WIFE OF OIL KING DIES IN NEW YORK

Mrs. John D. Rockefeller Passes Away at 10:20 A. M. at Home at Pocantico Hills.

HER HUSBAND IS IN FLORIDA

NEW YORK, March 12.—Mrs. John D. Rockefeller died at 10:20 o'clock this forenoon at the Rockefeller country home at Pocantico Hills, just outside of Tarrytown, where she has been ill for some time.

While Mrs. Rockefeller has been an invalid for many months, it is understood that her death came unexpectedly. Her husband, John D. Rockefeller, and her son were at Ormond, Fla., and were advised early today that Mrs. Rockefeller had taken a critical turn for the worse.

Mr. Rockefeller and his son immediately engaged a special train, which left Jacksonville early today it was learned, and is due here some time tomorrow. Mrs. E. Parmelee Prentice, Mrs. Rockefeller's daughter, was the only immediate relative present when she died.

Native of Ohio.

Laura Celestia Spelman Rockefeller was born in Wadsworth, O., of well-to-do New England parents, on September 9, 1839. She was her husband's junior by two months. As a child she lived in Wadsworth, in Burlington, Ia.; in Akron, O., where her father, Harvey E. Spelman, achieved a competence in the dry goods business, and later in Cleveland. In the grammar school at Cleveland she met John Rockefeller when they were 15 years old.

Rockefeller was a country boy. She was the daughter of one of Cleveland's leading citizens. His home was a little farm house; hers, one of Cleveland's handsomest residences. His associates, outside of school, were mostly farm hands and country boys; hers were talented folk of affairs drawn to her father's handsome home, for her father then was a member of the Ohio legislature, a public spirited citizen interested in philanthropies and a man of many activities. Notwithstanding other differences, the awkward youth and the city girl had in common a love of study and simple tastes, and they became fast friends.

Quiet, Studious Girl.

Laura Spelman's schoolmates knew her as a quiet, studious girl who would rather read a good book than go to the theater; as a devout church-goer and as a girl who was always well dressed in good taste, avoiding extremes and seeking simplicity. She was intensely practical and home-loving. At high school she caused some surprise by taking not only the prescribed course, but bookkeeping and other commercial studies little pursued by young women in those days.

There seems to have been little sentimentality in the friendship between Miss Spelman and young Rockefeller, but for ten years each was the other's best friend. During the days of Rockefeller's early manhood, when he saw his hopes of a college education fade away, and soon thereafter when he tramped the streets of Cleveland for weeks in a seemingly hopeless search for work, she encouraged and cheered him. Soon after he had established himself in his first place—as bookkeeper at $500 a year—she left Cleveland to complete her education at Worcester, Mass. She returned when she was 20 years old and taught in Cleveland's public schools. Her first class was the "A" grammar grade in the Brownell Street school, know known as the East Fourteenth Street school. And she renewed her friendship with young Rockefeller.

Aids Lover on His Books.

In 1862 Miss Spelman, described by her superiors as a splendid disciplinarian and a perfect teacher, became assistant principal of the school. Rockefeller, absorbed in business, took the books of his firm to her of an evening and together they would go over his affairs. Both of them were interested together in church work, too; she as a Congregationalist, he as a Baptist, and neither ever attended a dance or the theater.

Young Rockefeller prospered beyond his fai est hopes. As soon as he felt that he could ask her to become his wife he did so. They were married on September 8, 1864, the eve of her twenty-fifth birthday, and started to keep house in a little two-story brick residence on one of Cleveland's side streets. Upon her marriage she became a Baptist and to her religion and her home she devoted her entire time.

"To be a good wife and mother is the highest and hardest privilege of a woman," was one of the sayings accredited to her by the little circle of friends she knew at this time. The borders of her world were her home. Her whole life was wrapped up in her husband and children. She avoided all social functions and joined no clubs.

Spartan Training for Children.

When Mr. Rockefeller's wealth was mentioned in seven figures they left their first home for a residence remarkable only for its unpretentiousness on Euclid avenue, Cleveland's "mile of millions." Here Mrs. Rockefeller reared her four children; a fifth died in infancy.

The training given the Rockefeller children by their mother is declared to have been almost Spartan. Although the Rockefeller weath increased in leaps and bounds there was only one carriage and a horse cared for by a man, who acted as both coachman and hostler. These were used mostly Sunday on the trip to church. Mrs. Rockefeller employed two maids, but still insisted on doing much of the work herself. She also supervised every detail of the care and training of her children, particularly seeking to instill in their minds the lesson of thrift.

Of her children, three are living. She was the mother of four daughters and one son, the last named, John D. Rockefeller, jr., being the youngest. Her eldest daughter, Bessie, who married Prof. Charles A. Strong, died in France in 1906, at the age of 40. The second daughter, Alice, died in infancy.

The surviving children are Aita, wife of E. Parmalee Prentice; Edith, who married Harod Fowler McCormick, and John D. Rockefeller, jr.

BRITISH SHIP LOADED WITH COTTON IS SUNK

GALVESTON, Tex., March 12.—The British steamship Indian City, which sailed from Galveston for Havre February 18, has been sunk, according to a cablegram received here this afternoon by its agents. It carried 14,036 bales of cotton, constituting its first cargo. The cablegram came from Liverpool. No details were given.

