

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

TWENTIETH YEAR.

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NUMBER 223.

DEATH OF SECRETARY WINDOM.

He Expires Suddenly While Attending a Banquet in New York.

HE IS STRICKEN WITH HEART DISEASE.

The Summons Came Just After He Had Responded to a Toast—President Harrison Receives the Sad News.

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—Hon. William Windom, secretary of the treasury of the United States, died tonight at 10:05 o'clock in the banquet hall of Delmonico's, where he was the guest of the New York board of trade and transportation.

His death was the first toast of the evening. He had finished his repast, seated himself, swooned at once and died almost immediately.

Every effort was made to restore him, but in vain. He died of heart disease. The great excitement at once dissolved.

Mr. Windom had been the only speaker, and the sentiment to which he responded was: "Our Country's Prosperity Dependent Upon Its Instruments of Commerce."

In the early evening the members of the board of trade and transportation gathered in the reception parlors of Delmonico's and welcomed their guests and friends who had come from near and far. Perhaps the most prominent were Secretaries Windom and Tracy of the treasury and may respectively. Nova Scotia had a representative among those present in the person of her attorney general, Mr. Langley. Canada, too, was there in the person of Hon. Wilfrid Laurier. Mr. Windom dignified as usual, was apparently in perfect health.

All formed a jolly procession to the banquet hall, where the members and guests were seated, the members at the tables upon the floor and the guests at a long table upon a raised platform. Aged Captain Ambrose Snow, president of the board, was in the center place. At his right he seated Mr. Windom and upon his left Mr. May.

The dinner was completed shortly after 9 o'clock and Mr. Windom, being introduced by Judge Arnow, responded to the toast, "Our Country's Prosperity Dependent Upon Its Instruments of Commerce." He finished his speech at 9:55 o'clock. It had been remarked that he was reading it off hurriedly from a printed copy, going faster and faster as he neared the end, and at the last he had requested the audience not to applaud. A cuver of fear shot through the assemblage like an electric shock as the speaker finished. Windom was standing erect under the glare of the gas lights with the faces of all turned toward him. For a moment the secretary stood silent, while the banqueters, equally silent, watched him. It was a moment that no one who was present will ever forget. Then Mr. Windom sat down quietly—too quietly, many thought—in his seat, and Toastmaster Arnow arose to introduce ex-Secretary of State Bayard as the next speaker. He began a short speech, but had not proceeded far when Mr. Windom gave a short, sharp moan of anguish and fell back in his chair. His face grew purple, his lower limb stiffened and stretched out under the table, his eyelids opened and shut spasmodically, but there was no gleam of intelligence in his eyes, which were rapidly losing the lustre of life. The cigar which he had been smoking was held between a grim clinch of teeth.

For only a moment he appeared thus. A cry went up from those sitting near the guest table: "Look! Look at Mr. Windom!" Every eye was turned toward the man whose voice had just ceased. As they looked he collapsed in his chair and was falling to the floor. His face was ghastly, and a ery of horror arose from the late festive banqueters.

There was an immediate rush on the part of all toward Windom's chair, but several doctors who were present at the dinner got there first and drove the others back. They were Drs. Robinson, Durant, Whitney, Fisher and Bishop. Dr. Robinson bent down and making a close examination of the prostrate form, discovered that the heart was yet beating, and with the assistance of Judge Truxas, Captain Snow and one or two others carried him into the room behind the banquet hall, where everything was done to resuscitate him. Messengers were hastily dispatched for electric batteries and as many as four were applied to his body.

The body was rapidly growing cold. This was exactly 10:05 p.m. For six minutes electric shocks were applied incessantly, but without success. He was then pronounced dead.

"I would say the cause of death was apoplexy," said Dr. Robinson. "If it was not for the story of heart disease, I am inclined to think that heart disease killed him. Mr. Windom was subject to fits of heart failure. On Tuesday last he was seized with an attack while on the steps of the treasury at Washington, but he did not lose consciousness and was able to take care of himself."

At 10:11 p.m., Judge Arnow came out of the room where lay Mr. Windom, and announced that Secretary Windom, whom they had had the pleasure of hearing only a few minutes before, had breathed his last. "He is dead," he said.

This was a fearful announcement that was uttered in a voice midway between a sob and a whisper through that gaily bedecked banquet hall, around which still hung like a funeral pall the smoke of the after-dinner cigar.

"He is dead."

The words went to the heart of every man who heard them. They could hardly believe that the brilliant orator of a few minutes before, aglow with enthusiasm, predicting his future policy for the treasury, was now only insentia clay. His voice was forever silenced and his last words were for his country.

Silence fell upon the men who were only a few minutes before clamoring for news of Mr. Windom's condition.

Judge Arnow, on retiring with the unconscious man, had announced that Mr. Windom had only fainted, and it was not thought by those remaining that it was as serious as it proved to be.

When it was officially announced that the secretary was dead Secretary Tracy at once went to the nearest telegraph office and sent a message to President Harrison, informing him of the untimely event and requesting him to communicate with Mrs. Windom and have her start on the 11:30 p.m. train for New York. This will bring the widow to the city by 7 o'clock in the morning, and not until then can any arrangements be made for the removal of the body.

The scene that ensued when the death was officially announced is beyond description in mere words. Gradually the excitement abated and a death certificate was issued, signed by Drs. Whitney and Robinson,

giving the cause of death as first, cerebral hemiplegia, and second, coma.

Undertaker Huyler of Grace church was summoned and put in charge of the remains. The body was taken to room 25 of the Fifth Avenue hotel, where Secretary Tracy and Attorney-General Miller received it.

