

13. THE DECISION DRAGS ON

In the euphoria of May and June, Davisville people, as well as others, hoped for a quick decision from the Commission.

However, months went by and there was no action. Newspaper editors and others began to call for a decision and to speculate on reasons for the delay.

Editor Scott followed these matters closely and reprinted editorials and reports from other newspapers, some of which are reproduced below.

In addition, Scott himself exhibited a certain impatience over the seemingly slow pace of the Commission and began to fret about it, as also seen below.

Two UC officials alleged to be opponents of the State Farm later hailed as "University Stalwarts"

The two official UC profiles to the right are reproduced from Ann Scheuring, *Abundant Harvest*, p. 10, where the label "university stalwart" is applied.



Benjamin Ide Wheeler (1854–1927)

Builder of the University

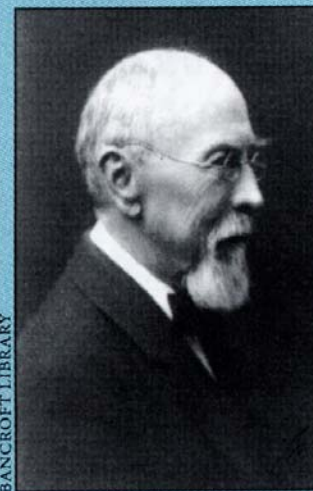
CLASSICAL philologist and eighth President of the University of California (1899–1919).

Accomplished scholar and speaker, encourager of philanthropy, benevolent autocrat beloved by students. Under his leadership the student enrollment and faculty of the university trebled, 11 permanent buildings were added to the Berkeley campus, and 20 new departments began instruction under dis-

tinguished scholars. Research stations were established at Davis, Riverside, and, through private endowments, at the Scripps Institution for Biological Research, La Jolla, and the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, San Francisco.⁶

Wheeler was thought by many not to want a State Farm. But, if there had to be one, it should be at or near Berkeley.

Some detractors alleged that Wheeler was, as put by Judge Shields, "an aristocratic fellow and had no use for the farmer."



Eugene W. Hilgard (1833–1916)

Founder of the California Agricultural Experiment Station

PROFESSOR of Agriculture and Agricultural Chemistry, University of California, 1875–1905;

Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of the California Agricultural Experiment Station, 1875–1905. Distinguished researcher in soil science and winemaking, prolific writer, tireless advocate

for scientific education in agriculture. Under his

direction the College grew from one instructor to a faculty and staff of 22, while between 1884 and 1905 the Experiment Station issued 171 research bulletins, nearly half of which Hilgard authored himself.⁵

Judge Shields remarked of Hilgard that he was "a dear, dear good man, but he was against [the State Farm]. He isn't the first man that tried to dam up progress, don't you know."

Some proposals offered free sites for the State Farm. This was of course worrisome for site proposals involving purchase. Newspaper editorials were written on the matter, including this one that Scott reprinted from the *Sacramento Union*.

At times the rhetoric became tough, as in this passage suggesting that a donation might sometimes amount to a bribe. →

Concerning A "Free Site"

In a quiet way the competition between counties and local districts for the location of the projected University farm is intense. Yolo County wants it; Solano County wants it; Sonoma County wants it; Napa County wants it; San Joaquin County wants it; Alameda County wants it. Indeed it would be possible to extend the list of candidates to include every county in the state. But the real competition is limited by the necessities of the situation. The site to be chosen must be reasonably accessible to Berkeley; it must have the soil and the climate "Characteristic" of agricultural California; it must be practically irrigable; it must of course be convenient to some general transportation line. Practically, the competition is limited to Sonoma, Napa, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, and possibly Alameda. All of these will more or less actively compete for selection at the hands of the commissioners, and there are suggestions of a good many kinds of pressure being brought to bear upon the five gentlemen upon whom devolves to make the choice. Among other things, we hear it said that free sites will be offered to the commission that is, that communities interested may among themselves make up a sum sufficient to purchase a suitable tract and then offer it as a gift to the state.

Against this plan the Union files its protest. At best it is beneath the dignity of the state to accept as a gift from its citizens that for which it can well afford to pay, and for which in fact, it has made provision for paying. To accept such a donation would be an impropriety on the general ground that it will not be made excepting in connection with some real estate or other project of exploitation devised to make money out of the location of the farm. At its worst, such a gift would be in the nature of a bribe designed to influence the choice of the Commissioners in a matter in which the State has given them no choice excepting as to business judgment.