

HARRIMAN DEAD; NEWS DELAYED

Financier's End Came at 1:30 o'Clock, with His Family About His Bedside.

SISTER LETS SECRET OUT

The Official Announcement Had Set the Hour of Death Some Two Hours Later.

HIS AILMENT UNREVEALED

Cancer or Tuberculosis of the Bowels Each Said to be the Cause.

GREAT RAILROAD ORGANIZER

Universal Tributes to His Genius and Indomitable Courage—The Financial World Not Taken Unaware.

Special to The New York Times.

TURNER, N. Y., Sept. 9.—Edward H. Harriman died at Arden House this afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. The news of his death was withheld for two hours, when official announcement was made that the financier had passed away at 3:35 o'clock.

All the members of Mr. Harriman's family were around his bedside when the end came. Dr. William Gordon Lyle, the family physician, was the only medical man present. The cause of death has not been made public yet, but there seems little doubt that it was cancer in the abdominal region, although another theory heard here is that the ailment was tuberculosis of the bowels.

It is impossible to get into communication with Arden House to-night, either by road or by telephone. Guards armed with heavy sticks block all the approaches to the house on the hill; the telephone operator refuses to answer calls.

Mrs. Cornelia Simons, sister of the dead financier and wife of Charles D. Simons, is authority for the statement that her brother passed away at about 1:30 o'clock. Reporters found her at her home at the foot of Tower Hill immediately after her return from the death bed. With her was her husband, who, however, was not present when Mr. Harriman died. When the reporters approached her as she was about to enter her home she said:

"Of course, you have heard the sad news. I was with him when he died."

Died at 1:30 Sister Says.

A reporter offered his condolences, remarking that many people considered Mr. Harriman the greatest man in America.

"Yes, he was the prince of them all," said Mrs. Simons.

"What time did Mr. Harriman die?" asked a reporter.

"About 1:30," she replied without hesitation.

"What was the cause of death?" Mrs. Simons held up her hand deprecatingly.

"Don't ask me that," she said. "I cannot talk to you. You will have to see Dr. Lyle about that."

Mr. Simons explained that he had been in New York all day, and arrived back at Arden station on the 5:25 o'clock train with Judge Robert S. Lovett, Mr. Harriman's general counsel.

"What time did Mr. Harriman die?" a reporter asked him.

"Why, he died at 3:35 o'clock," was the answer.

"Then Mrs. Simons was mistaken when she said he died at 1:30?" he was asked.

Mr. Simons appeared confused.

"I wasn't there, you see," he said. "I got here after he died."

"What was the cause of death?"

"I have my suspicions. I don't care to say. You had better ask Dr. Lyle."

Family at His Bedside.

At the request of the reporters, Mrs. Simons named those who were present at the bedside when the end came. They were Mrs. Harriman, Orlando H. Harriman, brother; Mrs. Cornelia Simons, sister; Walter Averell Harriman, eldest surviving son; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Livingston Gerry, the latter of whom is a daughter of Mr. Harriman; Miss Mary Harriman and Miss Carol Harriman, daughters; Roland Harriman, the youngest son; Dr. W. G. Lyle, and two nurses.

That the end came suddenly and unexpectedly is asserted by all at the house with whom the reporters talked. That it was not a surprise, however, was admitted by Mr. Simons, who when asked the question replied: "No, we have realized his condition."

The first intimation of the end reached the watching newspaper men here just before 4 o'clock this afternoon. It came from the office of a morning newspaper, and said: "The Union Pacific office announces Harriman's death at 3:35."

A few moments earlier the Rev. J. Holmes McGuinness, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church at Arden and Mr. Harriman's chaplain, had driven past Turner Station in an automobile on his way to Arden House. The machine was speeding at something like fifty miles an hour. It was learned later that he had been summoned from the Harriman home by telephone at 1:10 o'clock, but was out then. Consequently he was not present when Mr. Harriman died.

No Operation Performed.

On receiving the message from New York, Arden House was communicated with by telephone. After a good deal of hesitation and delay the operator there

said: "The news is correct; Mr. Harriman died at 3:35."

"Was an operation performed?" At this question Mrs. Simons, who had overheard the interview with her husband came forward.

"No, there has been no operation," she said. Then both retired into the house.

At 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning Judge Lovett had stopped at the press room at Turner Station on his way to New York just long enough to hand in this bulletin, signed by Dr. Lyle:

"Mr. Harriman's condition remains unchanged."

All the morning persistent rumors of Mr. Harriman's death were in circulation here, as well as in New York. Finally, at 1:45 P. M., Arden House was again communicated with by telephone and told that the report was so strong that only a direct statement from Dr. Lyle could set the matter at rest.

After a little delay the answer came back: "Dr. Lyle authorizes me to say that Mr. Harriman is not dead. You cannot emphasize this too strongly, he says."

Was Conscious to the Last.

From excellent authority it is learned that Mr. Harriman was conscious almost to the last. In fact, in the earlier part of the morning his condition was such that Judge Lovett did not hesitate to go to New York. The fact that only one physician was in the house at the end shows that death came suddenly.

