

HAS PASSED AWAY TO HIS REST.



The late Hon. and Rev. A. A. Barclay, M.L.C., for St. Mary.

Passing of Hon. and Rev. A. A. Barclay, Pastor & Legislator

Elected Member for The Parish of St. Mary in The Legislative Council, and Minister of the Presbyterian Church, Dies at Goshen Manse; End of a Notable Career; Tributes Paid in the Island's Parliament to Memory.

The Honourable and Rev. A. A. Barclay, preacher, politician and publicist, passed away yesterday morning.

The said event took place at the Goshen Manse at Lucky Hill in the parish of St. Mary; and to-day throughout the length and breadth of the island profound regret will be expressed that so useful a life has been brought to a close.

The deceased gentleman had been in falling health for some time; and when he was selected to represent Jamaica at the recent West Indian Conference in London, but for the call of duty he would not have accepted the honour which was conferred on him. He went to London, and was one of the most conspicuous figures at the Conference. His team work with the other delegates from this colony was admirable, and his tactful and mature judgment assisted materially in the decisions of his colleagues who represented this colony at the Conference in the great city. Mr. Barclay's outlook was not insular—he saw the possibilities of the West Indies when united, becoming a most important entity in the British Empire. He realised that all that was needed was united effort.

and to this end he put forth his best energies at the Conference which was held in one of the historic chambers of the Houses of Parliament. The work which he undertook was unquestionably a great strain on the physical system of a man who had not been in good health. At every function given in the mother country in honour of the delegates, whether it was by the Government or other representative bodies, Mr. Barclay was present. His object was to lay before the British people evidence not only of the loyalty but of the aspirations of Jamaica, the country in which he was born, and which he loved so well. Perhaps his greatest effort as a speaker in the motherland was when Lord Burnham invited the West Indian delegates to a luncheon at his country seat at Barn Hall. There the delegates met a distinguished gathering of leading Englishmen. At that luncheon Mr. Barclay without previous warning was called to make a speech, and the speech he made was regarded as one of the best that has ever been listened to at a gathering of the kind. He did not fail to stress the point that no more loyal people lived under the British Crown than the people of Jamaica. And in eloquent language which was characteristic of him he made out a convincing case to the statesmen who were present for fuller recognition of the claims of Jamaica and Jamaicans.

His activities were certainly strenuous, and thus at the end of the conference his health showed signs of wearing. He came back to Jamaica

weak man. He had hoped to be able to tell his countrymen of what his colleagues and himself had achieved, but his illness kept him to his bed. The best medical skill was engaged in the endeavour to restore him to health. His many friends had hoped that as time went on they would have seen him once more in active life. But this was not to be, and at two o'clock on Tuesday morning he breathed his last.

Telegraphing yesterday afternoon, our Lucky Hill correspondent states that Mr. Barclay was bright up to a week ago but subsequently his vitality began to wane. On Tuesday morning he was able to sit in his drawing room and looked rather hopeful. He retired to bed as usual, but during the night he turned for the worst and death supervened.

SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

Mr. Barclay was born at Rocky Ville in Manchester, and was the son of the late Thomas Barclay. He was educated at the Mico College, the University College and the Presbyterian Theological Hall. After a brilliant scholastic career he taught in public schools and had a great deal to do with moulding the characters of several of the young men who today play a prominent part in various activities of the public life of the island. He was also called to give up the school-room for the pulpit, and he served for four years in the Theological Presbyterian Hall. He recognised the leadership of a few prominent Scotchmen who represented the Presbyterian Church in Jamaica; and to his delight Mr. Barclay looked back with gratitude to the guiding hand and esteemed the Christian principles which the Rev. Robert Johnstone of Southern Manchester had proffered to him and which animated that minister's dealings with him when but a lad. From the Theological Hall he went forth as a probationer to Port Maria and there he spent two years. Ordained a minister, he received a call at Carmel in Clarendon, and subsequently he went to Goshen where not only as pastor he ministered to the spiritual uplift of the people, but with vision he established what will ever be a memorial to his beneficent activities, namely the first substantial communal or Land Settlement in the island.

