

Death of Charles O. Hardy

Dr. Charles Oscar Hardy, '04, one of the best known Ottawa alumni, died November 30 in Washington, D. C. He was staff director of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report.

Dr. Hardy was a member of the University board of trustees. He was prominent in alumni affairs, serving on the campaign committee of the recent Wilson Field House-Commons campaign. He was a former professor of history and economics and dean of the College at O. U.

As an economist, he was recognized throughout the nation for his penetrating knowledge and understanding of the complicated economics of American living. After taking his Ph.D. from Chicago University, he taught there and in Iowa State College. From 1924 to 1943 he was a staff member of the Brookings Institution, an economics research organization in Washington. From 1943 to 1946 he was an economist with the Federal Reserve bank in Kansas City. From 1946-47 he was economist for the Chicago Association of Commerce,

a position which he resigned to become staff director for the important congressional committee.

Mrs. Hardy and a son and a daughter reside in Washington.

From his many friends among Ottawa have come wonderful comments. Excerpts are quoted from a few of these.

At funeral services in Ottawa, Sam Marsh, '14, spoke: "Charles O. Hardy was first known to me as a teacher at Ottawa University. We who studied under him, or perhaps I should say with him, considered him one of the most brilliant members of our faculty. His mind was always on the march. He was studious, thorough, and exacting. His keen intellect was the yard stick by which he judged his students' attainments in the classroom, but outside of the classroom he developed more than most teachers do a personal interest in each and every student on the campus.

"Though his keen intellect carried him on to higher and higher positions, he never lost the common touch with his former students. At every place where he lived and worked throughout his successful career he at once re-established his contacts with his Ottawa friends.

"I know of this fine quality of his character from many personal experiences that I could mention, and I know of it from the testimony of a great many of our mutual friends. Charles O. Hardy, though a very busy and important man, found the time to do graciously these worthwhile things that give zest to life, which most of us have aspired to do but have not done.

"During the past four years I have observed his work as an Ottawa trustee. There again his deep interest in the school was outstanding. Here he found an opportunity to express in a slightly different manner his lasting interest in Ottawa University. He served on several important committees, chief of which was the committee to develop a sound plan for retirement benefits for members of the faculty. He was an able trustee, because he was so thoroughly conversant with the needs of the school. I feel sure

that the other members of the board of trustees share with me the belief that he was one of the most loved and useful members.

"We are going to be deprived of numerous earthly pleasures we have enjoyed with Charles O. Hardy, but his great soul will live forever in the hearts of all Ottawans."

Mrs. George G. Wagner, '14, one of his best loved former students, wrote: "He was a wonderful person of great simplicity with such a big heart and brilliant mind. We are proud to have been among his friends.

"What a pity that he had to be struck down comparatively early in life. He was really in the prime of usefulness with the opportunity to help straighten out and guide some of our national administration's troubled thinking."

Dr. L. Raymond Higgins, former O. U. professor, now living in retirement at Ward Homestead in Maplewood, New Jersey, wrote: "During the years 1913-1918 I was associated with Charles O. Hardy as a teacher at Ottawa University. Dr. Hardy had the qualities of a superior teacher — thoroughness, clearness, accuracy, sincerity. As dean of the college for a few years he manifested fidelity, good judgment and efficiency. He was genuine and considerate of others. His manner was unobtrusive, undemonstrative, unpretentious."

And, finally Charles O. Stansell in a Kansas City Star editorial wrote:

"Thousands of former students at Ottawa University and many other persons in Kansas and nearby states have been saddened by the death of Dr. Charles O. Hardy, one-time faculty member at the institution, who gained a national reputation as an economist. Dr. Hardy was well known in Kansas City where for three years he was vice-president of the Federal Reserve bank and director of research. He was called here after nearly twenty years of service with the Brookings Institution in Washington, where for the last two years he had directed the staff of the joint congressional committee on the economic report.

"Always patient and thorough

Dr. Hardy was the kindly friend and adviser of his students who will have reason to recall his able assistance in whatever task was at hand. These qualities were carried through his entire career, including service at various educational institutions and as counselor to several government agencies. Numerous honors in the field of economics came to Dr. Hardy, all of them deserved. His passing at a time before his life work was complete is a matter of the deepest regret."
