

FOR INTER-DEPARTMENTAL USE
LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY

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The Stanford Arboretum

It is conceded that California has an ideal climate for the cultivation of a great variety of trees and shrubs. Senator Stanford appreciated this fact and undertook to bring together on the Estate "all the different kinds of trees and shrubs that would grow in California." His was a magnificent beginning, and had he lived Stanford University would have possessed one of the most valuable arboretums in the world. But unfortunately, due to his untimely death and the following "dark days" these young plants were neglected and misused just at the critical time. Consequently many of the interesting and valuable species have been crowded out by eucalyptus and cypress, which were originally planted for temporary shelter, and which under normal conditions would have been removed whenever they endangered the other species.

As it now stands the Arboretum contains approximately 200 species, or a little less than the number growing in Professor Durand's private garden. But if developed along scientific lines, even without materially increasing the expense of upkeep, at least 2000 to 3000 species could be grown. Such a collection would be invaluable for scientific research, and for general work with our classes. It would also furnish material and information that ultimately would be of ~~import~~ *benefit* to the state.

Dr. Sargent, Director of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and one of the world authorities on trees, says: "I am glad indeed to hear that there is a chance of starting an Arboretum in connection with the Leland Stanford Jr. University. I believe that there are more exotic trees grown cultivated in California than in any other state, and no doubt the number can be enormously increased; and, as far as the science of dendrology is concerned, there is nothing now needed so much as a comprehensive and scientifically managed Arboretum in your state. It is needless to say that the Arnold Arboretum will be glad to do every thing ⁱⁿ in its power to make such a scheme as you suggest

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successful, and I have no doubt that we can establish a system of cooperation which will be mutually useful."

In order that the Arboretum may be developed along scientifically useful lines ~~it is~~ it is recommended that the general cultivation and control of the laborers be left, as at present with the business Office, but that the control of the planting and removal of all plants in the Arboretum and the general policy to be pursued be given the Department of Botany, with the understanding that it will cooperate with the Landscape Architects.

To further such a policy it will be essential:

1. That an annual appropriation of \$500 be made for the acquisition of new plants and the maintenance of proper labels.
2. That a reliable and trained gardener ~~laborer~~ devote his time to the planting and care of the plants.
3. That means be provided for watering such plants as may need it, and to tide the Arboretum over dry years.

*Carbon of preliminary draft
of letter to President Wilson
written 1917-18. HCL*