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# BIG SANDY NEWS.

*Aut inveniam viam, aut faciam.*

Laryngitis and Throat Troubles are relieved by Scott's Emulsion and it fortifies the lungs to thwart consumption.

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## DEATH CLAIMS JOHN C. C. MAYO.

### Great Kentuckian Gone to Rest.

#### Passes Away in New York City as Result of Relapse Following a Period of Improvement.

John C. Calhoun Mayo died at 2:20 o'clock Monday, May 11, 1914, at the Waldorf-Astoria. Uremic poisoning was the cause.

Mr. Mayo at the time of his death was surrounded by members of his family and close friends. The end was courageous, the same as Mr. Mayo's career.

After a long struggle for health in Cincinnati and his home city of Paintsville, Ky., Mr. Mayo was taken to New York April 25 and took the apartments in which he died. He had the attention of the city's and America's best specialists, but they were unable to help him.

A week ago Mr. Mayo showed a slight improvement and arrangements were made to take him to Long Beach, Long Island, where, it was thought, the ocean breezes would benefit him.

#### Relapse is Suffered.

The following day, just before he was to have been taken to Long Beach, he suffered a relapse and became semiconscious. Since then he had been in a comatose condition, although at times he appeared stronger and his family entertained hopes for his recovery.

Pericarditis, an inflammation of the sac which surrounds the heart, developed Friday and physicians despaired of his life. With the exception of a brief rally Sunday night, he sank almost constantly until the end came.

Mrs. Mayo had been with her husband through his illness and for nearly a day before his death she was at his bedside continuously. With her were their two children, who came to New York Saturday night with their grandfather, T. J. Mayo, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Atkinson. Mrs. Atkinson is a sister of Mr. Mayo.

#### Business Associates Present.

Washington Mayo, brother of the dead man; J. W. M. Stewart, a cousin, and Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Buckingham, of Paintsville, have been with Mr. Mayo also all during his illness. Mr. Buckingham was associated with the deceased man in business and at one time a pupil of Mr. Mayo when the latter was a school teacher in Kentucky.

Mr. Buckingham received hundreds of telegrams of condolence regarding the death of Mr. Mayo. All convey the same sentiment and belief, that Kentucky has lost one of its greatest powers for good and for the development of the state of Kentucky.

As a boy John Mayo came to know the contents of his native hills and he realized more than any other man of his day and time the value of coal and iron and other minerals and clays therein. His first and constant idea was the development of those resources for his people—the mountain people—and for himself. He came to the Blue Grass when a youth and was graduated with high honors from the Kentucky Wesleyan College, then at Millersburg, now at Winchester.

Then he went back to his beloved mountains and taught school and studied law. He was finally admitted to the bar and his small savings he invested as rapidly as possible in land, which was then cheap. He was a natural geologist and he rode the mountains over during the vacation period and often from Friday adjournment of his school until the following Monday morning.

#### Bought Up Coal Lands.

He located lands that people wanted to buy and he bought options upon thousands of acres, though he was forever telling his people of the possibilities in the lands if they would hold them. His operations had been on the west side of the Big Sandy river in Johnson and Pike counties when about 1889 or 1890 he got into touch with the Merrits, who were big iron and coal operators of that period. They gave him \$60,000 in cash and notes for \$100,000 for 10,000 acres in Johnson and Pike counties. He told him that they would pay him \$16 an acre for all that he could buy for them on the eastern side of the Big Sandy. Mayo first bought his mother a nice home in Paintsville and then began investing the remainder of his \$60,000 cash and his discounted notes for \$100,000 in outright purchases and options on the east side of the river.

By that time the panic of 1893 had arrived and it broke the Merrits and badly crippled Mayo. He, however, to make good the notes that he had discounted, attached about 29,000 acres of land that the Merrits had bought in

Johnson and Pike counties and he won the attachments. For five years Mayo was barely able to keep his holdings together under the name of the Sandy Valley and Elkhorn Coal Company and when in 1898 W. S. Dudley, of Carlisle, and three other Blue Grass men met him quite by accident he was very long on land and very short on cash. Dudley and his friends became interested in Mayo and invested \$20,000 in bonds of the Sandy Valley and Elkhorn Coal Company.

