

most famous philanthropists he built up an endowment. This is not the place to review his administration, but it should be said that he personally taught courses in which he won the respect and affection of thousands of young women.

During the period of his presidency, Dr. Lefavour was a trustee of Williams, and immediately upon his retirement from Simmons, he became chairman of the Massachusetts Emergency Public Works Commission, on which he served for eleven years. In 1938 he became President of the Massachusetts Historical Society. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in April, 1940, and, considering the other demands upon him, he always was a very sympathetic and generous supporter.

Dr. Lefavour on October 17, 1917, married Anna Burgess, who died on January 15, 1941. He himself died on June 16, 1946.

C. K. S.

JOSEPH HENRY SINCLAIR

Joseph H. Sinclair died on May 24, 1946, of a heart ailment, at Ottawa, where he was vacationing. He was born at Toronto on July 18, 1879, the eldest son of Henry Francis and Isabella Matthews (Baer) Sinclair. His father, who was English, although a former resident of Philadelphia, moved the family to Rochester, where Joseph attended the public schools and the University, which granted him a B.A. in 1902 and an M.S. in 1912. In 1902 Sinclair went to work as topographer for the Northern Pacific Railroad, and later he joined the United States Geological Survey. Leaving government service after a few years, he explored for mining companies in South America, Canada, and Africa. In 1918 he discovered in Guinea fossils which for the first time permitted the dating of much of the rock formation of western Africa. Later in the service of the American Geographical Society

he explored eastern Ecuador, making the first maps of the region and visiting areas which had not been seen by white men since the days of the Spanish conquest. In 1933 he began work on the problem of atomic disintegration, and in 1943 he became director of research for the Union Mines Development Corporation.

Mr. Sinclair was the author of many scientific papers, and in 1929 he translated into English the 1534 Seville edition of *La Conquista del Peru*. His chief hobby was Ecuador, and it was in connection with a bibliography of the periodicals of that country, on which he worked for many years, that he was elected to this society in April, 1931. At the next meeting he read a paper on "The Periodical Literature of Ecuador, with some Reminiscences of Travel in that Country." It was intended that this paper would serve as the introduction for the bibliography, which we were to publish; but the task proved too great a one for an amateur bibliographer and was never completed, although the manuscript copy which he left to the Library is very useful. Mr. Sinclair continued to attend our meetings regularly until failing hearing discouraged him. The Library was in his last years able to be of some slight service in a matter which might have been tragic for him. When the Civil Service engaged him in 1903 it accepted affidavits which he presented regarding the naturalization of his father. After he had for forty years served the government in various, sometimes highly confidential, capacities, and traveled over the world on American passports, the Civil Service reversed its original decision and challenged his citizenship. Our directory collection located his father in Philadelphia in the seventies, but the Government reported that its naturalization records there were in such disorder that they could not be used. The Canadian authorities, meantime, reported that they could find no record of his birth, so, to his great distress, he seemed

to be a man without a country. Thanks to an appeal to the President and to the firm stand of the State Department he was saved from the hands of the immigration authorities.

After this experience Mr. Sinclair was not inclined to trust his biography to the skill of posterity, so he deposited in the Library a full outline of his life and his work, containing data which certainly could not have been uncovered by any one else.

Mr. Sinclair is survived by his widow, the former Ada Bedard of Ottawa, to whom he was married at Calgary on July 8, 1913.

C. K. S.

JOSEPH ALLEN SKINNER

Joseph A. Skinner was born at Williamsburg, Massachusetts, on May 20, 1862, a son of William and Sarah E. (Allen) Skinner. He was prepared for college at private academies and was graduated at Yale with the degree of Ph.B. in 1883. This was the scientific course which he took in preparation for taking his place in the silk manufacturing business which his father, an English immigrant, had founded. He became in time treasurer of William Skinner and Sons of Holyoke, but he had many other business interests, such as the presidency of the Hadley Falls Trust Company and a directorship in the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company. For twenty years Mr. Skinner was superintendent of the Sunday school at Grace Church, and in later years he was a deacon of the Second Congregational Church. These and many other Holyoke institutions, particularly the hospital and the Y.M.C.A., benefited from his philanthropy. He gave more than half a million dollars to Mt. Holyoke College, which in 1925 awarded him an L.H.D. Among his more unusual philanthropies was the rebuilding

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