It was about noon that a change for the worse in the financier's condition became apparent. Oxygen and all known methods were used to prolong his life, but to no avail. He sank rapidly and died an hour and a half after the change was noticed.

Wedding Party Just After Death.

Within four hours of the death of Mr. Harriman a wedding party left Arden House. For some days it has been known that the wedding of Mary Spalding, a parlor maid, who has been in the employ of Mr. Harriman for some time, had been arranged for this afternoon to George Murphy, head machinist on the Harriman estate. With their master in so serious a condition, the bride went to Mrs. Harriman this morning and suggested a postponement of the nuptials. Mrs. Harriman, evidently not knowing how ill her husband was, would not hear of any delay, and the marriage was set for 4:30 o'clock this afternoon at St. Mary's, the pretty little Roman Catholic church, at the foot of Tower Hill.

Just before 4 o'clock this afternoon the wedding party, numbering some forty people, all employes at Arden House, left the sorrowful Harriman home and proceeded in a wagonette down the hill to the church. Thirty-eight of them knew the sad news, but it had been kept from the bride and bridegroom. They were married by the Rev. Father H. F. MacAran without knowing of the death of their employer, and departed for New York at 6:15 o'clock on a train which was stopped specially for them at Arden. The bridegroom had received as a wedding gift from Mr. Harriman a check for \$500.

Deep Regret in Arden.

Charles T. Ford, who is superintendent of the Harriman estate here, and whom the dead financier honored with his personal friendship, was greatly overcome by his employer's death. With tears streaming down his cheeks he said to the reporters:

"I suppose you know that Mr. Harriman passed away. He had been sinking rapidly since noon. Dr. Lyle told me he was conscious almost to the last. There was no operation. Dr. Lyle has just told me he has nothing further to say at this time, except that Mr. Harriman sank very rapidly, and passed away at 3:35."

Mr. Ford said that about noon, when the change for the worse set in, he stopped the men at work on the grounds of Arden House, of whom there were some 300 or 400. They were not, however, sent down the hill until just before 4 o'clock. This was in order not to rouse suspicion among the villagers. Most of the men are employed on the mountain railway, which is nearing completion.

Harriman Thought He Improved.

That Mr. Harriman sincerely believed he was improving when he sent the note to the newspapers requesting the withdrawal of their representatives last week is borne out by the fact that there were no physicians at the Harriman home in the latter part of last week. Dr. Lyle left Arden House on Wednesday, intending to stay in New York for a few days. When Mr. Harriman had the first relapse on Sunday, Dr. Lyle was immediately summoned by telephone, and arrived on Sunday evening. Since then, he had been in constant attendance on his patient up to the end.

On Monday Dr. Walter B. James of New York was summoned here. He did not leave until last night.

Saw Harriman, Clerk Said.

Among the callers at Arden House this morning was T. B. Price of Mr. Harriman's office in New York. He arrived on the 10:40 train, bringing with him papers for Mr. Harriman's perusal, he said. He went to the house, and returned to the station at 1:45 o'clock, to catch the train back to New York.

Mr. Price must have left Arden house only about an hour before his chief died, yet he was emphatic in saying he had seen Mr. Harriman. Asked concerning the latter's condition, he said it was "fairly encouraging."

An attempt was made by the reporters to get to Arden house shortly before 6 o'clock to-night. Within 200 yards of it they were met by a band of guards, who said their instructions were to allow no one to pass and to take no communications to the house.

While the reporters were parleying with the guards an automobile came from the house. In it was the Rev. Dr. McGuinness. Within two minutes Mrs. Simons, weeping, followed in a runabout driven by a Harriman coachman. Then from the opposite direction came an automobile containing Judge Lovett and two other men who had just arrived from New York. Judge Lovett later sent out word that he had nothing to say.

End of a Worn-Out Man.

The real cause of Mr. Harriman's death will probably never be known," said Robert L. Gerry, son-in-law of the dead financier, to-night, "that is, unless an autopsy is performed, which at present seems improbable."

Charles A. Peabody, Orlando H. Harriman, and the latter's nephew, before leaving Arden for New York to-night, refused to discuss the nature of the disease of which Mr. Harriman died.

It was learned to-night that the funeral will take place at Arden on Sunday at 3:30 o'clock and will be private. The

burial will be in the little cemetery attached to St. John's Episcopal Church at Arden. It is here that Mr. Harriman's eldest son, Edward H. Harriman, Jr., was buried some twenty years ago, about a year after the Harrimans came here to live.

A member of the Harriman family, when asked to-night as to the cause of death, replied: "It was simply the end of a worn-out man."

The news of Mr. Harriman's death caused some consternation among the villagers here and at Central Valley and Highland Mills, many of whom are dependent for their livelihood on the Harriman estate. Everywhere groups of them are to be seen earnestly talking over the future. One and all are deeply affected, and vie with each other in telling of some kind action which emanated from the "House on the Hill."