

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS DAY

Thursday, December 3, 1914

LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE

OF THE ADDITION TO

The Commerce Building



COMMERCE BUILDING

Program of Illinois Day

1914

AT THE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

- 2:00 P. M. Review of the University cadet regiment by the Governor of the State in the new Armory
- 3:00 P. M. Laying of the cornerstone of the Addition to the Commerce Building by Vice President David Kinley
- 4:00 P. M. University convocation in the Auditorium, Illinois Day address by the President of the University

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

MEMORANDUM

CONCERNING THE LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE OF THE ADDITION TO THE COMMERCE BUILDING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1914, AT 3 P. M.

Dr. Edmund J. James, President of the University of Illinois, announces that the cornerstone of the Addition to the Commerce Building of the University of Illinois will be laid on Illinois Day, Thursday, December 3, 1914, at three o'clock in the afternoon.

The present Commerce Building was finished two years ago, and the remarkable increase in attendance on the University courses in commerce is emphasized by the fact that it is already necessary to plan for a larger building. In the planning of the building opportunity was fortunately provided for successive enlargements which might be made necessary by the increasing number of students. The sudden demand for better trained men for work in the field of foreign commerce, occasioned by the great war in Europe, and the consequent chances for increasing our foreign trade has sent up the attendance at the commerce courses by leaps and bounds. The registration of students has increased over 54 per cent the present year over the past. The Trustees of the University determined to take time by the forelock and have the building ready for occupation when the crisis should become acute.

Until a special administrative building can be erected the administrative offices of the University will be housed in this addition, but so as to give way gradually as the growing needs of the College of Commerce may make necessary.

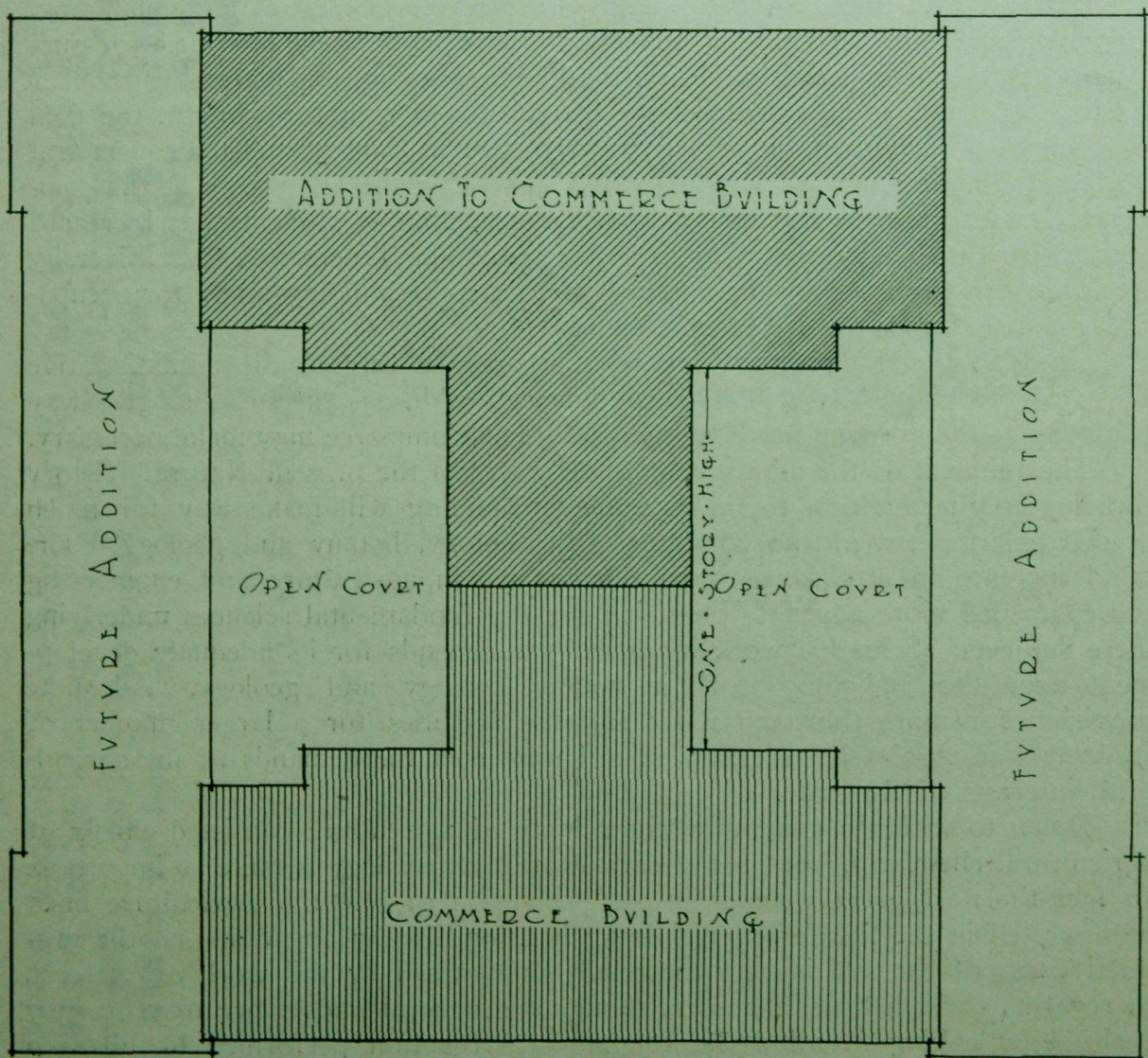
The removal of the administrative offices from the present Natural History Building to the addition to the Commerce Building will make way for much needed enlargement of the laboratories in zoology, botany and geology. The rapid increase in attendance upon the courses in agriculture and engineering has compelled more adequate provision for the fundamental sciences underlying these subjects. Scientific work in agriculture depends for its adequate development upon thoroughgoing work in botany, zoology and geology. Adequate provision for more thorough work and for facilities for a larger number of students was absolutely necessary in order to meet the demands of the agricultural interests of the state.

Down to within a generation the science of agriculture consisted chiefly of agricultural chemistry. But today agricultural bacteriology is quite as important. In fact the next great advance in the promotion of scientific agriculture must be expected in the field of bacteriology; it being already apparent that the productiveness of the soil is very materially determined by the work of bacteria, in regard to which little is known, though the general importance may be fully realized by calling to mind the fundamental function performed by nitrogen fixing bacteria.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ADDITION

The addition to the Commerce Building will, to all outward appearance, except for a modification of the entrance design, be a duplicate of the present Commerce Building. The first story and cornice are to be of Bedford stone, while the second and third will be of brick embellished with pilasters. The roof will be of green, semi-glazed tile. The buildings are to be fireproof, but there will not be any structural inside walls. All interior walls and floors are to be carried on steel columns and beams, which will be fireproof with hollow tile casings. The type of construction adopted will make it easy to rearrange interior partitions to meet the various changing conditions of the School of Commerce.

The building consists of a main part three stories in height, dimensions 153 x 66½, with a one-story annex 48 x 42½ feet. It will face Wright Street.



PLOT PLAN OF COMMERCE BUILDING