#### Rated as Multimillionaire.

From that time his progress was nothing short of wonderful. He was generally conceded to be a multimillionaire. In addition to the \$70,000,000 consolidated coal corporation, which controls 100,000 acres in Pike and Letcher counties, and 30,000 acres in Johnson and Martin counties, together with a vast acreage in West Virginia, Mayo was interested in the \$30,000,000 Elkhorn Coal and Fuel Co., which controls 265,000 acres in Letcher and other Kentucky counties; the Slemp Consolidated Coal Company, which controls 90,000 acres, the Toms Creek Coal Company, which has 10,000 acres; the Williams Coal and Coke Company, which has 7,000 acres, and in several other companies.

About 14 years ago Mayo married Miss Alice Meek, daughter of Green Meek, of Paintsville, who operated a line of steamboats on the Big Sandy river and was heavily interested in the timber industry. They have two children, John, 13 years old, and Margaret, 8 years old.

After years of the hardest kind of work he last summer found himself run down in health, and upon the advice of physicians went abroad. He came back at the end of August looking like a new man and feeling fine. He continued so until Sunday, February 15, when he caught a cold, which attacked his kidneys.

#### Taken to Cincinnati.

On February 28 Mr. Mayo was taken to the Jewish hospital, in Cincinnati, from his home in Paintsville, where for eight weeks, he made a game fight for his life. Practically all of the time he was under the care of Dr. R. H. Wilkinson, of Cincinnati, and Drs. Biggs, Slade and Lindeman, specialists, of New York.

On April 14 a transfusion of blood was made from Washington Mayo, the capitalist's brother, and three days afterward another operation of the same kind was made. The patient apparently rallied and gained strength after the two transfusions, and when he was sent to New York on April 24 on former United States Senator Clarence Watson's private car, which had been equipped as a veritable hospital, his physicians thought that he had won his battle.

The funeral took place at Paintsville at 10:30 a. m. today, (Thursday). It was attended by prominent people from all over the State, and some from the Eastern cities.

#### The Funeral.

The body arrived from New York Wednesday morning in a special car attached to the regular train. Accompanying Mrs. Mayo and the two children were Mr. Mayo's father T. J. Mayo, brother Washington Mayo, sister Mrs. Fred Atkinson, Mr. Fred Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Buckingham, J. W. M. Stewart. At Ashland they were joined by W. S. Dudley, Gen. Percy Haley, Charles and John F. Howes. Other friends went aboard the car at points on the Big Sandy division. About 200 people met the train at the Paintsville station which is a mile and a half from town. All business houses, including the banks, were closed for two days.

The Rev. Dr. Foote, of Louisville, M. E. Church South, was selected to preach the funeral. The services were held in Mayo Memorial Chapel, the handsome edifice erected three years ago, chiefly through the aid of Mr. and Mrs. Mayo.

A special train brought to the funeral Senator Clarence W. Watson and sixty officials of the Elkhorn Fuel Co. Also, a number of C. & O. officials arrived by special train.

The floral tributes were so numerous and of such rare beauty that the collection could hardly be surpassed.

The body was viewed at the residence by hundreds of sorrowing friends on Wednesday. On Thursday immediately following the services at the church, the remains were laid to rest in the beautiful family burial ground

on the hill in sight of the residence.

The honorary pall bearers were as follows: Gov. James B. McCreary, Senator C. W. Watson, ex-Gov. J. C. W. Beckham, State Treasurer T. S. Rhea, Hon. R. H. Vansant, Senator W. E. Chilton, J. H. Wheelright, John F. Hager, W. S. Harkins, D. W. Gardner, C. B. Slemp, J. M. York, J. E. Buckingham, M. F. Conley, G. B. Wall, W. S. Dudley, Thos. J. Davis, C. A. Hirsch, Monte J. Goble, Johnson N. Camden, Percy Haley, Louis Des Cognets, D. E. O'Sullivan, A. D. W. Smith, A. W. Young, J. W. M. Stewart, Desha Brockbridge, Justus Goebel, H. P. Ernst, Milton H. Smith, C. M. Preston.

