

# HARDING IS DEAD

## PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES PASSES SUDDENLY WHILE HE IS CONVERSING WITH HIS FRIENDS

**Brain Ailment Comes Upon Nation's Chief as He Lies in Sick Bed, and Apoplexy Brings End—Physician not Expecting Death—Official Family Scattered and Unable to Be Called—Chief's Career Began as Printer.**

**PRESIDENTIAL HEADQUARTERS, Palace Hotel, San Francisco, Aug. 2.**—(By the Associated Press)—President Harding died instantly and without warning tonight at 7:30 o'clock.

Death came to the chief executive while he was conversing with members of his family and according to an official statement issued by physicians, was apparently due to some brain development, brought about by apoplexy.

The end came so suddenly that the members of the official party could not be called. It came after a day which had been described by Brigadier General Sawyer, the president's personal physician, as the most satisfactory there had been since his illness began. The physicians in their formal announcement of the end said that "during the day he had been free from discomfort and there was every justification for anticipating a prompt recovery."

A hurried call for physicians was sent out by Mrs. Harding shortly after 7 o'clock tonight. Messengers ran in search of doctors Work and Boone, two of the physicians attending President Harding while Brigadier General Sawyer, the president's personal physician was in the sick chamber, the only medical officer at that time on duty.

There was an obvious and sudden change in quietness which had prevailed through the afternoon and early evening hours and reports that the president had suffered a sinking spell could not be verified, it being impossible in the confusion to reach those in position to know what had occurred within the sick room.

The first indication that a change had occurred in the condition of Mr. Harding came shortly after 7 o'clock when Mrs. Harding personally opened the door of the sick room and called to those in the corridors to "find Dr. Boone and the others quick." At that time Mrs. Harding was understood to have been reading to the president, sitting at his bedside with the evening papers and messages of some friends which had been received during the day.

**PRESIDENTIAL HEADQUARTERS, San Francisco, Aug. 2.**—(By the Associated Press)—In a second official statement issued at 8:02 p. m., the statement was made that the death had been caused by a stroke of apoplexy.

The statement said: "Death was apparently due to some brain development probably from apoplexy. During the day he had been free from discomfort and there was every justification of approaching recovery."

**PRESIDENTIAL HEADQUARTERS, Palace Hotel, San Francisco, Aug. 2.**—(By Associated Press.)—The story of the president's tragic end was told officially in this way:

The president died at 7:30 p. m., Mrs. Harding and the two nurses, Miss Ruth Powderly and Miss Sue Dausser, were in the room at the time. Mrs. Harding was reading to the president when utterly without warning a slight shudder passed through his frame, he collapsed and all recognized that the end had come.

A stroke of apoplexy was the cause of his death. "Within a few moments all of the president's official party had been summoned."

Secretary Hoover was the first of the four members of the president's cabinet who are in San Francisco, to learn the sad news. He went into the room at once and in a few minutes came out, obviously deeply distressed and in a low voice said to newspaper men, most of whom did not know of the hurried call almost half an hour previously:

"Boys, I can't tell you a thing." With the passing of Mr. Harding, the office of president devolves upon Calvin Coolidge, vice president of the United States, a man silent in nature, but demonstrated as strong in emergencies. He was notified of the death of Mr. Harding at his home in Plymouth, Vermont.

Warren G. Harding brought to the presidency an infinite patience and kindness in dealing with public questions and men who enabled him to handle the problems of government

without the stress and worry which had handicapped many of his predecessors.

Whatever else historians may say of him, there probably will be little dispute that few chief executives came to office in peace time facing problems more complex in their nature or greater in number. All international affairs were unbalanced as never before, with many principal sentiments of the great war still to be effectuated. At some the work of reconstruction had only just begun, with business depressed, agriculture prostrate and unemployment general.

### Desired Counsel

How Mr. Harding measured up to the task before him must be left to the historian, but his friends said that coming to the presidency as he did with an open mind, a desire for counsel and an intimate knowledge of the process of government activities in his services in senate, he was the type of man needed for the job at such a time. Preaching upon every occasion the doctrine of Americanism, he set his face resolutely against "entangling alliances." While thus adhering to what he was pleased to term the principles of the founding fathers, he nevertheless lent the moral assistance of the govern-

ment in the efforts to bind up the wounds of the world.

