

Charles Lee Crandall

— August 25, 1917

The Professor of Engineering, Professor Jacoby, presented the following resolutions, which were adopted by rising vote:

The sudden death of Professor Emeritus Charles Lee Crandall on August 25, 1917, came as a shock to all of his colleagues as well as to his friends among alumni and townspeople. His colleagues had cherished the hope that he would remain with them for a decade or more. Since his retirement from active university service in June, 1915, he was continuously engaged in a variety of pursuits. He revised several of his books, continued active work on the Committee on Iron and Steel Structures of the American Railway Engineering Association and served as a member of the Board of Public Works of the City of Ithaca, since January, 1915.

The Faculty expresses its deep sense of personal loss and extends its warmest sympathy to the bereaved family.

Resolutions relating to his character and service were adopted by the University Faculty at the time of his retirement.. It may be appropriate, however, to add a hearty endorsement of the following editorial note published in Engineering News-Record, September 27, under the title “Professor Crandall—A Successful Teacher”:

“The lot of the professor of engineering is not always a happy one. Compensation is low, recognition is often belated. The main reward must come from a sense of duty well performed and the affection of a long line of students. Success of the more material sort came to Professor Crandall of Cornell University,—but the crowning professional success, the affectionate regard of forty engineering classes, was his in exceptional measure. Kindliness and sympathy were the lodestones by which he attracted the young men, and forever kept them as friends; but to these traits he added a sureness of technical knowledge that made him in after years a professional mentor as well. His work and the place he holds in the memory of his boys should be an inspiration to every teacher. He showed how great a success can be made in the teaching profession.”

Committee: S. G. George, E. E. Haskell, Henry S. Jacoby, Chairman

Source: Records, p. 918, October 10, 1917

(continued)

RETIREMENT STATEMENT

The Professor of Applied Mechanics, Professor Church, on behalf of the committee (Professors Church, chairman, Burr, A. W. Smith) appointed by the President to prepare resolutions on the retirement of Professor C. L. Crandall from active service, presented the following resolutions, which were adopted by rising vote:

“At the close of the present academic year, after more than forty- one years of continuous service on the teaching staff of Cornell University, our colleague, Professor Charles Lee Crandall, retires from his active duties. The University Faculty desires to record its regret at this severance of his old relations with us, and its appreciation of his work and his influence.

A member of the first four-year class graduating from Cornell, he was appointed in 1874 an Instructor in Civil Engineering, in 1875 an Assistant Professor; and thus he was from the outset one of the earnest workers of those pioneer days of our University. During that early period his work as a teacher had to cover several of the technical subjects of the civil engineering curriculum; but, as years went by and the increasing resources of the University made possible a larger number of teachers, Professor Crandall was enabled to concentrate his energies on the subjects of his choice. He became Associate Professor of Civil Engineering in 1891, and in 1895 was appointed Professor of Railway Engineering and Geodesy.

During the college year 1892-93, Professor Fuertes, Director of the College of Civil Engineering, being absent in Europe, Professor Crandall was the Acting Director of the college ; and he again served in that capacity after the death of Professor Fuertes, from 1903 till the appointment of the present Dean, Professor Haskell, in 1906. In these two critical periods of the history of the College, Professor Crandall's services in directing its affairs were invaluable.

But these heavy duties by no means sum up Professor Crandall's activities, Besides being the author of important text-books in the fields of his work as a teacher, he has done valuable experimental and literary work for two of our national engineering societies of which he is an honored member, and he has never wholly abandoned the practice of engineering, by which he has not only kept in touch with the practical field of his profession, but has opened the door to many services, both civic and technical, to the people of the city of Ithaca. A special debt of gratitude is due him from the alumni of the College of Civil Engineering for his constant and effective service in securing them professional positions through a correspondence bureau which during many years he has conducted for this purpose. But what is probably Professor Crandall's greatest usefulness is the result of his high, unselfish character. His whole life has been given to the devoted service of his associates and of his students.

Graduates of the College of Civil Engineering have no memories of Cornell that do not include a feeling of affection and thankfulness to Professor Crandall. Of kindly disposition and practical sound sense, sympathetic in his intercourse with students, quiet and modest in manner, but with strong convictions as to truth and justice in any matter brought before him, and always ready to sacrifice personal interests in following the dictates of duty, Professor Crandall has won the warm esteem of all who have come within the circle of his influence during these two score years of service at Cornell. The University Faculty extends to him the assurance of its highest gratitude, with the earnest hope that the future holds in store for him many years of activity and happiness."

Source: Records, p. 680, June 9, 1915