

MELLON RITES SET TOMORROW IN PITTSBURGH

Financier and Ex-Treasury
Head Dies at 82 After
Two-Month Illness.

(Continued from Page One)

impression of him was his innate modesty. His life-long benefactions were studiously withheld from the public. For years he forbade mention of the great gift he had prepared for the American people. The new art gallery at Washington is likely to excel any such collection in the world.

Taken Ill Last June

His official successor, former Secretary of the Treasury Ogden Mills, called him a "great man, simple, loyal and courageous," and Arthur A. Ballantine, who served under him in the Hoover Administration as assistant secretary, said he was "a truly constructive American."

Mr. Mellon was taken ill in Washington last June while directing the establishment of his art gallery.

He had selected a site for the building on Washington's Mall, and had agreed to pay the 15 million dollars construction costs.

In a letter to President Roosevelt, proposing the gift, Mr. Mellon stipulated that the gallery should not bear his name and that it should belong to all the people.

Mr. Mellon's illness was a recurrence of a bronchial ailment from which he suffered the last two years. In July he came here to stay with his daughter, who had been his hostess at London when he was Ambassador to the Court of St. James from February, 1932, until the start of the Roosevelt Administration in March, 1933. Since then he had been confined to the house.

Death came at a time when Mr. Mellon was awaiting a final decision by the United States Board of Tax Appeals on the Federal Government's suit to collect \$3,075,104 which Treasury officials claimed he owed in income taxes for 1931.

Tax Verdict Pending

The suit was tried in Pittsburgh in 1935, with Mr. Mellon insisting that instead of owing the Treasury money he had overpaid his taxes to the extent of \$139,045. A voluminous pile of data bearing on the suit was turned over to a three-man trial board of the tax appeals board last summer, and the opinions of the members will be submitted to the full board of 15 members next month.

Mr. Mellon led a lonely life after the collapse of his marriage in 1900 with Nora McMullen, a vivacious Irish girl 25 years his junior, the granddaughter of Peter Guinness, wealthy Dublin brewer. They had two children, Ailsa and Paul. After nine years of married life, Mrs. Mellon sought a separation. Mr. Mellon filed suit for divorce in September, 1910. Mr. Mellon then sought a divorce on grounds of simple desertion and obtained a decree in July, 1912.

Mrs. Mellon yielded custody of the two children and received an

U. S. Financier Dead at 82



Andrew W. Mellon

annual income of \$30,000. Since his divorce, Mr. Mellon devoted most of his time to his philanthropies and to the collection of valuable paintings. He liked to play golf and ride a horse.

His chief philanthropic interests were the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Institute of Technology, the Pennsylvania College for Women and the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research.

Powerful In Cabinet

Andrew William Mellon, Secretary of the Treasury under three Presidents, was one of the most powerful cabinet members in the country's history.

He set the tone in two administrations, those of Presidents Harding and Coolidge, and was an influential member of President Hoover's cabinet.

The reason for Mr. Mellon's influence among the leaders of finance and big business, as well as the respect in which he was held by the average citizen, is not hard to trace. He grew up in Pittsburgh with the industrial age, was a part of it, and became a symbol of it. His attitude was paternalistic, acceptance of the theory that it is the province of leaders of industry to control large

wealth and create prosperity to be passed down to the average man, who in turn passes it back by an enlarged buying power.

Mr. Mellon's contributions as Secretary of Treasury were three: Reduction of taxes, reduction of the public debt and the agreements by which foreign nations funded their war debts to the United States.

Taking over the Treasury with a public debt of nearly 24 billion dollars hanging over the country from the World War, the Pittsburgh financier adopted a policy of gradually diminishing this huge obligation. In 10 years he lopped some eight billion dollars from it. Some political leaders favored a slower reduction of the war debt, arguing it should be borne somewhat by coming generations, but Mellon did not take this view and Presidents Harding, Coolidge and Hoover agreed with him.

Debt Operation Was Savings

By this debt operation, the Secretary of Treasury saved millions in interest charges annually, which, with the heavy revenues from the income tax pouring in from prosperous business, was applied to five successive tax reductions during his administration. Tax reduction always is popular

and Mr. Mellon was the apostle of tax reduction. The country applauded.

In his first "Mellon tax plan," the Secretary of Treasury tried to reduce levies on large incomes far more than Congress would stand. But over a period of years he had his way in a considerable paring down of rates on incomes of multimillionaires as well as those of the small taxpayer.

Then came the stock market break and on the heels of that reduced Government revenues which caused a deficit of nearly a billion dollars at the end of 1931 fiscal year, the first deficit that Mr. Mellon had encountered. A saying grew up around Washington that he had stayed too long.

A revealing incident as to Mr. Mellon's loss of caste toward the end of his administration occurred during debate in the House in the spring of 1931 when Rep. Allen T. Treadway (R. Mass.), in defending the Secretary, referred to him by the phrase frequently heard from the lips of Mr. Mellon's champions "the greatest Secretary of the Treasury since Alexander Hamilton." This provoked a loud burst of laughter, punctuated with guffaws, in which Republicans as well as Democrats joined.

Mr. Mellon took a philosophic attitude toward the depression. In his nearly four score years he had seen several. He liked to tell how he went west during the depression of 1873, selling wagons, on a junket to see the country. That depression lasted for seven years. He saw the country emerge from that slump to go on to prosperity never dreamed of in those days.

Mr. Mellon's father had migrated to the United States from County Tyrone, Ireland. He settled in Pittsburgh and became judge of the Court of Common Pleas there. He afterward became interested in banking and business. His sons, Andrew and Richard, grew up in very comfortable circumstances. Andrew went to the University of Pittsburgh, but his father took him out of school before he was graduated to start him and his brother in the lumber and real estate business.

After selling out that venture, the two young men went into their father's bank, then known as T. Mellon & Sons, and the forerunner

of the wide banking interests controlled by the Mellons today. Andrew became head of the bank at 25. With their capital backing, the Mellon brothers began to buy into this and that enterprise, until their holdings ramified over the entire country—in coal, banks, railroads, oil, aluminum. Mr. Mellon resigned as officer or director in 160 corporations when he became Secretary of Treasury.

Political Influence

Mr. Mellon exerted a potent influence in Pennsylvania politics most of his life. He contributed heavily to Republican campaign funds. He helped finance the fight

against the League of Nations,

the attention of President Harding machine" in Pennsylvania was which was one thing that attracted to him. The so-called "Mellon powerful and rich.

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