Small Party of Germans Will Try to Block Siberian Railroad

LONDON, March 12.—A small party of Germans in China is reported to have undertaken one of the most striking adventures of the war in the east. A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Peking describes the exploits of these Germans, nine in number, who escaped from Tsing Tau after its capture by the Japanese and traveled nearly 1,000 miles overland in an effort to tie up Russia's Trans-Siberian railway.

The dispatch says the party is headed by Captain Rabe von Pappenheim, German military attache at Peking.

The eight men with whom he set forth made their way out of Tsing Tau and managed to procure Chinese passports, ostensibly for the purpose of going on a hunting expedition in the interior. They started away several weeks ago and no word was heard from them until recently.

It now appears that the Germans procured twenty camels and a large supply of explosives and pushed northward into Manchuria. They are now known to be between Buchatu and Tsintishar, in Manchuria, along the line of the Russian transcontinental railway. Their object, the Peking message says, is to put the Russian railway out of commission by blowing up tunnels.

Russian soldiers are pursuing the Germans.

Japan has been forwarding arms and ammunition to Russia over the Trans-Siberian railway and it might be assumed that the object of the Germans was to cut off this source of supply.

GERMAN OFFICIAL REPORT

Berlin War Office Says British Forces that Attacked La Bassee Were Driven Back.

RUSSIANS ARE CONTRADICTED

BERLIN, March 12.—(By Wireless to Sayville.)—The general staff of the German army today gave out a report on the progress of the war as follows:

"In the western arena: Two battleships of the enemy accompanied by two torpedo boats fired on Westende on the Belgian coast, to the north of Nieuport, yesterday. Seventy shots were fired without doing any damage. When our batteries became active the warships of the enemy retreated.

British Are Repulsed.

The British, who have occupied Neuvo Chapelle, advanced several times last night to the eastward, but were repulsed. Also to the north of Neuve Chapelle minor British attacks yesterday were repulsed. The fighting in this district still continues.

"It was quiet in the Champagne district yesterday. In the Vosges a heavy snowstorm prevailed and only minor operations took place.

"In the eastern arena to the north of the Forest of Augustowo we vanquished a force of Russians which avoided complete defeat by retreating hastily in the direction of Grodno. We took more than 4,000 prisoners, including two commanders of regiments, and we captured three cannon and ten machine guns. Furthermore, from the Augustowo district the Russians began a retreat in the direction of Grodno.

"At a point northwest of Ozralenko during an attack we captured three Russian officers and 220 men. To the north and northwest of Przasnysz the German attacks have made progress. In this district we took over 3,500 prisoners yesterday.

Russian Report Contradicted.

"A recent Russian official bulletin announced two great Russian victories, one at Grodno and the other at Przasynsz. In each of these engagements the Russians claim to have vanquished or annihilated two German army corps. If the chief in command of the Russian army really believed this, the events of the last few days will have corrected his opinion concerning the fighting power of the German army.

The offensive movement of the Russians before Grodno through the Augustowo forest resulted in failure. No Przasnysz German troops, after giving way for a short time, are again four kilometres (2½ miles) north of that town. Since relinquishing Przasnysz the Germans have taken prisoners to the total of 11,400 Russians on battlefields between the Vistula and the Orzyc rivers."

Cruiser Will Patrol Harbor of Boston

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Secretary Daniels late today announced that the armored cruiser Brooklyn, receiving ship at Boston navy yard, had been ordered to patrol the harbor there to guard against violations of neutrality. The German auxiliary cruiser Kron Prinzessin Cecelie is interned at Boston.

Wilson and Wilson Meet Mine Owners

WASHINGTON, March 12.—President Wilson took a hand in the eastern Ohio coal strike when he consulted with Secretary Wilson of the Labor department and representatives of the coal operators about methods for reaching a settlement. Secretary Wilson had already made fruitless efforts to bring the operators and the miners together.

As a result of today's conference, the president is expected to write letters to leaders of the two sides suggesting that the differences be arbitrated.

There have been suggestions that the commission, headed by Seth Low appointed by the president to deal with future controversies in the Colorado coal field might take charge of the situation in Ohio, but there has been opposition to this plan.

BRITONS PUSHING THEIR MOVEMENT UPON LA BASSEE

(Continued from Page One.)

putting into the field. This is just what the allies profess to desire. Their advance is timed to aid the Russians, for if the allies had not kept the Germans busy along the western front it is believed the German commanders would again have shifted forces to the eastern line to strengthen Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, whose armies are now fighting hard to regain the ascendancy between the Vistula and the Niemen rivers.

Battle Line Eighty Miles Long.

These battles in northern Poland are not thought in London to have reached their maximum intensity, but Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, with heavy reinforcements, is said to be attempting another flanking movement against Przasynsz, with the idea of resuming his original plan of advancing along the Niemen should the operations against Przasynsz be successful. The battle line, which is the crux of these operations, extend roughly for a distance of eighty miles between the Orzysc and Vistula rivers.

No recent news has been received in London concerning the operations of the allied fleets in the Dardanelles. Delayed dispatches from Constantinople show damage inflicted on the Turkish forts has not been serious and that life that the Turkish capital is in a state of in Constantinople is entirely normal. This contradicts the reports published today panic.