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PRESENTATION OF THE NOBEL PRIZE TO PROFESSOR ERNEST O. LAWRENCE¹

By Professor RAYMOND T. BIRGE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

*Mr. President, Mr. Consul-General, Dr. Lawrence,
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

SOUTH DAKOTA was admitted to the Union in 1889. It is thus a very young state, and one need not be surprised that as yet relatively few of its native sons have achieved great distinction. One of these few is Ernest Orlando Lawrence, who was born in Canton, S. D., on August 8, 1901. Ernest's father, Carl G. Lawrence, is now president emeritus of Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen, S. D., and is living in Berkeley with his wife. The father of Carl Lawrence was Ole Lawrence, another school teacher, who, as an immigrant from Norway, settled at Madison, Wis., in the year 1840. Ernest's maternal grand-

father, Erik Jacobson, also an immigrant from Norway, was a South Dakota pioneer.

Ernest Lawrence is the first native of South Dakota to be elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, an honor that came to him in April, 1934, when he was only 32 years old. He is now the first native of South Dakota to become a Nobel Laureate. By an interesting coincidence, one of Dr. Lawrence's intimate boyhood friends, Dr. Merle A. Tuve, is at present in charge of nuclear physics research at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, where a huge 60-inch cyclotron, similar to the large Berkeley cyclotron, is now under construction.

Dr. Lawrence obtained his elementary education in the public schools of Canton and Pierre, S. D., and did his undergraduate college work first at St. Olaf Col-

¹ Address at the Nobel Prize presentation, February 29, 1940.

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