



Silver Gavel presented by Mr. J. W. Richards to the Society.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE QUARTO CENTENNIAL
OF THE COLORADO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

1882-1907

The members and guests of the Society having assembled, and the meeting having been called to order, Mr. Edwin N. Hawkins presented the silver gavel, the gift of Mr. J. W. Richards, to the President.

Mr. President:

By the generous gift of Mr. J. W. Richards of the Colorado Scientific Society, this silver gavel becomes the property of this Society, and I present it to the Society through you, sir, with the compliments of Mr. Richards. This is a peculiarly fitting occasion for such a gift, and the quarter century in the history of the Society will always be associated hereafter with this gavel and the thoughtfulness and generosity of the donor. With great pains Mr. Richards secured the solid piece of native silver which forms the body of the gavel. It came from one of the large mines of Aspen, Colorado, and is in one piece. This head weighs 6 ozs. Troy. With even greater labor he gathered from ores of silver the amount of 5 ozs. Troy with which he has made the handle. The total weight of the gavel is 11 ozs. Troy. It is the wish of the giver and of the Society, Mr. President, that this insignia of authority may be wielded by you at many future successful meetings of the Colorado Scientific Society. Permit me, on behalf of the Society, to now make you custodian of this gavel.

The President received the gavel and said:

I accept this beautiful gavel, the gift of Mr. Richards, and presented by you, on behalf of the Colorado Scientific Society.

It is of pure silver, from this great state: it was mined here; it was refined here; it was fashioned here. It is entirely a Colorado product. It is of pure silver, as is befitting the occasion of the silver anniversary of this Society.

May the decisions of the presiding officer of this Society, with this gavel in his hand as his symbol of authority, always ring as true and clear as does this silver gavel.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT.

THOMAS L. WILKINSON.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Colorado Scientific Society:

We meet here tonight to celebrate the twenty-fifth birthday of the Colorado Scientific Society.

When those of the twelve founders who are still with us look back over the last twenty-five years and take account of the Society's work, I believe it will be with a feeling of satisfaction.

It will be with the feeling that when they met together on December 8th, 1882, in the rooms of the United States Geological Survey, on the sixth floor of the Tabor Block, to organize this Society, their labors were not in vain.

They were then young men, and (as they are today) enthusiastic in scientific work, but it is altogether improbable that any of these founders ever looked this far ahead, or even dreamed of the silver anniversary of the Society.

And we, the members of today, have a feeling of grateful appreciation, in that we have been the associates and followers of these founders in the cause of Science.

Webster, in a speech in the Senate, speaking of the country west of the Mississippi River, said that, so far as he was concerned, he would not vote to spend one dollar in its ex-

ploration or development. This Western country was a vast wilderness then, raw and undeveloped; but not so today. Many influences have played a part in its growth. How really marvelous has been this growth! and today they call it the Great West.

Science has been and is one of the factors that has made this rapid and yet substantial development possible. Its circle of influence is at all times widening. This Society, from its inception, has been a potent factor in the development of this Commonwealth. All these years the Society has performed its work quietly and effectively, and its influence has been felt.

The Society has grown from the twelve founders in 1882 to a strong and effective organization of 250 members today. The rooms of the Society, which are maintained in this building, with its mineral collections and its library, are the Mecca for many, even those outside the Society, in the work of scientific research.

Our library, in which we take great pride, though not so large in the number of its volumes as others, is without doubt the most valuable scientific collection in the West.

The Society also enjoys the correspondence and exchange of the publications of 135 learned scientific bodies in different parts of the world.

It has been the dream that some day the Society would be housed in its own home. Larger and probably more powerful organizations have been in our condition as to permanent quarters. This dream may some day be realized. A society which gives its best efforts, the results of its research work along scientific lines, to the upbuilding of the industries of the State and the West in general, certainly deserves some financial recognition at the hands of those who have been so bounteously profited through it.