

WHITELAW REID DIES IN LONDON

**Editor and Diplomat Passes Away
at Dorchester House After
Brief Illness.**

KING NOTIFIES PRESIDENT

**Service in Westminster Is Suggested—British Warship May
Bring Body Home.**

SORROW IN BRITISH CAPITAL

**Reid Called Worthy Occupant of
Great Post—Washington Talk of
Hammond to Succeed Him.**

**By Marconi Transatlantic Wireless Telegraph
to The New York Times.**

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Whitelaw Reid, American Ambassador to the Court of St. James's, died at his residence, Dorchester House, in Park Lane, at 12:10 o'clock this afternoon.

Although the end was not entirely unexpected, it came with a painful shock to the immediate members of his family, who remained hopeful of his ultimate recovery until the last.

With him when death came were Mrs. Reid and their daughter, Mrs. John Ward. The latter's husband, the Hon. John Ward, although in the house, was not in the death chamber.

Besides Mrs. Reid and Mrs. Ward there were present Dr. W. Hale White, the family physician; Sir William Osler, Sir Thomas Barlow, and Dr. Richard Rowlands, all of whom had been called in consultation during the last few days of the Ambassador's illness.

Mrs. Reid was greatly shocked by the fatal termination of her husband's illness, and until a late hour to-night Drs. White and Rowlands were in constant attendance upon her.

Within half an hour after Mr. Reid's death King George and Queen Mary sent Sir Henry Legge, one of the King's equerries, to Dorchester House to express their condolence, and soon afterward a personal letter arrived from Queen Alexandra, addressed to the Hon. John Ward, in which a tribute was paid to "your dear father-in-law." She also asked him to convey her sympathies to "your dear mother-in-law." A letter also came from Princess Victoria, addressed to Mrs. Ward, expressing her condolence.

During the day members of the Diplomatic Corps in London called at Dorchester House. M. Cambon, the French Ambassador, who is the Dean of the corps, arrived from Paris late to-night and was much shocked when told at the station of Mr. Reid's death.

May Hold Service in Westminster.

Mrs. Reid said to-night that the Ambassador's body would be taken to America at the earliest possible moment for burial. In fact, she suggested not waiting the arrival of her son, Ogden Mills Reid, who sailed from New York on Saturday. But it is expected that she will reconsider this to-morrow, especially as the Dean of the Chapter of Westminster Abbey has already expressed a wish to hold a memorial service in the historic edifice.

Ambassador Reid's illness began last Winter, when, instead of going to the south of France, as was his usual custom, he went to New York to entertain the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. He always took excellent care of his health, especially since twenty years ago, when he had a severe attack of bronchial trouble, which necessitated a three years' stay in Arizona. Since coming to London seven years ago he had made it a rule to spend his Winters on the Riviera.

On the return voyage from America last March he caught cold aboard ship and had a return of the bronchial trouble, which he could not completely shake off.

With the advent of the London season, during which he did a great deal of entertaining, besides performing the multifarious duties connected with his post, he got so much run down in health that as soon as he could get away he went to Harrogate. There he remained a month, returning to London on Sept. 4. Then ensued two or three very busy weeks, and on Sept. 28 he sailed for New York looking like a very sick man.

Had Failed Rapidly Since Fall.

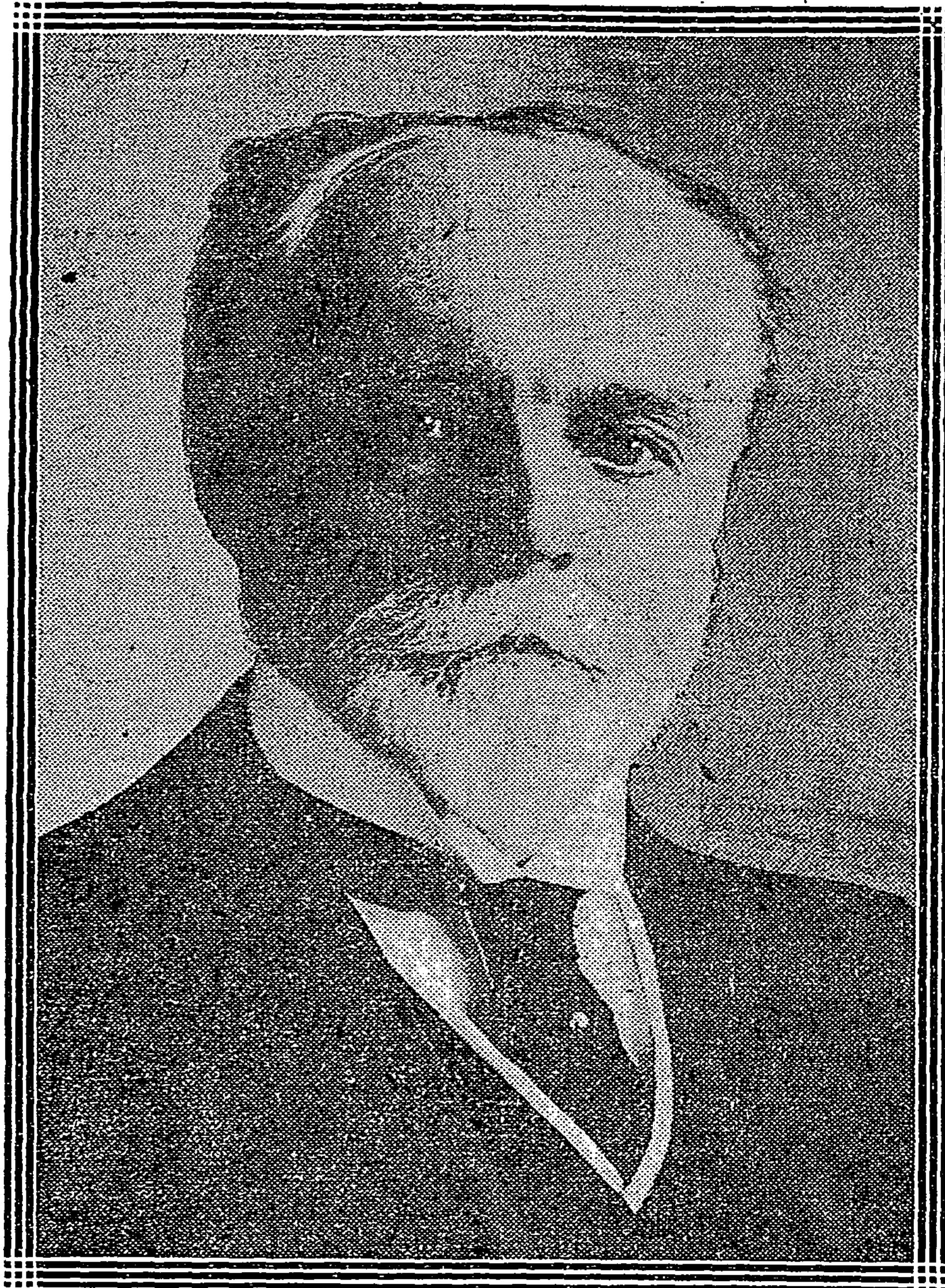
He returned to London on Oct. 28. One who had been with him during his absence in America said to THE NEW YORK TIMES correspondent at the time:

