

Harvard Forest

June 15, 1922

My dear Fisher:

President Lowell has told me that he will ask to have Mr Spaeth reappointed for another year. I see by your letter that you say that you will be responsible for \$1500 of his salary for this year. I do not know whether or not you have already paid this into the Treasurer. If not I think he would like to have it before the end of the month as that is the end of the financial year.

Very truly yours,

F. W. Mumwell

Secretary.

Professor Richard T. Fisher

Harvard Forest

Petersham, Mass.

6 Ash Street, Cambridge  
February 4, 1932

Dear Dr. Stillman,

As you, no doubt, remember, the latter part of a passage at the end of Mr. James's biography of President Eliot - a passage suggested by Mr. Morrison - seemed so fitting for the Eliot Gate that nobody could suggest anything else worth considering when compared with it. In adapting it to the allotted space, the architects, after

consideration and reconsideration are prepared to go ahead thus:-

He opened paths  
for our  
children's feet  
to follow

Something of him  
will be  
a part of us  
for ever

Please excuse the condenses of my copy  
and please let me know whether  
you approve if the committee does.

Sincerely and gratefully yours.

L. B. R. Briggs

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The Government of the Philippine Islands  
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Bureau of Forestry  
Manila

*From  
Dwight Davis*

July 5, 1933

Hon. Dwight F. Davis  
c/o War Department  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Governor Davis:

Prof. Hugh M. Curran of the Forest School has been discussing with me the necessity of the United States developing in some of her universities a thorough course in tropical forestry. Prof. Curran, who has been in Forestry work in the tropical Chaco for the Argentine Government, in Brazil and in Columbia besides having been in this service here and in the United States Forest Service, has view-points which I feel should be placed before interested parties in the United States. Of all the universities in the States, we both believe Harvard would be the most logical because of its wonderful arboretum and its tropical stations in the West Indies.

Both Curran and I feel that it will be essential for trained Americans, both North and South, in Forestry to develop the immense natural resources now lying idle or being gradually destroyed in tropical America.

Our experiences and data here in the Philippines should be conserved and made available for future development of the American tropics.

Our methods which have gained recognition by the Dutch, English, French, Japanese and Chinese could work equally well in South American countries. Men must be trained to begin this work and we feel the reproachment engendered by North American methods and training for South Americans and others from the world tropics at Harvard would pay large dividends to the institution and the country.

Prof. Curran's memo to me follows:

## "SCHOOL OF TROPICAL FORESTRY

"Reasons for establishing the school.

"European and U.S. cheap coniferous timbers needed at home. They are decreasing in quantity and quality. They are increasing in price which limits their use.

"Tropical timbers on the contrary are abundant (especially in South America) of rapid growth, and are suitable for all the essential uses to which coniferous timbers are put. These tropical timbers are being destroyed in huge quantities, no use is being made of them as they are usually burned to make way for agriculture and grazing.

"In normal times South America imports large quantities of temperate timbers which makes an added drain on waning temperate supplies. The price of timber in the tropics is higher than in temperate countries, so that the common people, especially in the large centers of South America, are deprived of cheap material for the construction of their homes, and the development of their commercial life.

"In the past, U.S. borrowed European foresters, or sent forest students to Europe for training. South America and other parts of the tropics, must follow when they embark on a program of forest conservation.

"American foresters have been extremely successful in solving difficult forest problems in the Philippines, Borneo, the Malay States, and have been called to South America for advice and assistance with forest problems there. This would indicate the desirability of establishing a forest school to solve tropical American forest problems. Such a school should be in the U.S. or in the West Indies.

"The bulk of the South American forests are still in the hands of the individual States, or the different federal governments, and an active forest program under a trained personnel can save and perpetuate this great wealth for home and export.

"The success of forestry in the Philippine Islands is an excellent example of what may be accomplished, in a short time, to conserve and use a vast

tropical resource. Practically the entire area of Philippine forests belong to the people of the Islands, due to the efforts of a few American foresters and a large group of Filipino foresters, trained in the United States and in the Philippines.

"These Philippine forests have yielded a net revenue from the beginning of American administration until the present time, and this revenue shows a steady increase with the years.

"A service the U.S. can render to South America is the establishment of a school of tropical forestry where students receive technical training. This school should also aid them during the period when they are building forest administration in the different South American regions.

