



Robert Willard Hodgson

In Appreciation

Robert W. Hodgson was born April 3, 1893 at Dallas, Texas, the son of Rev. Mark and Olivia Rice Hodgson. He was the oldest of six children. During High School at Oroville he served as working manager on his father's orange grove. Hodgson entered the College of Agriculture of the University of California at Berkeley in the autumn of 1912, and elected Citriculture as his major subject. During his undergraduate years he was entirely dependent for subsistence upon his earnings from multifarious jobs. In spite of the necessity of using every available hour for remunerative work, he established an

extraordinarily good scholarship record, and in his senior year was runner-up candidate for the University medal, and received honorary mention in that connection. Honors came rapidly. He was elected Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Phi Delta Kappa, Alpha Zeta, and Phi Sigma. After a year's graduate work he received his M.S. degree in 1917, and entered his university career as Instructor in Citriculture.

As a special World War I assignment, Hodgson served as Farm Advisor in Los Angeles County. After the war he was rapidly advanced to Associate Professor of Subtropical Horticulture, Head of the Division of Subtropical Horticulture, and Assistant Dean of the College of Agriculture.

Dean Hodgson has always been keenly interested in the development of the avocado industry. He has devoted much time and hard work to avocado research, instruction, and extension work. Besides publishing a number of papers on avocado research in technical journals, he has, over a period of 27 years, contributed 29 articles to the Yearbooks of this Society. Furthermore he has encouraged members of his staff to offer reports on their work for publication in our Yearbooks. The climax of all this appeared this year as University of California Extension Service Circular 43, entitled, "The California Avocado Industry" by Robert W. Hodgson. This is a splendidly illustrated booklet in which is succinctly presented a compendium of present knowledge with respect to the California avocado industry, as well as cogent advice to those newly interested in avocado culture.

The avocado interests of Dean Hodgson have by no means been limited to California. He has been a frequent visitor to Florida, has studied the avocado in South Texas, Mexico, Central America, Egypt, Palestine, and other Mediterranean countries. He spent 14 months in the Mediterranean basin serving as Horticultural Adviser to the French Protectorate Governments of Tunis and Morocco, and as Horticultural Consultant to the citrus growers' section of the Jewish Farmers' Federation in Palestine. Hodgson also spent 8 months mostly in India, where he served as Horticultural Adviser to H.H. The Maharaja of Patiala State.

Dean Hodgson is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and in 1940-41 served as President of the Western Section of the American Society for Horticultural Science. He has been awarded many honors: Commander Nichan Iftikhar (Tunisia) 1931, Officer Order du Merite Agricole (France) 1937; Officer Ouissam Alaoutite (Morocco) 1931. In 1940 this Society awarded Hodgson its Emblem of Honor.

On August 20, 1930 Hodgson was married to Evelyn Mitchell. There are two sons, Robert Willard Jr., and Richard Warren.

With high respect, great appreciation, and deep affection the California Avocado Society salutes Bob Hodgson as the Dean also of the California Avocado Industry.

J. E.G.