

WILLIAM JAMES JONES, JR.

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William James Jones, Jr., was one of the most prominent officials in the United States in charge of fertilizer and feeding stuff inspection and control. His opinions were always given great weight in the meetings of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, of which he was a member. As an official of the Federal Food and Drug Department has stated, "We regarded him as a model of the efficient food control chemist."

Professor Jones was born at Watseka, Illinois, December 9, 1870. He studied in the public schools of Illinois until prepared for college. He took the science course at Purdue University, graduating with high honors in 1891. Immediately after graduation he became assistant to Dr. W. E. Stone, then head of the Chemistry Department. In 1892 he received the degree of Master of Science and in 1893 that of Analytical Chemist. In 1892 he was appointed Assistant State Chemist under Prof. H. A. Huston. Continuing in that department, he was made Chief Deputy in 1903 and State Chemist in 1907, holding that office until his death on August 31, 1917.

Professor Jones' high sense of honor and integrity, together with his thorough training and tireless energy, well fitted him as a leader against fraud in commercial fertilizer and feeding stuffs. He was instrumental in framing the Indiana Feedings Stuff Control Law of 1907, which has proved so satisfactory and successful that it has been used as a model by other States and the Federal Department in framing similar laws. This law was so administered by Professor Jones that it has proven of vast benefit to both consumer and the honest manufacturer. It may be safely said that both the feed and fertilizer sold in Indiana are now almost universally up to the guarantees.

His administration of the laws under his charge was without fear or favor. He forced the condimental stock food manufacturers to register and sell their products under the feeding stuff law. This ruling was disputed by the International Stock Food Company, who fought the case through all the courts until the United States Supreme Court decided in agreement with Professor Jones' interpretation of the law.

Professor Jones had a natural taste for investigation, and it is unfortunate that his regular duties prevented him from giving more time to research. While his publications of a research nature were few, he

was of great assistance to his colleagues. His work on the Composition of Maize at different stages of its growth, published in collaboration with H. A. Huston in Bulletin 175, Purdue Experiment Station, is recognized as standard.

He designed the Indiana fertilizer sampler, which has been adopted as official by over twenty States. It is recognized as the most practical instrument made for the accurate sampling of commercial fertilizer and similar products. His feed sampler, which is a modification, is also widely used. He designed a stirring machine for the rapid precipitation of phosphorous and similar reactions. Professor Jones carried on extensive experiments in collaboration with Prof. H. A. Huston on the action of fertilizers on sugar beets and also on the effect of potash and other fertilizers on peat soil. This data is unpublished and it is to be hoped that it may be made available some time.

He was the author and contributor of over twenty fertilizer reports and ten feeding stuffs bulletins. Besides a report of inspection, his bulletins contained much valuable information upon the subject under consideration. Some of his compilations of feeding stuff definitions have been used as texts in college work. He helped form the Association of American Feed Control Officials and served as president and on the executive board of this association. He was a member of the American Chemical Society and the American Peat Society. He was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and had long been a member of the Indiana Academy of Science. He was a charter member of the Purdue chapter of Sigma Xi.

Dr. W. E. Stone fittingly described his life when he said: "On every side he displayed the highest qualities, as a man, a citizen, a public officer, a scientist, and an alumnus of the University. Such men are rare. We shall long remember his exemplary life and mourn him as a staunch friend and a valued associate."