

WHITELAW REID'S LONG CAREER AS EDITOR AND DIPLOMATIST

Was a Noted Civil War Correspondent --- Succeeded Horace Greeley.

Republican Candidate For Vice President --- Ambassador to France and England.

WHITELAW REID, who died in London on Dec. 15, became the ambassador at the court of St. James in 1905, being named by President Roosevelt to succeed Joseph H. Choate. He had previously served three years in the diplomatic service as ambassador to France, 1889 to 1892, under President Harrison. He had twice been our special representative at British celebrations, in 1897 at Queen Victoria's jubilee and again in 1902 at the coronation of Edward VII. Presidents Hayes and Garfield had offered him the embassy at Berlin, but these offers he had refused to accept.

It was only within the last months of his tenure of office that a public utterance by him caused anything like a stir in this country. His address before the University College of Wales on Oct. 31 called attention to inconsistencies in Jefferson's philosophy and career, and Representative A. Mitchell Palmer brought up the matter in the house of representatives, bitterly attacking the ambassador for his remarks. Additional attention was attracted to the speech by the fact that President Elect Wilson expressed approval of Mr. Palmer's position. But while members of the house were demanding that the ambassador be removed he was already confined to his room with what proved to be his last illness.

All his life Mr. Reid had been a thoroughgoing party man. His public life began before the civil war, when he made speeches for Fremont in 1856. He was then nineteen years old, having been born in the little town of Xenia, O., in 1837. At that age he was already a great admirer of the New York Tribune and of Horace Greeley, with whom a few years later he was to be closely associated.

After being put through a preparatory course by his uncle, the Rev. Hugh McMillan, a Scotch covenanter, who had settled in Ohio, young Reid entered Miami university. His family was not well to do, and as soon as the young man was graduated he became the principal of a school at South Charleston, O. He saved enough money in a few years to repay his father for a part of his college course and to buy a small paper in Xenia. Almost the first service of his journal was to support the candidacy of Abraham Lincoln. He met Lincoln soon afterward when the future president came into Ohio on a stump tour.

Reid gave up his own newspaper to become the Columbus correspondent for a journal in Cleveland and one in Cincinnati. He soon took the city editorship of the Cincinnati Gazette and held it a short time, until the possibilities of gathering the news of the civil war took him to the front. He went through the first Virginia campaign and attracted country wide attention by a ten column account of the battle of Pittsburgh Landing, which no other correspondent had seen.

In 1862 Mr. Reid went to Washington as the Gazette's correspondent. This proved to be a most important step, for he soon afterward met Mr. Greeley. The latter took a fancy to the young man and offered him the position of Washington correspondent of his paper. Mr. Reid refused to leave the Gazette, but consented to do the work for Greeley in conjunction with his own.

Joins the Tribune Staff.

When the war closed Mr. Reid was one of the first northern writers to make a tour of the stricken southern states, and in this he had the companionship of Salmon P. Chase. They made a wide study of the results of the war, and this gave Mr. Reid material for his first book, which appeared soon afterward under the title "After the War—A Southern Tour." He decided to try his hand as a southern farmer and took three plantations in Mississippi. The venture failed, and after making a second attempt in Alabama Mr. Reid returned to Cincinnati and the Gazette as chief editorial writer. Then Mr. Greeley's invitation to come to New York was renewed, and the young man accepted, displacing John Russell Young as managing editor.

In 1872 came the nomination of Greeley for the presidency. The Tribune was bound to support his candidacy, and Mr. Reid, who had added to his reputation as a newspaper man by his remarkable handling of the news of the Franco-Prussian war, took the lead in the campaign. The disastrous defeat of the Greeley cause was a hard blow to the Tribune and its new manager.

Broken in spirit, Mr. Greeley returned to his duties, Samuel Sinclair, Mr. Greeley's partner in the Tribune, was in financial straits, and he offered the paper for sale to a syndicate of prominent Republicans, who were to rehabilitate it. William Orton headed this group, who proposed to buy the paper for \$500,000 and put Schuyler Colfax in charge. Sinclair was to remain publisher, but the other heads

of departments were to retire. It seemed the end of Mr. Reid's connection with the Tribune.

Hardly had the decision been made to sell the paper than the open charge was made at Washington that Colfax had been concerned in bribery cases then before the government. The news went to all the Tribune staff that Colfax would never head the paper.

The very night the news came Mr. Reid went to William Walter Phelps, got him out of bed and told him the situation. Phelps listened to the story of Mr. Reid, who before he left received assurances that money would be provided for buying a controlling interest in the paper, and the Tribune came into Mr. Reid's possession.