The active pall bearers were as follows, all having been pupils of Mr. Mayo when he taught school here:

Jas. W. Turner, Chas. J. Howes, Fred Howes, John Howes, Eugene H. Hager, Claude Buckingham, Heber Rice, Warren H. Preston, Dan E. Preston, W. C. Howes, C. T. Rule, S. A. Webb.

By the passing of John C. C. Mayo one of the most notable characters of his generation, possibly of a century, has been taken from the activities of human life. Other men have been remarkable for their utterances, for their exploits in the arena of politics, for their ability in the world of statesmanship and diplomacy. Some of these exploits and utterances may have a recorded history, to be read and then forgotten, but what John Mayo has done in the past decade, even will, because of its nature, endure as long as time shall last. The riches of the hills and mountains of his loved Kentucky have through his potent instrumentality been made available. With these highlands of the State Mr. Mayo's name will have an indissoluble connection, and the mention of them and the miracles wrought there will suggest the name of Mayo.

The man was a remarkable product. Not born to the purple nor to inherited place of power, he came to the front in the world of business and finance because of an inherent ability, later developed to a most surprising degree. He had the fine qualities of foresight, executive ability, rugged honesty and untiring, indomitable industry and a perseverance which balked at nothing. His foresight showed him the possibilities of Eastern Kentucky; his executive skill enabled him to shape and control the various organizations necessary for the accomplishment of his purposes; his sterling honesty brought him the confidence of his fellowmen, and his unflagging industry kept him in constant touch with the many enterprises whose successful accomplishment brought him fame and fortune.

Mr. Mayo was also a remarkable man in that he made his material wealth, not by speculation in the rise and fall of stocks, but by the appreciation of his properties. When he went to buy he purchased that which he believed would in the very near future from the day he bought it be worth more than he paid for it. If it rose in value he was the gainer, but the seller was not a loser by the transaction. Properties not his advanced in value with his, and Mr. Mayo largely helped to clear and make secure the titles to the lands of others.

What this man of barely two score years and ten might have done had he been permitted to live the allotted span, no one can more than speculate. The present era of improvement and development in Kentucky of which John Mayo was the central figure is yet in its infancy. What can and will be done in the next quarter of a century can only be imagined. In whatever will be accomplished in the way of producing coal, of building cities and towns and railroads in the vast domain which calls the attention of America and Europe to this part of our State, John Caldwell Calhoun Mayo would have been the foremost figure. Though comparatively young his force of character, his far-seeing wisdom and his power to do things made him the peer and the business associate of men far older and more experienced in the great game of business. These men had found him to be a man of wonderful capacity for direction and execution, and they had found, too, that his word was as good as his bond, and that bond today is good for his millions.

With all Mr. Mayo's command of such vast wealth, his social and political power, his position in the world of business and finance he was as gentle as a woman, as approachable as a child. He had been the intimate of money kings and political magnates, but to the poorest and humblest of his friends he was ever gracious and kind. There was not a grain of snobbery or the slightest tinge of the aristocrat in the make-up of John Mayo. Thoroughly democratic in ideas and tastes he was the helping friend of the poor and lowly. What he did for his friends, his town and the Big Sandy valley is known and read of men. Education and religion in this region have great cause for rejoicing that "Calhoun" Mayo lived and for intense sorrow that he is no more. To help in the building of schoolhouses and churches he was always ready and liberal. It has been said by one of the old classic writers that "the evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones." Here is an exception. No evil is said of John Mayo, and surely the great good he has done for his kind will live long after his pain-racked body has crumbled to its original dust.

Mr. Mayo desired to live. And why



COL. JOHN C. CALHOUN MAYO.

Whose death is being deeply mourned by every citizen of Eastern Kentucky and thousands of other people throughout the State and nation. He was Kentucky's wealthiest man, greatest philanthropist and benefactor, a genius whose record has seldom been equaled in this country where large accomplishments are common.

