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Fernald, B.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,

Fernald
DIVISION OF FORESTRY,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 6, 1895.

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Dr. D. C. Gilman,

President Jury of Awards.

My dear Sir:-

I have had occasion unfortunately to prefer some complaints of exhibitors in my Department, without having had access to an official list of awards and hence partly in ignorance of what had been accorded to them.

In sending my memorandum to President Collier I have used perhaps too frank language, which unless read with a full knowledge of my personality and of the absolutely impartial meaning intended might be misconstrued. Hearing that my letter has been forwarded to you, I wish to prevent any such misunderstanding. It would perhaps have been more politic to avoid reflection on the jury, but as I had expressed myself directly to them--all my friends--in the same way, I saw no reason for withholding my opinion, by which my disagreement was most emphatically expressed.

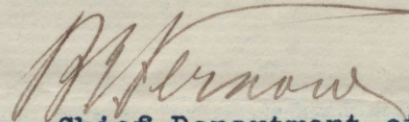
I wish to assure you that I am only interested in having fair recognition accorded to those of the exhibits, which have been really meritorious and which the jury failed to recognize as such, because they applied a highly scientific and educational standard, where a commercial standard should have been applied.

I may claim that I know each exhibit and the intrinsic value and commercial significance of each better than any one else, having personally superintended its procurement and installation and could give such reasons for a proper valuation of each, as would satisfy any one conversant with the trade as to its merits and demerits.

If a revision of the awards is still possible and if it is proper for me to make a report for the use of the revising jury on the awards, against which exhibitors in my Department have demured, I would thank you for a list of the awards made as a basis for such report.

Having had the pleasure of receiving personally a gold medal, it may be unnecessary to assure you, that I would in no case lower the value of this award by advancing undeserving exhibits.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read "B. H. Knowlton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chief Department of Forestry