

W. D. KELLEY IS DEAD.

Pennsylvania's Veteran Congressman Has Passed Away.

UNCONSCIOUS FOR TWO DAYS.

His Fatal Illness Brought On by a Cold Recently Contracted.

FOR THIRTY YEARS IN CONGRESS.

He Was "Father of the House" and Popularly Known as "Pie-Iron Kelley."

AN ARDENT OPPONENT OF FREE-TRADERS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 9.—[Special.]—Judge W. D. Kelley died a few minutes after 6 o'clock this evening at his rooms in the Riggs House. This event had been expected



for two days, during which he had been unconscious, with occasional lucid intervals, when he would recognize intimate friends and members of his family. At the time of his death Mrs. Kelley, his daughter, Mrs. Horstman, his sons, William D. and Albert R. Kelley, and his secretary were by his bedside.

When he came to Washington last November it was apparent to his friends that he could not live through the winter. Indeed he was conscious of the fact himself and frequently spoke to his colleague, Mr. O'Neill, and to Maj. John M. Carson about the near approach of the last summons. Yet he was sensitive about having it proclaimed to the public through the newspapers that he was rapidly declining. The first day of the session he was early at the Capitol, and waited impatiently for the time to arrive when he should be called upon as the "Father of the House" to administer the oath to the Speaker. This was a service especially pleasing to him, and its last performance was marked by an earnestness and impressiveness which will not be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

Memorial ceremonies will take place in the hall of the House of Representatives next Saturday, after which the remains will be escorted to Philadelphia by a committee of Senators and Representatives. The remains will lie in state in that city and the funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. Dr. Furness of the Unitarian Church, by whom Judge Kelley was married.

It is said of him that as one of the secrets of his strength as a champion of the protective system he had explored the tariff question to the bottom and through all its ramifications, so that he was familiar with its practical as well as theoretical details. He possessed a wonderful memory. What he learned at one time was stored away so methodically in his mind that it was ready for use at any time and upon his tongue on the instant. This readiness was exhibited on many occasions on the floor of the House during his long career, perhaps never to better advantage than in his speech against the Wool Tariff bill. The notes of that speech had been hurriedly prepared, mostly for the sake of arrangement, but the speech has been rated as one of the ablest ever delivered in Congress on that subject.

BRUSQUE IN MANNER.

It was Judge Kelley's boast that he had never held an office that he had not resigned, and, though he was a member of Congress the day of his death, he had several times declined a reelection, and yielded his personal preference to the wishes of his constituents. In 1870 he was anxious to retire, and only consented to return to Congress with the understanding that he was not to be expected to act as an office-broker for his constituents. While he was a skillful politician in council and powerful upon the stump and in Congress, he was too self-willed and positive and too blunt in speech and brusque in manner to make friends by personally mingling with the people during political campaigns. His residence in Washington was the Mecca of the Representatives of protected industries whenever the tariff was a live question in Congress. One or more of them could be found there at any time. As many as thirty have been at his house at one time, representing almost as many different industries, while telegrams and letters were piled upon his table. These visitors sought Judge Kelley to give him information about their respective interests and enlist his energy in behalf of their protected industries.

He was a regular attendant at the sessions of the House, but of late years seldom remained longer than an hour upon the floor, preferring to spend much of his time in the Ways and Means Committee room, where he often dictated replies to his correspondents or spent much time in collecting material for a speech in the House. During his later years he rarely took part in debates except when questions were pending which related in some way to his specialties. Then the fires of youth appeared to be rekindled within him and the old man's parries and thrusts were delivered with the skill of a master. The collected speeches of Judge Kelley on the tariff in and out of Congress down to so early a period as 1871 cover 500 pages of a book of ordinary size. Nearly as many more have been delivered during the last fifteen years.

HIS SIXTEENTH TERM.

It takes one-third of the space allotted in the Congressional Directory to Judge Kelley's biography to enumerate the Congresses in which he sat. This is the sixteenth. The Judge had a beautiful home in West Philadelphia, where he delighted to spend his time during the recess of Congress. There is nothing pretentious about his house, but its halls are broad, its ceilings high, and the grounds about it are ample. There is scarcely a tree on the lawn that had not some pleasant memory associated with it in the mind of the venerable statesman. The bent of his mind was shown by the books in his well-stocked library. It contained a good deal of general literature, but volumes of history, finance, and economic science occupied most of the shelves. The large desk in the middle of the floor was always littered with pamphlets, books, and letters in seeming confusion. Between two windows stood a tall, old-fashioned clock with a high-colored chubby face looking down from the dial. The inscription, "D. Kelley, Philadelphia," told the story that it was the handiwork of the Judge's father. It was made by D. Kelley for his landlord when William D. Kelley was a boy, and was purchased by the latter in recent years from the widow of his father's landlord.

[William Darrah Kelley was born in Philadelphia April 1, 1814. His father died when he was young, so that he was compelled to leave school when 11 years old and strive to help support his mother and three other children besides himself that she had to care for. He commenced work as an errand boy and afterward apprenticed himself in a jewelry-house, mastering the trade at 20. In 1835 he worked as a journeyman in Boston. Later he returned to Philadelphia, studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1841, and finally rose to the office of Prosecutor in the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia. In 1847 Gov.

Shurk appointed him a Judge, which office he held ten years. In 1850 he was elected to Congress and had since been continuously reelected, ranking as the greatest advocate of protection in the Nation's councils.