INTRODUCTION

The opinion of one of my former teachers that the University of New Mexico had not yet experienced its period of greatest growth and development definitely contributed to my decision to come here in 1925. As we now, fourteen years later, celebrate the semi-centennial of its founding, it is my sincere belief that the greatest era of development for the University will take place during the coming fifty years.

In holding this opinion I am not unmindful of the struggles and difficulties which lie ahead, but I cannot believe that they will be greater or more difficult to overcome than have been many of those experienced by the leaders of the past fifty years. Expressions of fear, doubt, and anxiety have been heard on many occasions when definite forward steps have been taken, and I doubt not that similar expressions will be heard many times in the future. It is altogether right and proper that in the growth and development of a state university those responsible for its administration should be faced continually with the duty of overcoming the fears and doubts and anxieties of the citizenship which supports it. Knowing from personal experience many of the current doubts and fears, I believe it appropriate for me to set forth in this brief introduction some of the reasons for my optimism regarding the future of the University.

The educational program of the University is being developed along sound lines by a young and capable faculty, whose work is just now beginning to be known. The names of most of them will not be found in the pages of this volume, but they will be the makers
of University history during the next fifty years. They are familiar with the numerous experiments made in recent years in the field of higher education and have made wise use of those which have been proved to have genuine educational value. Sound planning for the future is given continuous and careful attention. My greatest single reason for being optimistic about the future is the faith which I have in the faculty.

There seem to be abundant reasons for believing that higher education in the United States during the next fifty years will place much greater stress on the humanities and on all phases of human history and human relations. Not that we will discount the natural sciences and engineering of all kinds, but we can surely see now, in the face of present world conditions, the vital importance of the social sciences and the humanities.

In this connection we see already unusual national emphasis on cultural relations with Latin America. Our University, through its already established emphasis in several departments, with its Spanish-speaking population, and strategic geographic location, has the opportunity of becoming in the near future one of the important academic centers of Pan American cultural relations. If the citizens of New Mexico could visualize what this development may mean for our State and its people, many doubts and fears as to the future program of the University would be easily overcome.

From yet another standpoint there is reason for sound faith in the future. On this occasion we dedicate our best and newest buildings, and express our deep gratitude to the Federal Government, with whose aid they could not have been erected. Let us bear in mind also the aid that came to the State and to the University,
through the public lands granted to the State for the University at the time of the Enabling Act. Funds derived from oil discovered on those lands aided in the erection of most of the other buildings on the campus. Reports from these lands of recent date give grounds for the belief that our funds may be increased from this source. We hope soon to submit applications to the Federal Government for additional aid in our construction program. Furthermore, there is at present a trend in national legislation which may result in the future in some form of Federal aid to state universities for essential and necessary higher educational programs, especially in states where such aid is clearly needed. In our future relation to the Federal Government, as in the past, we have an encouraging outlook.

The relation of the University to the State and to the City of Albuquerque during the period with which I am familiar reveals that as a rule Governors and Legislatures have sought to give assistance in every way possible, and that they have been sympathetic when they could not be as generous as was hoped. Our Regents, despite the handicap of short terms and the consequent lack of continuity in office, have given the highest type of unselfish, devoted, and non-political service to the University.

Because of the many other publicly supported institutions of higher learning in New Mexico, the University, along with all of the others, feels the general shortage of funds with which to meet its operating needs. On the other hand, we have not been faced with the overcrowding of students which most state universities have experienced during the past fifteen or twenty years.
The Albuquerque community, with its steadily increasing population and its thoroughly progressive public school system, guarantees for the future years a large body of students of high scholastic ability. Add to these the increasing numbers of excellent students from other New Mexico schools and the very fine groups now coming from other sections of the country, and there is every reason to be gratified with the outlook for the University so far as its future student body is concerned.

We are fortunate in our location. We shall, as time goes on, undoubtedly attract more and more students from outside the State, many of them will remain to help build New Mexico. National attention is already upon us. Mr. Edwin R. Embree, in an article entitled "In Order of Their Eminence: An Appraisal of American Universities", in the Atlantic Monthly for June, 1935, wrote: "A ... stimulating environment is the University of New Mexico, where the student may rub shoulders with Indian, Spanish, and Anglo-Saxon cultures in a setting refreshing both as to human and as to natural scene." Mr. Embree advised prospective students in the larger centers of population in the North and East to seek out the numerous "Excellent colleges ... all the way from Boston to Hawaii", where the "educational stimulus of fresh environment" may be found. We shall undoubtedly attract many of the intellectually alert students of this sort—another reason for pride and for hope.

The Alumni, if we may judge by the wonderful spirit manifested in connection with this semicentennial, will be expressing their faith and their wishes for the University by means of sounder and more widely distributed organizations and programs during the future. Alumni support is growing every year and is recognized by Regents and Faculty as one of the surest reasons for faith in the
This is not the time nor place to speak of the present University program, in which I naturally have great confidence. Some phases of it will be found in the following pages, and those who wish more details are referred to the catalog and other official bulletins available at the University Press.

On the occasion of its semicentennial, the University, grateful to the State and all of its leaders in government and in all walks of life, enters into its second half century of history with the sincere desire to merit through efficient educational service the continued support of New Mexico and its citizens.

Signed:

J. F. Zimmerman, President
University of New Mexico

May 1939