### Aided World Settlement

That influence was once declared by him to be not inconsiderable and so America, under his guidance, had a part, though silent it was in the main, in effecting the settlements of the world. Its chief contribution was the Washington arms conference, at which the principle powers covenanted to limit the size of their navies and thus lift from tax-weary peoples the burden of maintaining the race for naval supremacy.

Along with the proffer of counsel in effecting world settlement went that American rights be recognized. In polished phrase, but with a directness of expression that was not to be misconstrued, the world was given to understand from the very first of the Harding administration that the United States, freely respecting the rights of the other nations, asked for herself only that to which she was entitled in simple justice and that she could accept nothing less. While in his dealings with congress, Mr. Harding preferred the role of counsellor rather than dictator, he speedily removed any doubt that his gift of patience denoted any lack of purpose once he had charted a course. Thus he told congress that soldiers' bonus bill either should carry the means of financing or be postponed, and when the legislators put aside his advice he promptly vetoed the bill they sent him.

### Founded for Reform

His tenacity of purpose was further exemplified in his continual pounding for reform in public prisons and again in his insistence that congress pass the merchant marine aid bill.

His greatest single effort in the field of domestic legislation was in behalf of this measure. Not infrequently Mr. Harding was called upon to play the role of peacemaker in governmental affairs. He intervened in a dispute between congress and the treasury as to the form general tax revision was to take, and the program he approved was carried out in the main with a reduction of more than half a billion in the nation's tax burden.

Likewise, his counsel settled the long controversy between the house and senate. Upon signing that bill he declared it the greatest victory in his history.

Mr. Harding came of hardy pioneer stock. He was born at Blooming Grove, Morrow county, Ohio, November 2, 1865, the son of a country doctor, George T. Harding. Like most country boys he went country school teaching for a year, but having had a smattering of printers' ink while stacking type for his college paper, the

ture drew him into the newspaper field.

### Publishing Ambitions

His family, meantime, had moved to Marion, in an adjoining county, where he obtained his first newspaper job and where his life in this was centered. Mr. Harding's ambition was to become a publisher and it was realized at the age of 19, when he bid in the Marion Star at a sheriff's sale. The paper was purchased under a heavy mortgage and his friends have often said that the struggles and hardships which were his in making this paper a success had much to do in fashioning his career and developing a broad patience and tolerance which were his characteristics. Whatever his other attainments, Mr. Harding's greatest pride was in his professional accomplishments and training as printer and publisher. Nor did the interests and exacting duties of his high office serve to dull his delight in puttingter about a composing room. On his first trip back home after his inauguration he went to the Star office, pulled off his coat, rolled up his sleeves, borrowed a chew of tobacco and helped "make up" the paper. His luck charm was a printer's rule, carried always in a vest pocket.

### Was Ardent Partisan

As his ambition had carried him into the ranks of publishers, so his fancy took him into the realm of politics. From the first he was an ardent partisan and his insistence upon wearing a "stove pipe hat" the badge of support of James G. Blaine, brought him a sharp reprimand from his chief, who held it to be inconsistent for a worker on a democratic paper to display so prominently the symbol of his republicanism.

The future president's ability as a stump speaker won him early recognition from his local party leaders. Marion county then was in the democratic column and he undertook to switch it to the republican party, but his first effort at office on his party ticket resulted in a defeat, though he commanded an unexpected vote. Mr. Harding's first political office was that of Ohio state senator to which he was elected at the age of 34. He served two terms and later was elected lieutenant-governor of his state. In 1910 he sought the governorship, but was defeated.

Four years later he was elected to the United States senate where he served six years, much of the time as a member of the foreign relations committee. From this place he was elevated to the presidency, the first senator to be elected chief executive.

### Lifelong Baptist

Early in his years of political service he met William McKinley to whom his close friendship most of them likened him and with whom he had in common a predominant passion for obliteration of class and sectional lines. A friendship sprang up between the two men. Mr. Harding also was close in later day to Theodore Roosevelt, Senators Foraker and Penrose and others high in his party councils.

## WARREN G. HARDING

