

## LEVI Z. LEITER IS DEAD

Pioneer Chicagoan Passes Away in Family's Midst of Heart Disease.

HAD GONE TO BAR HARBOR

Fortune Estimated at \$15,000, 000 Accumulated in Business and Realty Here.

Levi Z. Leiter died at an early hour yesterday morning in Bar Harbor, Me., whom he intended passing the summer with his family. He was 85 years old. For two years Mr. Leiter had been in failing health, but there had been no serious decline in strength during the last few weeks. It had been taking long rides and seemed to be holding his own against advancing years and his malady.

He had two sons and two of the three daughters Mr. Leiter left Washington and moved into the Vanderbilt cottage at Bar Harbor June 1. While no physician accompanied him, he had been able to walk after a long ride Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Leiter returned to the cottage and strolled about the spacious grounds. He retired feeling well and slept soundly in a few hours and complained of illness.

## CONTINUED TO SIX.

Mrs. Leiter used the regular medicines but they were without effect. She applied them several times and saw her husband continue to sink. Mrs. Leiter then hurriedly sent for a physician, but he had been delayed in his arrival and had breathed his last. Mrs. Leiter and the daughters, Miss Nancy and Dalay, were at the bedside. The physician asserted that death was certain. The body was telegraphed by hand to the Leiter Chicago residence in Rush street by Mrs. Leiter and was communicated to the staff in the Leiter office at 81 Clark street.

Leiter's Leiter was in Zeigler, Ill., at the time. Zeigler is a town of 1,000 people situated in Franklin County, about eighty-five miles southeast of Chicago. It is entirely controlled by the Leiters, the town being named after the elder Leiter. Joseph Leiter started for the East at once and may be able to reach Bar Harbor by this evening. In view of the fact that Leiter will begin their journey back to Washington within a few hours after the son's arrival, the funeral will take place in the capital on a day to be decided on.

## HELPERS BUILD CHICAGO.

Levi Z. Leiter was one of the founders of the Chicago of to-day, and his fortune is estimated first as a merchant, then as an investor in stocks and securities that rendered large returns.

Leiter's wealth really had its basis in the retail firm which is now Marshall Field & Co. Marshall Field said of the deceased yesterday:

"I have just heard of the death of Levi Z. Leiter and am greatly grieved at the news. He and I came to Chicago as boys, he coming in 1855 and I in 1858. We entered the wholesale dry goods business at Wabash and Dearborn. Co. at the same time, taking up offices work and I outside as salesman. He showed unusual abilities from the first, and in a few months he was the top man for twenty-five years. His ability grew with his years. He became a very strong man in every respect. Always possessing the highest integrity and a mind trained to attain the success one would naturally expect. He was always a great believer in Chicago, never wanting office yet always desiring to improve the government, and his death is a great loss to the community."

## LIVED IN WASHINGTON.

Mr. Leiter was born in 1819, two years ago in April. His winters of late years had been passed in Washington, where his residence was regarded as one of the most pretentious in the city. Soon after he became a widower he sold his winter home. Mr. Leiter made a large investment in the leading street railway stock there and turned this stock over to his wife.

The speculative firm of Joseph Leiter and Son, of the Board of Trade in 1887, ending disastrously as it did, caused a shrinkage of \$900,000 in the Leiter fortune. In that memorable contest of speculative gains and losses, P. F. Ausburn was arraigned on one side against the younger Leiters.

When the Leiter speculative failure fell to earth in crumpled ruins, Levi Z. Leiter hastened to Chicago to make his fortune, and of his ill-gotten realty holdings, and protected to the utmost the Leiter credit.

In one ready transaction he received from Marshall Field a check for \$200,000 for a large and valuable lot in the neighborhood. The venture saw Joseph Leiter retire from the field as a speculator. So shrewdly quiet and quickly had the father settled a large fortune in a few months that the son became a thing of the past.

Mr. Leiter was director in many large corporations. He was interested in the Chicago Stock Exchange, the Chicago and North Western Elevated Railroad Company, Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company, Spaulding & Co., Universal Fuel Company, Illinois Trust & Savings Bank, Chicago Edison Company, and in railroad and mining enterprises.

## LARGE REALTY HOLDINGS.

His real estate holdings in Chicago comprehend the entire Leiter property. Following is a list of the Leiter property in the business district of this city, together with its value:

Lot 10, corner southeast corner of State and Dearborn streets, owned by the Siegel, Cooper & Co. department store, \$3,400,000.

81 Clark street, building, \$6,000. Washington street, building, \$1,000.

Grand Pacific Hotel property, \$1,024,145.

Lakeview Building, southwest corner of Clark and Dearborn streets, \$1,000,000.

Building at 67-69 Washington street, \$1,000,000.

Building at northeast corner of State and Dearborn streets, \$1,000,000.

Building at northwest corner of State and Monroe streets, \$300,000.

Building at 109-111 Adams street, \$100,450.

Building at 117-121 Dearborn street, \$100,000.

Building at 228-230 Clark street, \$200,280.

Building at southwest corner of Madison and Dearborn streets, \$200,300.

## RECENT IN WASHINGTON.

(SPECIAL TO THE RECORD-HERALD.) WASHINGTON, D. C., June 9.—Leiter's death was suddenly regretted in Washington, although it was not unexpected. For two years past his health has caused his family and friends much anxiety, and during the last month he had a painless, but not a few, slight attacks of rheumatism.

He accepted no hospitality, and but few social affairs occurred at the famous Leiter mansion. New Hampshire and Lady Curzon were reported by his physician as having been present when Lady Curzon made her first visit to Washington a week ago. They received a letter from Lady Curzon, giving July 8 as the date of sailing. The Curzon's arrival was expected to be delayed.

Politically Mr. Leiter had been a Democrat, and for many years. When the Leiters went into the saddle he repudiated the temes it exposed and was a sound-money advocate in 1893 and 1900.

## LIVED IN MARYLAND.

Levi Z. Leiter was born in Lettersburg, Maryland, in 1834. His parents were of Dutch Calvinistic extraction. He left home and went to Springfield, Ohio, when a boy, and hearing of the prospects for money-making in Chicago, came here in 1855. He was clerk in the store of Dows & Van Wyck for three years, and entered into the service of Gaylor, Woodward & Field, where he became acquainted with Marshall Field.

Both Leiter and Field possessed unusual qualities. They were gifted with commercial tact, which was the secret of their success. The firm of which they were the partners for 20 years, until Jan. 1, 1881, this firm prospered, and Mr. Leiter left it to John V. Palmer. Palmer was conducting a business and real estate and merchandise business, and Messrs. Leiter and Field took stewardship under him.

Jan. 1, 1895, the firm, Field, Leiter & Palmer, was launched. Two years later the firm of Leiter & Field was formed, and Leiter & Co. went into existence. For fifteen years, or until Jan. 1, 1881, this firm prospered, and Mr. Leiter left it to John V. Palmer. Palmer was conducting a business and real estate and merchandise business, and Messrs. Leiter and Field took stewardship under him.

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