

Walter Wadsworth Bradley (1878-1950)

Walter Wadsworth Bradley, retired Chief of the Division of Mines, Department of Natural Resources, State of California, known as State Mineralogist, and former member of the Association of American State Geologists, died April 11, 1950. He and Mrs. Bradley had just returned from an extended automobile trip throughout the United States. They resided at 835 Santa Barbara Road, Berkeley, California.

He was born September 28, 1878. A native of California, Mr. Bradley graduated from the University of California in 1901 with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Mining. He was awarded the advanced degree of Mining Engineer by the University in 1917. His career included experience in the mining industry, the publication field, and long service for the state. He was Associate Editor of the Mining and Scientific Press, San Francisco, 1903-04; Mill Superintendent, Standard Consolidated Mining Company, Bodie, California, 1905-06; Assistant Manager and Engineer, Ventanas Mining and Exploration Company, Ltd., Mexico, 1907-08; Chemist, De Lamar Company, Ltd., Idaho, 1909-11; Librarian, Field Assistant, Statistician, Curator, and later Deputy Mineralogist, State Mining Bureau and State Division of Mines, California, 1912-28; Chief of the Division of Mines and State Mineralogist, 1928-46, when he retired. He was versed in the mineral resources of California and specialized in the quicksilver resources of that state, including metallurgy and ore dressing. He was a member of Sigma Xi, Le Conte Geological Club, of which he was president in 1937, American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, University of California Club, of which he was president 1945-47, Union League Club of San Francisco, of which he was president in 1944, and Commonwealth Club of California.

Mr. Bradley was the author of many articles on mineral resources and mineral production in California from 1916 to 1947, many of which were official publications of the California State Mining Bureau and its successor, the Division of Mines and Mining, and of other articles on geology, minerals and mineral deposits, and mining for scientific journals, including the California Journal of Mines and Geology, trade journals, and educational journals. Shortly after his appointment as Chief of the Division of Mines and Mining, later the Division of Mines, he established a geological branch which grew steadily and resulted in the preparation of a large geologic map of California and other achievements.

In addition to his reputed technical ability and services, he was widely known for his integrity, genial personality, and cooperative spirit.