

# LEADER IN STATE FOR MANY YEARS CALLED BY DEATH

Newton C. Blanchard Had  
Been Governor and  
U. S. Senator.

Newton C. Blanchard, veteran statesman and former United States senator and governor of Louisiana, died at his home at Shreveport yesterday morning at 2:50 o'clock, following a prolonged illness.

The part played by Mr. Blanchard in the affairs of the state and nation was for many years an important one. He served as congressman, senator and supreme court justice, and as a young man was one of the ablest and most respected leaders in the fight to retain white supremacy.

He was born in Rapides parish January 29, 1849, the son of Carey H. and Frances Amelia Crain Blanchard. Reared on his father's cotton plantation, he was educated in private schools and received his law degree from Tulane university, then the University of Louisiana, in 1870. The following year he was admitted to the bar and established a practice in Shreveport.

Mr. Blanchard was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1893, and took a prominent part in the various controversies attending the framing of the organic law, being a member of several important committees.

Served in Congress and Senate.

In 1880 he was nominated for Congress by the Democrats of his district, being elected to the Forty-seventh Congress. His service in this body was continuous for twelve years, running through the Fifty-third Congress and terminating only when he was appointed to the United States Senate in 1893 to fill the seat vacated by Senator Edward Douglas White, who was appointed to the bench of the United States supreme court.

When the Legislature next met, he was elected to fill the unexpired term, serving in the Senate until March 4, 1899.

Retiring from the Senate, he became a justice of the supreme court of Louisiana and occupied the bench until 1904, when he was elected governor for the term 1904 to 1908.

Fostered Primary Election Law.

Soon after assuming office, Governor Blanchard became affiliated with the Regular Party organization, resulting in the home rule campaign of 1904 in which Martin Beirman was first elected mayor of New Orleans. During his administration, which is generally admitted to have been a successful and constructive one, Governor Blanchard fostered the law requiring statewide primary elections for all state and national offices, which was passed.

One of the incidents of his term which showed his forceful character and dominant personality was the dispute with Mississippi over the yellow fever quarantine imposed by that state in 1906. Armed yachts patrolled Lake Borgne, manned by Mis-

# VETERAN STATESMAN DEAD



Newton C. Blanchard

sissippians, and insisted upon stopping all trading schooners bound for New Orleans, forcing them to put into Ship Island. Governor Blanchard, upon refusal of the Mississippi authorities to cease the practice, called out a force of the Naval Militia, which soon drove the blockaders from the lake. One company of Mississippi soldiers was captured at Pearl river bridge.

WAS ACTICE LEADER

He was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1913, of which he was president; he was a delegate at large to many national Democratic conventions and for several terms was national Democratic committeeman from Louisiana, his last services in these respective capacities being 1912 and 1918.

As a lawyer Mr. Blanchard was among the leaders of the bar of Louisiana. As a justice of the supreme court he was dignified and courteous to the bar and his decisions are models of precision of the law and elegance in language. Mr. Blanchard was one of the leaders in the anti-lottery fight.

Upon the expiration of his term as governor, he resumed the practice of law in Shreveport. At the time of his death he was senior member of

the firm of Blanchard, Goldstein and Walker.

Governor Blanchard was twice married. His first wife was Miss Emily Barrett, and his second wife, who married him in 1909 at Baton Rouge, was Miss Charlotte Truxey, who survives him with one child. He also is survived by Mrs. Ethel Blanchard Smith, a daughter.

The death of the former governor was a shock to the whole state. He was recognized as one of Louisiana's foremost citizens and the esteem in which he was held was demonstrated by the conferring upon him of the highest gifts in the power of the people of his state.

PARKER PAYS TRIBUTE.

Former Governor Blanchard Eulogized in Special Message.

Baton Rouge, La., June 22.—Governor Parker sent a special message to the Legislature today in which he paid tribute to the life and character of former Governor N. C. Blanchard, who died at Shreveport this morning. The governor also telegraphed Mrs. Blanchard a message of condolences.

Following the reading of the governor's message in both houses resolutions were adopted extolling the life

work of Mr. Blanchard, expressing sympathy to his family and paying adjournment as a mark of respect at the close of the day's deliberations. Both houses appointed committees to attend the funeral.

Governor Parker's message to the Legislature follows:

"It is my sad duty to inform you that former Governor Newton C. Blanchard passed away at his home in Shreveport early this morning, thus closing a life of great usefulness and taking a prominent place in the history of his state and nation.

During his long service in Washington as congressman from the Fourth Louisiana District and United States senator from Louisiana, he occupied a leading place among the American statesmen of that day. As chairman of the rivers and harbor committee in the House of Representatives during the speakership of Mr. Crisp, it was his duty to help create much constructive legislation for the protection of the river and harbors of his country. As senator he took a prominent part in the perfection of suitable tariff laws for the protection of Louisiana agriculture.

As associate judge of the supreme court he was noted for his knowledge of law, clearness of vision and terseness of expression in the preparation of his opinions. As governor he was widely known for his fearlessness, his independence of thought, his patriotic regard for public duty and his indefatigable zeal in administering public affairs. As a member of the constitutional convention of 1870 and president of the constitutional convention of 1913, he took a prominent part in creating the state's organic structure.

Governor Blanchard was a strong character whose honorable and useful record will be a light to guide the footsteps of many generations. I trust the Legislature will unite in some suitable expression as a tribute to the passing of one of the state's truly great men."