

William Edward Colby

THE retirement of William Edward Colby from the lectureship on the Law of Mines and Waters in the School of Jurisprudence, after twenty-one years of service, is regretted by his associates on the faculty of the School and the many students who have enjoyed the privilege of attending his courses. During this long period, he has given generously of his time, his learning, and his rich practical experience, in maintaining and developing an understanding and interest in these fields of law so important for the welfare and progress of the western states.

The courses were initiated by the late Curtis Lindley, with whom Mr. Colby was associated in the practice of his profession and with whom he collaborated in the preparation of the third edition of his well-known Treatise on the American Law relating to Mines and Mineral Lands. When the mantle of his master was transferred to Colby's shoulders, the latter, one is fain to believe, borrowed as his guide of conduct the quotation of Bacon on the title page of Lindley's Treatise: "I hold every man a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men of course do seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they of duty to endeavor themselves, by way of amends, to be a help and ornament thereto." He has paid that debt in his service to the School of Jurisprudence, in the assembling of a distinguished library on mining law, and in scholarly essays, of which that on "The Extralateral Right," in volumes 4 and 5 of the *California Law Review*, is perhaps the most important.

An association with John Muir, working for the conservation of natural scenery, resulted in securing the transfer to the federal government of Yosemite National Park. For many years, Colby was Chairman of the California State Park Commission and is to a large extent responsible for securing to the State, through the generosity of public spirited men and women, lands of great value. As Secretary, and for a time President of the Sierra Club, he has helped to awaken in thousands a love of nature, "its solemn imagery, its rocks, its woods."

Most fittingly, the University of California, recognizing his services to the University and the State, has conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Orrin K. McMurray.