

JOSEPH H. CHOATE, FAMED AS LAWYER, DIPLOMAT AND AUTHOR, DIES SUDDENLY AT AGE OF 85

Former Ambassador to England, Who Overtaxed His Strength During Reception to Joffre, Passes Away at New York City of Heart Disease—Celebrated as an Advocate.

NEW YORK, May 15.—Joseph Hodges Choate, former minister to Great Britain, and lawyer of international fame, died suddenly of heart disease at his home in this city last night.

Notwithstanding his advanced years, Mr. Choate took an active part in the entertainment last week of the French and British war commissions in New York.

Mrs. Choate, who was with her husband when he died, collapsed and was carried from his room. Early today a bulletin issued by physicians called to attend her stated that her condition was critical.

Story of His Career.
Mr. Choate was 85 years old, a life time during which he was one of the most distinguished practitioners of law in the United States, ambassador to England with signal success, a speaker applauded on innumerable public occasions, and, finally a remarkable octogenarian.

He came from an old New England family, noted for strength of character and mental vigor. His father was a cousin of the famous Rufus Choate. He was graduated from Harvard in 1852, a college mate of Phillips Brooks. He established himself in New York in 1856 soon after finishing his law studies, and as a member of the firm of Everts, Southmayd and Choate he rose to leadership of the New York bar.

He appeared in all the celebrated cases—it was said a case was not a case unless Choate appeared in it—where his fluency and wit and searching cross-examination brought him considerable success. He figured in the prosecution of "Boss" Tweed and his followers who looted the New York city treasury; he so successfully defended General Fitz-John Porter, that by reversal of a court-martial that officer was reinstated; he appeared in the Tilden will case, the contest over Commodore Vanderbilt's millions, and the Chinese exclusion case, arguing against the validity of the act. These are but a few of the famous litigations in which he figured, his presence invariably making any case "an intellectual treat for the public, and a professional education for junior members of the bar."

Highest Paid Lawyer.
His professional income during the height of his career was believed to be the largest of any practitioner in the American courts, though it may occasionally have been surpassed by some of the huge fees paid for special services by some of the great corporations. He won his way through a combination of good humor which gave him the power to hold the attention of the juries in the duller cases, and legal skill.



JOSEPH H. CHOATE

Mr. Choate was a Republican but had never held public office, beyond a brief term as member of a state constitutional convention, until he was invited by President McKinley in 1899 to go to London as the American ambassador. At a farewell dinner at the Union League club, Mr. Choate remarked upon his inexperience in political or diplomatic life, "I shall rely," he said, "upon a happy temperament."

After six years in England he was landed on both sides of the Atlantic for the remarkable success he had had in strengthening the ties between the English speaking peoples. His range of sociability made him known as ambassador to the people as well as to the court. Numberless times he appeared as a lecturer on American institutions and American statesmen.

Honored in England.
A mark of respect never before conferred upon a foreigner in England since the middle of the 17th century was paid him when he was adopted by the inner circle of the British bar and made a "bencher" or member of the governing body of the Middle Temple. It was, in fact, a compliment never before paid in London to a lawyer of American birth and training.

As an after-dinner speaker Mr. Choate was a national-international possession. The stories told about him, too, were as countless as those he told, for he was one of those picturesque figures about which stories cluster—some of which undoubtedly belonged to others. One typical flash of his wit is that with which he answered a dinner partner, who asked who he would choose to be if he were not Joseph H. Choate.

"Mrs. Choate's second husband," was the instantaneous reply.

Mrs. Choate was Caroline D. Sterling of Cleveland, O., whom he married in 1861, and by whom he had five children.

FOREST FIRES RAGE IN MINNESOTA

DULUTH, Minn., May 15.—Raging unabated for 48 hours, forest fires near here have destroyed two farms and caused much damage. Bucket brigades have been formed to protect the property of homesteaders. The entire Mesaba range is shrouded in smoke. Fires are burning near Ely, Cloquet, Virginia, Kinross Mountain, Iron, Cook, Cohasset and Kinney. A heavy wind would work havoc, it is declared.

DULUTH, May 15.—The sun is hidden here today by smoke from many brush and forest fires. One farm near Woodland has been wiped out.

Flying embers from a fire nearly a mile away ignited the roof of the Villa Sancta Scolastica, Catholic school for girls near Duluth last night, but the blaze was extinguished after a slight loss.

A vast stretch of dry country is afire. Only a heavy rain can check the flames.

COINING CORPSES.

(Continued from page 1.)

they are slowly stirred by machinery, the bones sink to the bottom, leaving a thick, dark-colored liquid.

"From this treatment result several products. The fats are broken up into stearins, a form of tallow, and oils, which require to be re-distilled

PLAN TO TREBLE AMERICAN SHIPPING TONNAGE IN YEAR

WASHINGTON, May 15.—The administration's plans for trebling within 18 months America's ship tonnage available for trans-Atlantic service were outlined to the senate commerce committee today by Chairman Denman of the shipping board. Bills asking an initial appropriation of \$400,000,000 for the purpose will be introduced within a few days.