Later—President Snow telephoned to President Harrison that the body will be sent to Washington on a special train in the morning in charge of a special committee.

William Windom was born in Belmont, Ohio, May 10, 1827. He received an education, studied law at Mount Vernon, O., and was admitted to the bar in 1850. In 1852 he became prosecuting attorney of Knox county. In 1855 he removed to Minnesota and soon afterward was elected to Congress as a member, serving from 1855 to 1859. In 1859 he was appointed to the United States senate to fill the unexpired term of Daniel S. Norton, deceased, and was subsequently chosen to represent the state in 1860 and resigned in 1861 to enter the cabinet of President Garfield as secretary of the treasury, but retired on the accession of President Arthur, in the same year, and was elected to the Minnesota legislature, serving the remainder of his term in the senate. He was appointed secretary of the treasury by President Harrison, and has since served in that capacity.

The News Received in Washington.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—The announcement of the sudden death of Secretary Windom in New York tonight was so terribly sudden and unexpected that all who heard the news were profoundly shocked and so overcome as to be unable to express the grief they felt.

As soon as the telegram bearing the sad intelligence was received by the Associated press its contents were immediately communicated to President Harrison at the white house.

Mr. Davis then withdrew his amendment fixing the total number of representatives at 360.

Mr. Barry offered an amendment fixing the total number at 359, giving one more each to Arkansas, Minnesota and New York. It was laid on the table. Messrs. Davis and Washburn voting in the negative.

The Senate then passed exactly as it came from the House—27 mays; 24 strict party vote.

The Senate took up the house bill for the adjustment of the accounts of laborers, etc., under the eight-hour law, thus making it uniform with the house.

Mr. Blair consented to have it laid aside temporarily for the army appropriation bill.

Mr. Gorman objected, however, and on motion of Mr. Allison the army bill was taken up, displacing the eight-hour bill.

Mr. Davis moved that the bill shall receive pay on the retired list while receiving a salary as a government official.

The committee amendment to strike out the proviso limiting the rates to be paid for the construction of fortifications was referred to the Senate committee on fortifications.

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Among the more important bills introduced during the house session are the following:

By Karchner—Appropriating \$15,000 for the selection and land office fees of the states' 360,000 acres of endowment lands.

By Vandamacker—an amendment to the constitution providing that the legislature shall not assesses of fortifications.

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After discussion an order for Owenby's attendance at the silver pool investigation was issued and the committee of the whole resumed its session. After a long debate of a political character the committee rose and the house adjourned.

APPORTIONMENT BILL PASSED

It Receives the Sanction of the Senate by a Strict Party Vote.

NO CHANGE FROM THE HOUSE MEASURE.

The Bill Creating the Office of Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Also Adopted—House Proceedings.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29.—In the senate today the bill creating the office of fourth assistant postmaster general was passed.

The senate then proceeded to the consideration of the apportionment bill.

An amendment to increase the representation of Arkansas from six to seven was rejected—22 mays; 33 nays—Messrs. Davis, McMillin, Paddock, Stewart and Washburn voting with the democrats.

An amendment to increase the Minnesota representation by one was rejected—years 31, nays 22. Mr. Casey voted with the democrats, two of them not voting.

An amendment to increase Missouri's representation by one was rejected. Messrs. Davis, Paddock and Washburn voting ay with the democrats and Messrs. Casey, McMillin and Stewart voting no.

An amendment to increase the representation of New York from 34 to 35 was rejected—29 to 33. Messrs. Davis and Paddock being the only republicans voting in the affirmative.

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HOUSE.

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The house then went into committee of the whole on the military academy appropriation bill.

The committee having risen, Mr. Dingley presented a special report from the special silver pool committee, stating that a subpoena to appear before the committee had been served upon J. A. Owenby and said Owenby had refused or neglected to obey the summons. He asked the speaker to compel his attendance.

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FOURTY-EIGHT BALLOT IN ILLINOIS.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Jan. 29.—Balloting in joint session for United States senator was resumed today with out change. After the forty-eighth ballot on a motion to adjourn Gehrer caused a sensation by voting with the republicans and Farmers' Mutual Benefit association men. The motion was carried—10 to 10. The action of Gehrer in voting with the republicans and farmers for adjournment created a tremendous sensation on the democratic side. Half of the democrats in the house crowded around him protesting. Gehrer should be allowed to do what he wants to do, it was said. He was no machine and it was sensible to adjourn when it was plain to see that nothing could be gained by continuing the balloting today. It is openly said that Gehrer's bolt was for the purpose of convincing Speaker Crapo into giving him the chairmanship of the committee on mines and mineral resources.

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The independent candidates tried massing their strength on Wardell, but he had little significance, and may or may not represent their entire voting strength. There are no new developments in the senatorial campaign. The republicans and Farmers' Mutual Benefit association men are still seeking a candidate they can agree upon.

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WANTED HIS FATHER'S MONEY.

Frank Smallwood Hires the Wrong Man to Murder His Father.

DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 29.—Frank Smallwood, aged twenty-one years, only child of Joseph B. Smallwood, an old citizen, worth \$100,000, is a fugitive from justice, as is also his companion in a felonious conspiracy, Charles Potter.

Frank wanted to gain possession of his father's fortune and arranged with Potter to hire a Chicago tough to come to Detroit and murder old man Smallwood.

Secretary Blaine, in speaking of Mr. Windom, said his official family was more highly esteemed than Secretaries Windom and Tracy in cabinet, and those of the cabinet in Washington indicate how highly prized his friendship and valued his counsels.

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