"Yale, some years ago, made a beginning, but has practically abandoned work along this line, except for the very excellent work it is doing in tropical wood technology. The University of California, also, considered a tropical course in its forest school, but has as yet taken no action.

"Harvard, with its great arboretum, its tropical laboratories in Cuba, and its background of service to South America in other lines, would make an ideal location for a tropical school of forestry.

"The work indicated would pay large dividends in cordial relations between the two Americas, would bring much needed raw material to world industries, and would develop a profitable field for investment of capital. Material now wasted would add wealth to both South America and foreign countries.

"This school, if established, would undertake two lines of work. First, an intensive campaign of fact finding with reference to the extent and nature of tropical forests, and second, the technical and practical training of the personnel to manage, utilize and perpetuate these forests.

"The first part of the work can be accomplished by cooperation between the school and the interested countries, the school furnishing trained foresters to canvas their forests and find out the facts necessary for an intelligent forest policy. The men to

accomplish this work can be found among foresters who have had Philippine and other tropical experience, and who are now in the U.S. or engaged in tropical work.

"American foresters are at work in many tropical regions. These regions include the Philippines, Borneo, Central America, and Mexico, also the West Indies. Others have travelled extensively in Africa, and are familiar with the forest problems of this continent.

"Other foresters have returned to the States, and are engaged in the management of temperate forests, research in these same forests or are teaching in temperate forest schools. This is a great waste. These men should be used for bringing the unmanaged tropical forests under intelligent control. This should be done by using the expert knowledge gained in training the personnel to manage these forests.

"Most of these men are at the maximum of their efficiency and usefulness. The delay in using their services will mean a great loss to forestry.

"The second field of work, the technical training of the men in the school, will be the principal endeavor of the school, and should cover two distinct phases of instruction.

"When the field men return, they will have made contacts with the men in the different countries interested in the future of their forests. Men from political and business life and the teaching profession should be induced to come to the school for special instruction. After a short period of study, they should visit our forest schools, the Government Forest Service in Washington, the State forest service, and should familiarize themselves with the managed forests in the U.S. They should also study the great forest industries developed here.

"These men will not be candidates for degrees, but will go back to head forest work in government departments, and to awaken public interest in their own countries.

"On their return, they should encourage young men of private means to enter the forest school so

that later they may return as professional foresters to build forest services at home.

"It is a policy of many of the tropical American countries to send pensionados to foreign schools for technical training. The Philippines built up its forest service in this manner, and it would be well to encourage the South American countries to follow this policy.

"The above outlined plan we believe should meet with the hearty approval of the progressive South American governments, and will result, as in the Philippines, in saving a vast forest wealth for the use of the South American republics. It will in addition build up a profitable trade in forest products between the home country and foreign countries, and materially lessen the drain on temperate forests.

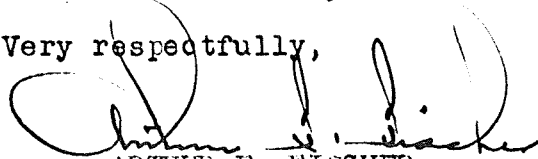
"Thirty years of forestry in the Philippines has put their forests in a unique position in the tropical world, built up a great industry, and paid all its costs and a handsome profit to the Insular Treasury.

"South America can do even more with its vastly greater forest wealth, if it follows the successful policy of the Philippines.

"Harvard can be the agency for this wonderful service. Theodore Roosevelt, who has been called the 'Father of Conservation' in America, was familiar and interested in the development of tropical forestry. It was his pleasure to travel in tropical regions, and study the interesting forms of life found there, and it is certain that Harvard can pay no more fitting tribute to this great alumnus than to establish a Roosevelt School of Tropical Forestry."

I am sending a similar letter to Gov. W. Cameron Forbes who also, I believe, served on the Harvard Board of Governors, with the hope that both you gentlemen may possibly interest Harvard University in the idea.

Very respectfully,



ARTHUR F. FISCHER  
Director of Forestry

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Aug. 16, 1933

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Southampton, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Conant

I enclose a letter  
from Mr. Arthur Fischer,  
Director of Forestry in the  
Philippine Government, which  
may be of interest to you.  
Fischer is a Yale man, with  
whose work I am very  
familiar, who has made  
a splendid record in his

many years of service in  
the Philippines. I can vouch  
for his reliability as his  
chief fault — If fault it  
is — is over-enthusiasm for  
his work there.

