

# ECKLEY B. COXE IS DEAD

Was the Largest Individual Coal Operator in the Country.

MADE FRIENDS OF HIS EMPLOYEES

Once Resigned a State Senatorship Because He Would Not Swear

He Had Spent No Money

to Get It.

DRIFTON, Penn., May 13.—Eckley B. Coxe, the most prominent coal operator in the State, died at 10:30 o'clock this morning of pneumonia. He was fifty-six years old. There is sorrow in Drifton among all classes. The burial will be at Drifton, in accordance with the request of Mr. Coxe.

Eckley B. Coxe was the largest individual coal operator in the United States, a mining engineer noted throughout the country for his theoretical and practical knowledge of his profession, and was a Democrat held in the highest esteem by his party.

He came of an ancestry distinguished by achievements in this country since 1702, when Daniel Coxe, whose father was then proprietor of the province of Carolina, first landed in this country. This Daniel Coxe eloped with a Quaker heiress named Sarah Eckley, in 1707. They were married in the woods by firelight by the Chaplain of Lord Cornbury, then Governor of New-York and Jersey. Daniel Coxe published a description of Carolina in 1727, in which the project of uniting the American colonies under one Government was broached for the first time.

Tench Coxe, the grandson of Daniel Coxe, was the well-known statesman, financier, and author of Revolutionary times. He lived in Philadelphia, and was Commissioner of the Revenue under Washington's Administration. His son, Charles S. Coxe, the father of the late Eckley B. Coxe, was one of the Judges of the District Court of Philadelphia.

Eckley B. Coxe was born in Philadelphia June 4, 1839. He was graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1858, and then went abroad, spending two years in hard study in the Paris School of Mines, a year in the mining school of Freiberg, in Saxony, and two years in visiting the mines of Great Britain and those of Continental Europe.

After his return to this country Mr. Coxe began with his brothers the business of mining anthracite coal in the Lehigh region on lands left to them by their grandfather. The present value of this property is estimated at \$10,000,000. He made his home in Drifton, Luzerne County, Penn., near his mines.

He was a model employer, kind to and sympathetic with his workmen and always ready to foster every laudable ambition which he found in them. Although his firm had its share of strikes, his personal popularity with his subordinates was never impaired.

His scrupulous sense of honor may be inferred from the course which he took after his election to the State Senate of Pennsylvania in 1880. He was elected after a hard fight, in which he spent money freely, but, so far as he knew, only for legitimate purposes.

Jan. 4, 1881, he refused to take the prescribed oath that he had not paid any money out for election expenses other than that allowed by law, defending his action in a long letter addressed to his constituents, in the course of which he said:

"I did not lay out one dollar to procure my nomination; on the contrary, I was anxious not to be nominated, but, after receiving the nomination, I spent money willingly and liberally, not only for my own election, but also for that of the whole ticket. Although I used money for expenses not expressly authorized by law, yet not one cent was spent with my knowledge or consent for any improper or fraudulent purpose."

His neighbors showed the best proof of their confidence in him by re-electing him in 1881 by a majority three times as large as he had received the year before, and he served his term with credit to himself and with profit to the State.

In 1882 Mr. Coxe's name was mentioned as a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Governorship of Pennsylvania and he consented to remain in the race long enough to insure the nomination of his friend Robert E. Pattison, for whom he had previously expressed his preference privately among his friends. He worked hard to elect Mr. Pattison, and contributed materially to that result.

In 1884 he was Chairman of the Pennsylvania delegation to the Democratic National Convention, at Chicago, which nominated Mr. Cleveland. He also served for many years as member of the Pennsylvania State Committee for the district in which he lived.

Mr. Coxe was President of the American Institute of Mining Engineers from 1878 to 1880, and was also at one time Vice President of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. In 1872 he published a translation of "Wersbach's Mechanics of Engineering and Construction of Machines." He frequently gave lectures on scientific subjects.

Mr. Coxe was married, and his widow survives him. He had no children.