"He tried to do six weeks' work in two."

Those who knew him well remarked on his arrival in London that he looked fifteen years older than when he went away. From that time he began to fail perceptibly, and, although he fought against illness with remarkable courage and will-power, he did not have the vitality to resist, or, as one of his close friends put it, "It was' just a case of the machine wearing out."

His last public engagement was when he journeyed to Aberystwyth Oct. 31 to give the inaugural address to the

Whitelaw Reid.



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Last photograph of the late Ambassador to the Court of St. James's.

students of the University College of Wales on "Thomas Jefferson." He was not well, and undertook the journey against the advice of his physician, but as the engagement had been made months before he said he would not disappoint the students.

Mr. Reid came up on Dec. 2 from Wrest Park, where he had been entertaining a shooting party and the next day Dr. White was called in. Since that time Dr. White has never left Dorchester House, being in constant attendance day and night. It was found that the Ambassador had developed bronchial trouble in an aggravated form.

The next day after his arrival Sir William Osler was sent for and made a thorough examination of Mr. Reid. Dr. Osler's report cheered every one, especially the Ambassador, who had great faith in the Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford. In fact, Mr. Reid wanted to go down to the embassy office in Victoria Street, but was persuaded to stay indoors.

Almost to the last he kept a close grip on his Ambassadorial duties, and the last matters he attended to were routine dispatches to the Secretary of State at Washington, signed late Friday evening. It was not until yesterday afternoon that Secretary Irwin Laughlin was able to get Mr. Reid to give him permission to sign dispatches.

After Dr. Osler's first visit Mr. Reid seemed to improve, and the family had no idea of the seriousness of his condition. Last Monday Dr. Osler, who happened to be in town, called again and expressed himself as thoroughly satisfied with the patient's progress.

Attacked by Asthma on Wednesday.

On Wednesday, however, Mr. Reid developed a serious case of asthma, and the next day his condition was such that Dr. Osler was telegraphed for, and Sir Thomas Barlow and Dr. Rowlands were called in.

On Friday the family and Mr. Reid himself first realized the seriousness of his illness, but the Ambassador refused to keep his bed, and it was not until last night that the doctors forced him to stay in bed.

As the night wore on his condition became worse, and all four doctors were sent for. About 7 o'clock this morning he lapsed into unconsciousness, from which he never recovered.

A pathetic incident was the receipt of a wireless message from Ogden Mills Reid this morning, while his father was dying, saying that he was glad to hear "such good reports from father. Give him my love."

It had been arranged that Ogden should come here after Christmas with his wife, and a letter, received by the last mail from him, giving details of his coming visit, pleased his father very much. On Wednesday Mrs. Reid cabled her son, saying that Dr. Osler had been called in and suggesting that he hurry his departure.

One of the last letters written by Ambassador Reid was addressed to a member of the executive office of the British committee for the celebration of the centenary of peace among English-speaking peoples, and had reference to a public meeting for inaugurating the movement, which is to be held at the Mansion House next Wednesday. The letter, which is dated Dorchester House, Dec. 6, says:

"I am finding once more this week that there is never a convenient moment for being ill, but nothing has troubled me so much since the breakdown of three or four weeks ago that followed my overwork in the Autumn and early Winter as to learn now that the physicians will not consent to my attending the public meeting at the Mansion House to help inaugurate your movement for celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of peace between our two countries.

"I especially wish to be present because I regard this as an event of enormous importance, and think that the failure to give it such a celebration as should challenge the attention of the whole world would be a crime. You may possibly have noticed that at our last Fourth of July celebration by the American Society of London I took the opportunity to bring the matter forward as prominently as I could.

"If I dared to promise to be present at the Lord Mayor's meeting I would, and if by the time it comes I can escape so far from the thralldom of physicians I surely shall be there.

"Meantime I hope the work is in as forward and promising a state in my country as here. I am sure the centenary could not come at a moment more helpful for the peace of the world."