The above picture is from a photograph made in London, England, last summer.

should he not? Life held much that was dear to him—wife, children, parents, brothers and sisters, hosts of friends. He had known what it was to be poor, and had risen to affluence, every dollar of his great wealth honestly made. The earth looked good to him, and there was no reason why he should be in haste to leave it while yet in the enjoyment of what it held. So, when the struggle for existence came he did as he had done when confronted with opposition in the battle with the world: he put up the best fight possible. "Money is no question—restore me to health"—and the contest between death and the doctors began. The men of medicine, the most eminent men in their profession procurable, brought into use every known means to save their patient, and it is a fact that their skill kept him alive for weeks when it seemed that every day was surely his last, until finally the weary man closed his eyes like a child going to sleep and was dead.

The gentle, unassuming wife, the heart-partner of her distinguished husband, modestly shared his great triumphs and successes. When the fatal illness came, for weary weeks of alternating hope and despair she was his constant companion and comforter. When the Great Sorrow came she bore the stroke with fortitude and christian resignation, and there comes to her now a wealth of sincerest sympathy. May the solace which the world cannot give and the peace which passeth understanding be hers. And to the brave, generous man she loved so well let us not say "farewell," but rather "God be with you till we meet again."

In the death of Mr. John C. C. Mayo Kentucky has lost her most useful citizen. No other man of the present generation has accomplished anything in a material way that compares with what he has done for the State. It is safe to say that there are not a dozen men living in the United States today who have legitimately accomplished as great results as did this modest, untiring, big-hearted and big-brained mountain boy. Certain it is that no other financial giant has been less selfish or more magnanimous than was Mr. Mayo. His liberality has been always one of the characteristics most talked about. He was generous to a fault. Money seemed to have no charm for him except for the good uses he could find for it. His greatest pleasure was in helping some good cause or some person who needed assistance.

Gifts amounting to probably one hundred thousand dollars, or possibly more, were made by him during the last fifteen years of his life to schools and churches. Thousands upon thousands of dollars were used in educating boys and girls, about which the public knows nothing. The writer has personal knowledge of some of these cases. Also, of private contributions made to worn-out preachers and deserving unfortunates. We have no doubt there are hundreds of such cases that will never be known to the public.

Mr. Mayo was safe and conservative in business matters. Unlike most rich men who spend much time in New York, he never gambled in stocks. Wall street's speculative market had no attraction for him. He dealt only in substantial things. He knew the Big Sandy coal was real and valuable. In his youth he saw the possibilities, and he dreamed of making Eastern Kentucky a "bee hive of industry." He set out, single-handed, to accomplish the enormous task. History does not record a case of greater perseverance, of more dogged persistence in the face of the most stupendous obstacles. Starting without a dollar to work out such wonders as he brought to pass was not his hardest problem, as subsequent events proved. To get the ear of capitalists was a task that required years of hard work, a considerable expenditure of money, and rebuffs that would have completely discouraged a less courageous and resourceful man. These questions arose as to title to most of the coal he had optioned and bought. The old Virginia land grants were revived. Here was a battle to try him more sorely than ever, if possible. As usual, he planned deeply and well. He set about to have a law enacted by the Legislature that would clear the titles without taking and just rights away from anyone. Finally this was accomplished. The constitutionality was contested even to the Supreme Court of the United States and the law was sustained in 1911. The people have been able under this law to get their titles cleared to thousands of acres of valuable land.

No man ever showed greater love for his people than did Mr. Mayo for the natives of the mountains. He was ever looking out for their interests. Instead of selling their lands to investors who wanted to hold them undeveloped, he directed his great talents solely to securing development. This meant more work and greater burdens for him, but he shirked no responsibility.

For these and other reasons the Big Sandy and Kentucky valleys have sustained a loss that can not be estimated. The news of his death brought unmistakable anguish to every heart in this mountain section. The people realize that they have lost their best friend and their real benefactor and that the loss is irreparable.

Success did not turn the head of John Mayo. He was plain and considerate to the day of his departure. The poorest man in Kentucky could get as much of his time as any one else. His patience was remarkable.

He brought millions of money into Eastern Kentucky, much of it from Europe. In making his own fortune he never oppressed anyone, but helped all with whom he dealt, and changed his native land from a region of comparative poverty to one of great wealth. He stood firmly for the interests of the mountain people against every threatened encroachment outside forces. Such loyalty to his people as he has shown has seldom ever been equaled. The public

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