The next few years were the most important in Mr. Reid's career. After the defeat of Greeley he set out to make his paper again the recognized organ of his party. He was thirty-five

lished in 1897, were widely circulated and were followed in 1899 by "Some Consequences of the Last Treaty of Paris," being a study of the results of the Spanish-American war. The same year he published "Our New Duties," an address on America's foreign relations, and in 1900 "Our New Interests" and "Problems of Expansion." He wrote the introduction for the centenary edition of Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" in 1908 and was one of the speakers at the English celebration of the centenary of Dickens' birth. In English history his best known study was his address on Edmund Burke.

Mr. Reid's Family.

Mr. Reid's only daughter, Miss Jean Reid, was married in 1908 in the Chapel Royal at St. James' palace to the Hon. John Hubert Ward, a brother of the Earl of Dudley and equerry in waiting to the king. This international event attracted an unusual amount of attention. The king and queen were there.

Mr. Reid also leaves one son, Ogden Mills Reid, who was graduated at Yale in 1904 and recently took charge of the Tribune.

In New York Mr. Reid belonged to the University, Century, Metropolitan, Union League and Republican clubs. For fourteen years he was the president of the Lotus club. He belonged to the Ohio, New England and St. Andrew's societies and the American Geographical society. He was an honorary member of the chamber of commerce, an honor that has been rarely given.

As a newspaper editor Mr. Reid made a prediction several years ago of the journalism of the future. In part he said:

"This, then, I conceive to be the next great revolution in journalism. We shall not have cheaper newspapers.



Photo by American Press Association.

RECENT PHOTOGRAPH OF THE LATE AMBASSADOR WHITELAW REID AND MRS. REID.

when he faced this task, but his success was swift. Within four years he had again raised the Tribune to party leadership and had made it a paying property. He began the erection of tall buildings in New York in 1873, when he built a home for the Tribune. In 1881, when Mr. Reid married Miss Elizabeth Mills, daughter of D. Ogden Mills, he was already well to do, and thereafter he assumed a prominent place in New York social life.

Three Years in Paris Post.

For his generous support of the Republican party Mr. Reid was asked by Hayes and Garfield to take the diplomatic post in Berlin. He refused in both cases and devoted himself to his affairs in New York. But in 1889, when President Harrison took office, Mr. Reid accepted the ambassadorship to France. Here he took a palace belonging to the Duc de Grammont, in the Avenue Hoche, the rental of which was far beyond the salary this country allows its foreign representatives.

He returned to America to become the nominee of his party for the vice presidency with Harrison in 1892. After the defeat of the ticket he was out of public office until the return of his party to power under McKinley. Then he was sent to Queen Victoria's jubilee and King Edward's coronation and was also a member of the commission that negotiated the peace with Spain.

It was generally expected that Mr. Reid's term in London would come to an end with the accession of President Taft in 1909. Mr. Taft had decided on President Emeritus Charles W. Eliot of Harvard for the post and went so far as to offer the post to Mr. Eliot at a conference in the White House. Mr. Eliot had just given up his place as the head of Harvard university.

With this turn in affairs Mr. Reid retained the office. Mr. Reid had been before English people principally by his occasional addresses. His "Two Speeches at the Queen's Jubilee," pub-

lished in 1897, were widely circulated and were followed in 1899 by "Some Consequences of the Last Treaty of Paris," being a study of the results of the Spanish-American war. The same year he published "Our New Duties," an address on America's foreign relations, and in 1900 "Our New Interests" and "Problems of Expansion." He wrote the introduction for the centenary edition of Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" in 1908 and was one of the speakers at the English celebration of the centenary of Dickens' birth. In English history his best known study was his address on Edmund Burke.

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Of Horace Greeley Mr. Reid wrote: "Most true it is that the foremost editorial writer of our times has had and is to have no successor. Horace Greeley stood alone—without a peer and without a rival—not perhaps the ideal editor, but, fairly judged, the ablest master of controversial English and the most successful popular educator the journalism of the English speaking world has yet developed."

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Also Duck Take Part in This Brooklyn Wedding.

The names of the principals and guests at a Brooklyn wedding would have served as a fairly comprehensive catalogue of Noah's charges. There were Miss Birdie Wolf, the bride; Robert Fox, the bridegroom; Miss Annie Wolf, the bride's attendant; Herman Wolf, the best man, and among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. John Bull, William Duck, Joseph Sauer and Miss Loretta Sweet. The honeymoon was spent at Lvons, N. Y.

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