IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM CLIFFORD HOGG

William Clifford Hogg was born in Quitman, Wood County, Texas, January 31, 1875, and died in Baden-Baden, Germany, September 12, 1930. He graduated from the University of Texas with the degree of LL.B. in June, 1897. He was a member of the Board of Regents of the University from August, 1913, to January, 1917, being vice chairman from October, 1914, until the end of his term. He was chairman of the University Land Acquisition Board from May, 1921, until October, 1923. He was president of the Ex-Students' Association from June, 1919, until June, 1921, and was a member of its executive council from 1921 until the time of his death.

Enumeration of Mr. Hogg's official employments, however, important as they were conveys no adequate impression of his services to the University and the cause of higher education in Texas. For the last twenty years of his life, at least, the promotion of public education appears to have been his most steadfast and animating purpose; a purpose to which at times he gave his very unusual talents with a fervor approaching religious devotion.

Mr. Hogg's interest in education was first publicly manifested in a proposal, which he made to the University Alumni Association in June, 1911. He defined his proposal as "an effort to develop a wishing-organization...into a working-organization, with, clearly defined methods and objects." He requested the Association to create a committee of three "to select and authorize some suitable individual who will undertake, without any remuneration or expense, to provide a fund of not less than $25,000 per year nor more than $50,000 per year during the period of five years." "It is my humble office to assure you," he proceeded in characteristic fashion," that the five years guaranteed fund will be provided and ready for the first meeting of the main committee in October." This proposal was the origin of the "Organization for the Enlargement and Extension by the State of the University Plan of Higher Education in Texas."
Duly authorized by the official finance committee, Mr. Hogg obtained subscriptions amounting to $29,800 a year for five years. It was a material feature of his plan to enlist widespread interest, and no individual subscriptions exceeding $250 a year were accepted.

Mr. Hogg's faith in the movement was large, but not too large. "This movement," he declared, "or any similar movement, undertaken with the right spirit and followed with that persistence which we apply in ordinary affairs to gain any measure of success, will have an educational value that will be felt throughout the civilized world." Whether the Hogg Organization be regarded as a symptom or a cause, it is evident that a wider and more effective interest in the University and in higher education in Texas dates from 1911.

Mr. Hogg was vice chairman of the Board of Regents, acting as chairman, when in 1915, the integrity of the faculty and the fair name of the University were attacked by the Governor of the State. His conduct in the series of investigations, which disclosed the essential baselessness of the Governor’s charges, is a matter of record. His unofficial agency in the subsequent impeachment, conviction, and removal of the governor from office cannot be wholly apprehended or appraised because nobody but Mr. Hogg knew even at the time, the full range and scope of his powerful activities and influences. It is not too much to say that more than any other one man he was the driving force in the movement.

It is to Mr. Hogg's services on the Land Acquisition Board that the University owes the purchase of much of that portion of the enlarged campus north of Twenty-fourth Street and east of Speedway. The majority of the board, sitting with the Governor in the absence of Mr. Hogg, passed a resolution suspending purchases and withdrawing offers of purchase previously made in those areas. Following a special meeting called and attended by Mr. Hogg this action was rescinded.

In furtherance of the general purpose of the Hogg Organization "for the Enlargement and Extension … of higher Education in Texas" by awakening and strengthening popular interest and
support, Mr. Hogg brought it about that the Alumni Association of the University of Texas, membership in which was confined to degree holders, was reorganized in 1914 as the Ex-Students' Association, to include all ex-students. There can be no doubt that the public interest in the University originated by the Hogg Organization and stimulated by the rebirth and vitalization of the previously ineffective Alumni Association was a potent factor in the defense and protection of the University during the crisis of 1915-1917.

During the World War the Ex-Students' Association, in spite of its recent important achievements, sank into a moribund condition. Largely through the efforts of Mr. Hogg, it was revived in 1919 and established on a permanent foundation, with a paid secretarial staff and an ambitious program of usefulness.

Perhaps the most important feature of the new program, and certainly the one that was dearest to Mr. Hogg was the establishment and administration of a student loan fund. His gifts to this fund, and to similar funds in other state institutions were large. In his own words, he liked to "gamble on the brains and ambitions of young men and young women." He shunned publicity in his benefactions, and, in the well-considered words of a beautiful tribute, "scarcely did his right hand know what his left hand gave" He left nearly the whole of his fortune to the promotion of education -- more than half a million dollars being left to supplement or establish student loan funds in the University and in all the state colleges, including the state college for colored youth.

Mr. Hogg himself wrote the charter and regulations of the Ex-Students' Memorial Loan fund of the University of Texas and he requested the trustees of other loan funds receiving his bequests to conform their procedure, as far as seemed practicable, to that. He regarded "an intelligent public support of education as of far greater value than any possible endowment," and hence his benefactions were directed toward the encouragement and stimulation of individual enterprise and endeavor.
With total absence of provincialism, Mr. Hogg loved this University, his home city, and his state. Through their agencies he gave his wealth and himself to the promotion of the finer and sturdier qualities of citizenship, which he admired.

Recognizing his unusual services in behalf of public education and sincerely appreciating the many practical manifestations of his determination to protect and promote, the highest development of sane academic freedom in the University of Texas, the General Faculty spreads upon its Minutes as a permanent record this grateful acknowledgement of its indebtedness to Mr. Will C. Hogg. The University of Texas is a pleasanter place in which to work and a more efficient servant of the state because of Mr. Hogg's intelligent and forceful service in its behalf.

The secretary is directed to send a copy of this minute to Mr. Hogg's family and to the press of the State.

Special Committee:

E. C. Barker
W. J. Battle
T. U. Taylor