjoyment of it that he realized his greatest pleasure. It is one of the glories of horticulture that its pursuit may be, and often in practice has been, a matter of unselfish enthusiasm. In Judge Silent this tradition was well exemplified. His understanding of nature and of the manner of working with nature, was of a rare order. And to the keen and understanding eye, the impress of his wonderful ability and richness of character upon Rancho del Aliso may be seen copied in varying degree and shading elsewhere in Southern California, perhaps a thousand times.

The Avocado Association has lost in Judge Silent a member who has long stood high in their regard. But his work is not lost, and the memory remains of a consistently wise, helpful and generous comrade and friend.