While in Clarendon he helped in the agitation for Railway extension to Clarendon, and while in St. Mary he founded the Western St. Mary Citizens' Association and as we have above stated, was the author of the Land Settlement scheme in Western St. Mary which subsequently received Government support. This project has not only won the commendation of successive Governments, but was favourably reported on by the Colonial Office deputation which visited this colony in 1922 of which Major Wood (now Lord Irwin) was chairman. He nestled into the small settlers of Western St. Mary the doctrine of co-operation. His ideas were not merely theoretical ones; they were also practical, and to-day in the Goshen and the surrounding districts the inhabitants can look back with pride to the activities of Mr. Barclay and think with pleasure that through his good foresight and optimism these districts are amongst the most flourishing in the island. He arranged for the acquisition of a large property whereby the small settler would be enabled

Plot To Foment a Revolution in Spain.

(By D. W. I. Cable Co.)
Perpignan, France, Nov. 2.—More than thirty Spaniards and Italians have been arrested along the frontier, and a well organised plot of considerable extent to foment a revolution in Spain has been brought to light. The police are keeping close watch on their activities, but it is known that they have located ammunition depots and stores of arms near La Cerdana, not far from the frontier and also quantities of field telephones and other equipment for war or serious disturbances against the Government.

Inspector Dignan Retiring From Force

We understand that Inspector C. J. Dignan has sent in his resignation from the Constabulary Force.

Inspector Dignan was appointed to the Jamaica Constabulary on the 31st March, 1924, and has seen service in several parishes as well as in Kingston.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A LOAN BANK

and for the transportation of their fruit to market; and more than that he did, for through his foresight he was able to get the producers to obtain the best price for their bananas. A staunch advocate of the system of co-operation, it was not surprising to find, when the Jamaica Producers Association launched their propaganda to bring about unity amongst the producers, that Mr. Barclay was attracted to their ranks and was one of their councillors. A man of conservative temperament he fully appreciated the importance of capital in this island, but at the same time he was not an extreme follower of any economic gospel of individualism; his aim was to see the capitalist and the producers working together for their mutual benefit.

It was in 1920 that Mr. Barclay came most prominently before the public view. Sir Leslie Probyn appointed him a nominated member of the Legislative Council. From his early entry in the Council, although he sat on the Government side, and was governed to a certain extent by 'essential conditions' he nevertheless did all he could for the advancement of his country and countrymen. During that period he served on the Medical and Housing Commissions, and the admirable reports which were prepared for the reorganization of the Medical Service and the better housing of the poor were marked by Mr. Barclay's foresight and ability. For many years he was a member of the Board of Education, and he strenuously did all he could to see that the Education vote was wisely spent and the masses given that modicum of education which they were entitled to. In his own Church he was a shining light. A man of high principles, he was fully cognizant of the responsibilities of a "servant of God". His views were not narrow, and many clergymen of other denominations will remember the kindly assistance which the deceased gave them from time to time in the advancement of Christ's work.

In 1925 when the General Election for the Legislative Council took place Mr. Barclay, feeling that he could more usefully serve the people if he were on the elected side than on this Government side of the House, offered himself for election and was returned to represent the Parish of St. Mary in the Legislative Council, a position which he filled until his death. As a politician, his activities were not only confined within the chambers of the Legislative Council, but many of the reforms which have been carried out by the St. Mary Housing Board of which he was a

member originated with him. He had an admirable knack of bringing those in high position in close contact with the people, and during his sojourn in the North side parishes successive Governors and men occupying high governmental positions had an opportunity of knowing the people's needs and their aspirations. He was a staunch advocate of extended political liberties. He was one of the firm believers in a political constitution for this country. He took a very active part in the drawing up of the Memorial which should endow the people with more power which was forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies for enlarged political privileges. He was one of the delegates who waited on the Secretary of State and discussed with him the vital point involved in the use of the expression "paramount importance" in the suggested Constitution; and he had hoped to have been able to take part in the historic debate which is now proceeding in the Legislative Council. He had hoped that at some time he would regain his strength, and by his many friends and political admirers it seemed a fatality that whilst this great issue is being discussed in the Legislative Council one of the protagonists in the fight for a change in our Constitution should have passed away.

Of a truth the people who knew Mr. Barclay intimately can say of the departed patriot: "He was my friend, faithful and just to me." He was a man in whom not only the people of his parish, but the inhabitants of the whole island reposed confidence, and one who was honoured in all circles. He was frank and fearless, and he sacrificed all personal interests to secure for his countrymen the benefits that a liberal and commercial activities could bring. He has passed away, but his career will ever be a bright page in the history of Jamaica.

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