As a former member of  
the Board of Overseers, permit  
me to express my great  
pleasure at your appointment  
as President of Harvard

Sincerely yours,  
Dwight D. Davis

Aug 16. 1933

September 11, 1933

Mr. Dwight F. Davis  
Southampton  
New York

Dear Mr. Davis:

I am extremely sorry that my European vacation and a mountain of mail on my return have delayed my reply to your letter of August 16. I am greatly indebted to you for forwarding me Mr. Fischer's letter, and I appreciate very much your kind words in regard to my appointment.

The matter suggested in Mr. Fischer's letter is of interest, and although I cannot make any statement about it without further study, I shall certainly have the matter looked into as soon as possible.

Very sincerely yours,

JEC/A

September 19, 1933

Mr. Richard T. Fisher  
Director of the Harvard  
Forest  
Petersham, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Fisher:

I enclose correspondence which Governor Dwight Davis has sent me concerning the development of a course in Tropical Forestry in the University. If you could read this at your convenience and give me your opinion of it, I should be very much obliged.

Sincerely yours,

September 21, 1933

My dear Mr Fisher:

When I sent you the salary sheet of the Harvard Forest last spring I forgot to put down the name of Mr N. W. Hosley, whose appointment as Instructor does not expire until 1934. Will you let me know what his salary is to be for the coming year? Last year he received \$2000.

Yours very truly,

F. W. HUNNEWELL

Richard T. Fisher, Esq.

Harvard Forest

Petersham, Massachusetts

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
HARVARD FOREST  
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Forest, Harvard  
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September 25, 1933.

President James B. Conant,  
University Hall,  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Conant:

The correspondence from Governor Dwight Davis about a possible school of tropical forestry at Harvard raises some large and complicated questions which I should like a little time to consider before reporting an opinion. Of course the money difficulty suggests itself at once, and so far as the Harvard Forest goes, it is already deeply concerned in native and domestic problems, both biological and economic, which are beyond the accomplishment of our present staff and endowment. I should like to talk the matter over with you some time during the next week, if that is not too late. Meanwhile, I venture to keep the correspondence which you sent me.

Sincerely yours,

*A. Y. Fisher*

Director

September 28, 1933

Mr. Dwight F. Davis  
Southampton  
New York

Dear Mr. Davis:

I have referred Mr. Arthur Fischer's letter to the appropriate persons in this University, and I am now able to write you in more detail concerning the project. After discussing the matter with those competent to know, it seems clear that the project would involve a very large outlay of money. It is obviously of no value to undertake it unless it could be done in a very satisfactory manner, and this seems to involve a large initial expense and a good endowment for continuance. Our present Forestry Department is not at all equipped to make even a beginning on this project. In view of these facts and the difficult times we are now in, it is clear that we can do nothing about the matter here unless someone should come forward who wished to endow liberally such a project; and this, I take it, is an extremely remote and unlikely possibility.

May I thank you again very much for your kindness in forwarding the letter. It is of great assistance to me to have such matters brought to my attention.

Very sincerely yours,

J.B. Conant

*Deletus*

October 5, 1933

My dear Mr Fisher:

Would you be interested in the enclosed  
in regard to a Forestry Field day at West-  
field in Amherst on the 13th and 14th? If  
not, do you know of any one else?

Yours very truly,

**W. Hunnewell**  
Secretary

Mr Richard T. Fisher

Harvard Forest

Petersham, Mass.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
HARVARD FOREST  
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

October 10, 1933.

F. W. Hunnewell, Esq.  
University Hall,  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Hunnewell:

We had already heard of the forestry field day at Westfield and expect to be represented by Mr. Cline. I understand that Professor Mather is also interested in the meeting so that the University should be represented.

Very truly yours,

*R. F. Fisher*

Director

*Harvard Forest*

HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
HARVARD FOREST  
PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

September 25, 1933.

F. W. Hunnewell, Esq.  
5 University Hall,  
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Mr. Hunnewell:

The salary of Mr. H. W. Hosley, instructor, on  
the staff of the Harvard Forest is \$3000., chargeable to the  
Harvard Forest endowment.

*Dr. P. R. Gast should be  
reappointed at his present  
pay and title. Apparently we  
overlooked this in June.*

Very truly yours,

*D. F. Fisher*  
Director