By speeding up construction under powers requested in the bills the shipping board hopes to turn out in a year and a half 3,000,000 tons of vessels in addition to the 2,000,000 actually building now. The country's steel mills have assured the board of an abundance of steel for the work and every effort will be made to keep yards operating at topmost speed.

Under an arrangement reached with the British government most of the vessels now building in this country for foreign account will be taken over by the board even if congress fails to give the board specific power to requisition them.

The government's general shipping policy will not be determined until all the allies, including representatives of the Italian government has been consulted.

TWO RUSSIAN DETACHMENTS FORCED BACK BY TURKS

CONSTANTINOPLE, May 15.—The two Russian detachments which crossed the upper Dnieper (Mesopotamian front) have been driven back across the river with heavy losses, the war office announced today.

TO FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

(Continued from Page One.)

with troops who are also revolutionary and who are also ready to die for peace and liberty.

"The German army is not a revolutionary army if it still blindly follows William and Charles, emperors and capitalists. You are fraternizing openly, not with enemy soldiers, but with officers of the enemy's general staff, disguised as common soldiers. Peace will not be obtained by separate treaties or by the fraternizing of isolated regiments and battalions. This will only lead to the loss of the Russian revolution, the safety of which does not lie in a separate peace or armistice.

"Reject, therefore, everything which weakens your military power and everything which distracts the army and lowers its morale.

"Soldiers, be worthy of the trust that revolutionary Russia puts in you."

BECOMES NEW HEAD OF FRENCH ARMY



GEN. PETAIN

Gen. Petain is the new commander-in-chief of the French army. Just appointed by the French cabinet. He became famous as the defender of Verdun.

HERO OF VERDUN NEW COMMANDER OF FRENCH ARMIES

PARIS, May 15.—General Petain was appointed commander in chief of the French armies operating on the French front at a cabinet meeting today.

General Nivelle was placed in command of a group of armies. General Foch, who played an important role in the battles of the Yser, succeeds General Petain as chief of the staff of the ministry of war.

General Petain, who was a retired colonel at the outbreak of the war, is the man to whom many Frenchmen have been looking for the initiative which would win a decisive success on the French front. To him more than to any other commander now in active service with the French the legend of success attaches. He became a popular hero and the idol of the soldiers for his defense of Verdun.

It is generally understood that when the retirement of Marshal Joffre was decided upon, the marshal selected General Petain as his successor, but that the general was unwilling to accept the post without extraordinary powers. According to some reports, he desired to have command over the British forces in France as well as the French.

General Nivelle was subordinate to General Petain, until, at the latter's suggestion, he was made commander in chief at the time of Marshal Joffre's retirement. General Foch, who made a brilliant record early in the war, was detached from active service last month.

The public library will be closed Wednesday from 10 to 12 o'clock.

RESERVE OFFICERS BEGIN TRAINING AT THE PRESIDIO

SAN FRANCISCO, May 15.—Fifteen hundred stalwart youths, candidates for commissions as officers of the reserve corps, swore allegiance to the flag today in military ceremonies that formally opened the great military training camp at the Presidio here.

Garbed in olive drab uniforms, with shoes shined and army hats correctly draped, the men, who came from homes throughout ten western states, presented a clean cut picture of young American manhood.

Promptly at 9 o'clock, Colonel Fred W. Sladen, commanding the camp of 2500, and his aides, Captain James Hobson and Major L. C. Brown, Presidio commander, strode on the great parade grounds overlooking San Francisco bay. Three enlisted men bearing the colors followed. The candidates were drawn up in 15 companies in strict military formation.

At a word of command by Captain Hobson fifteen hundred left hands removed as many hats. Fifteen hundred right hands were raised in silence, a coast artillery band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner" and the Stars and Stripes were pulled aloft where a stiff trade wind whipped the soft folds over the heads of hundred viewing the ceremony.

Again the band struck up a military march and the companies one by one circled and paraded from the field to barracks and contonment where each candidate signed the oath, in which he swore "faith and allegiance to the United States of America" and promised to "obey the orders of the officers appointed over us" and agreed to "accept such commands in the officers service corps as are tendered us at the expiration of three months training."

The remainder of the 2500 men undergoing training had previously taken the oath, having already received their commissions.

SPRING TIME PRAYERS FOR BANNER CROPS

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., May 15.—Springtime prayers for successful crops are being offered this week on estates on the Hudson river millionaires' colony around Hyde Park. More than 150 employes of Colonel Archibald Rogers, Mrs. James Roosevelt and Frederick W. Vanderbilt, led by the Rev. E. P. Newton, knelt in the rye fields and vegetable gardens and offered prayers for fruitful crops. Every tillable inch of these vast properties has been planted, even to the erstwhile green lawns.

Financial Preparedness

in the United States really began two years ago when the Federal Reserve System was organized. It will be complete when every citizen is doing his share towards the maintenance of the system.

By depositing your money with us you can help directly in developing and strengthening it, as we are required to keep on deposit with our Federal Reserve Bank a portion of your balance with us.

At the same time, and without cost, you benefit directly from the protection the system affords us.



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