

Professor's arrest sparks controversy

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overly zealous officer's arrest may have confused the sometimes-absent-minded professor, especially since he was authorized to issue seine permits on behalf of the state.

Even more puzzling was the verdict in "Squire Young's court." Eigenmann was fined \$5 and costs for the offense, as a result of Young's interpretation of the law — that the state, nor anyone representing the state, could own a seine.

Explained the *World*, "The seines that have been seized were a special purchase by the state. One of them, for especially work of exploration of lakes for state reports, cost the state treasury \$75. The deputy fish commissioner will tax the state \$5

for burning its \$75 worth of property."

Of Eigenmann, IU historian James A. Woodburn wrote. "He possessed the enduring German qualities of inveterate persistence and endless patience with detail." The *World* reported that the professor arrived in Young's court armed with logic. It took the form of printed copies of state reports he, himself, had written. He may have felt that his mentor, former IU President David Starr Jordan, would have been less patient with the squire.

It is unlikely that the local official would have been impressed by the fact that in the years ahead Eigenmann would run into far less red tape in scientific expeditions to South America, research that would earn him election to the National Academy of Science. Nor

would Young have been swayed by the fact that Bloomingtonians in general, and Eigenmann's students in particular, were awed by his ability to find fish never before classified by scientists.

Commented the *World*, "State officials today wired Fish Commissioner Sweeney to remove the northern Indiana deputy from the State's salary list. The charge of fee-grabbing is made."

If Eigenmann saw any humor in being arrested and hauled into court for doing what he should have been doing, visiting Professor James G. Needham of Lake Forest University who was lecturing to the students at the biological station, didn't think there was anything funny about it. He saw the whole incident as not only ridiculous but "a danger to scientific research."