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William J. Kerr

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4-5-1904

## Letter from Arthur Stover, also letters of recommendation from S. Fortier and Elwood Mead

Arthur Stover

S. Fortier  
*University of California*

Elwood Mead

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
OFFICE OF EXPERIMENT STATIONS,  
A. C. TRUE, DIRECTOR.

IRRIGATION INVESTIGATIONS,  
ELWOOD MEAD, CHIEF.

Berkeley Cal. April 12, 1904.

President W. J. Kerr,  
Agricultural College  
Logan, Utah.

My dear Sir:-

Your favor of April 7th is received and pursuant to the request therein contained I will endeavor to give you a statement of the work I have done since graduation in 1899.

In April of my senior year I took the U. S. Civil Service examination for the position of Assistant in the Office of Irrigation Investigations. In August of the same year I was appointed to the position and required to report to Cheyenne, Wyoming where the western Office of the Investigation was at that time located. I remained at Cheyenne, for about two months, my time being employed in becoming familiar with the work of the Investigation and in becoming familiar with routine of office work.

In October, two months later, I was detailed on an extensive investigation of the water right and irrigation conditions of the Utah Lake Drainage Basin. During the period of this detail I was in charge of the work and was required, in addition to investigating water right conditions, to make a complete hydrographic survey of all the tributaries and canals and ditches on the Provo and Spanish Fork Rivers. My report of this investigation was published with those of other agents making contemporaneous investigations, as Bulletin 124 of the Office of Experiment Stations. This Volume will doubtless be in the College library should you care to consult it.

The following year I was employed in an investigation of the Bear River Canal in Utah and of the canal systems of the Arkansas and Grand Valleys of Colorado. The reports of these investigations appeared in Bulletin 119 of the O. E. S. During the winter months of ~~the winter months of~~ these two years I was stationed at Cheyenne where



in addition to assisting in the work of the office I had charge of all instruments and attended to the rating of all meters and registers used by our agents in the field.

In the spring of 1902 I was sent Montana to assist Professor Fortier, Director of the Montana Experiment Station in investigation of the Gallatin, Yellowstone and Bitter Root Basins. Under Professor Fortiers direction I had charge of the field work and hydrographic surveys. The report of the Montana investigations is now being prepared for publication and when issued will form a volume similar to the Utah and California reports Nos. 124 and 100 respectively.

In December 1902, after having completed my part of the joint report of the Montana work, I was sent to California to take up the work here which Mr. J.M. Wilson was forced to abandon by reason of severe illness. It might be said here that the work in this state is intimately associated with that of the State University and the Experiment Station by reason of Mr. Mead's connection with both the government work and the state institutions. Since coming to Berkeley I have held the position of Instructor in Irrigation Engineering and have also been engaged in the work of the Investigations so far as my University duties would permit. During the past summer I was employed in determining seepage losses on some of the largest canals of the state, and in investigating the more recently devised methods of citrus orchard irrigation in Southern California. The reports of this work are now being prepared for publication.

I am sending herewith an outline of the courses in Irrigation given at this institution the past year. It is planned to offer two new courses next year and under the prospective arrangements should I remain in California I will have charge of all five courses with the exception of the Mr. Mead's six-weeks courses of lectures given in the spring.

Through the kindness of Mr. Mead I have been enabled to take some University work myself the past year along the line of the agricultural side of irrigation, and am expecting to receive a degree from the University in May. In my petition to the Com-



W.J.K. 3

mittee on Graduation, I was able to include <sup>two</sup> letters of recommendation, one from Mr. Mead the other from Professor Fortier, both of whom you know. I am enclosing copies of these two letters. I should be pleased to have you write these gentlemen and to Mr. C.T. Johnston, State Engineer of Wyoming, Cheyenne, as to the character of my work since leaving Logan.

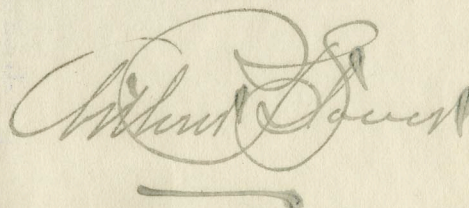
In the five years I have been associated with the work of the Office of Irrigation Investigations, I have had the opportunity of obtaining quite a fund of practical experience and have become conversant with irrigation practice and conditions in the four leading Irrigation states of the West and have had the opportunity of coming in close touch with the condition in other arid states.

As to the matter of compensation,-- Of course I do not know what compensation the members of the faculty of the College receive nor do I know what the College can afford to pay to the one <sup>who will</sup> fill the position now open, but it would seem that; since the position would doubtless <sup>require</sup> an effort the equal of that of my present position and as the prospects for the future could hardly be brighter there than here; it would not be inconsistent to expect a salary to begin with equal to that promised me for the coming year viz, \$1500. The considerations which I mentioned in my former letter are the principal ones that make the position <sup>attractive</sup> at that figure.

In speaking of the Logan position yesterday, Mr. Mead made the remark that should I return to Utah, it would be desirable to have me keep in close touch with the work of his Office. This, however, is a matter which can be left for future consideration.

I trust you will pardon the extreme length of this letter which has extended itself much beyond the limit I had intended. Awaiting your further pleasure, I am

Sincerely Yours,





(Copy)

Prof. Frank Scule<sup>1</sup>,  
Dean of the College of Civil Engineering  
University of California,

Dear Sir:-

I write in the interest of Mr. Arthur P. Stover who intends, I believe, to apply for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

I have known Mr. Stover intimately for about eight years and take pleasure in testifying as to his good moral character, his ability as a student and his successful career as an Assistant in the Irrigation Investigations and later an Instructor in the University of California. In 1896 -98 he was one of my brightest and best students in Civil Engineering at the Agricultural College of Utah and was an assistant on a field party which was organized in the spring of 1897 to make experiments on the flow of water in irrigation canals.

In 1902 he was sent by Professor Mead, at my urgent request, to assist me in investigating the irrigation conditions of the Gallatin Valley, Montana and in preparing a report for the Government on this particular portion of Montana.

His subsequent career as an instructor in the University of California is so well and favorably known that I need only to refer to it. I have urged Mr. Stover to try to secure the Bachelor's degree at this University in order that an opportunity may be presented to secure at some later period the Master's degree. I hope that he will be successful as I believe him to be in every sense a worthy candidate.

Very Respectfully Yours,

(Signed) S. Fortier,

Agent & Expert in charge Pacific District  
Irrigation Investigations.



(Copy)

Berkeley Cal. April 5 1904.

Prof. Frank Soule',  
Dean, College of Civil Engineering,  
Berkeley, Cal.

Dear Professor:-

Mr. Arthur P. Stover, is I understand a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Science in the College of Civil Engineering of this University, and I write to give you an outline of his work since leaving the Utah Agricultural College of Utah so far as the same has come under my notice.

Mr. Stover won his place in the irrigation work of the Department of Agriculture in a competitive Civil Service Examination in which he stood third among about forty candidates of whom more than one half failed. During the past five years he has had independent charge of the work of the Irrigation Investigations in some of the principal districts of Colorado, Utah and Montana, and has prepared a number of reports of these investigations.

His work as instructor in the Department of Irrigation in the University has been entirely satisfactory. I regard him as a very capable, industrious and thoroughly trustworthy young man, and believe that his work in the Investigations should be considered as an equivalent for considerable class room drill, should such allowance be necessary in order to entitle him to a degree

Sincerely Yours,

(Signed) Elwood Mead.