

COLONEL BEE DEAD.

The Chinese Consul Expires Suddenly.

Stricken Down on Sansome Street.

A Well-Known Pioneer Who Has Been in Public Life for Over a Generation.

Colonel Frederick A. Bee, the Chinese Consul here, died suddenly from heart disease at 3:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon in the store of L. G. Sresovich, 305 Sansome street, at the corner of Clay.

He had just come from the Customhouse, which he had visited on business, and had walked up Sansome street to take the car to his home. He stopped at the wholesale fruit store of Mr. Sresovich, who was a friend of his, and gave an order for some fruit. As he was leaving he was told to help himself to a banana, and reached up to a bunch to take one. As he did so he suddenly fell to the floor, and was caught by C. M. St. John, United

States. She was a woman of superior character and virtues, and his attachment for her was very strong. She died in August, 1836, leaving one son, Frank M. Bee, who is a vineyardist near Martinez. After the death of his wife the widow of his brother, Major Bee, kept his house at 1923 Pine street. He also leaves a nephew, Everett Bee, and a niece, Mrs. David C. Smith, both living in this city. His estate is supposed to be worth \$75,000, consisting largely of residence property in the city and 200 acres of improved land in Contra Costa county.



Consul Frederick A. Bee. From a photograph by Taber.

States measurer of vessels, who was a friend of his, and who was about to speak to him as he passed.

A physician was quickly summoned, but death came a few moments later and before medical aid arrived. During the minutes that preceded his death he appeared conscious for a few moments, but he could not speak, and he died without having spoken a word. He had shown symptoms of heart disease for some time, and had been somewhat troubled by other ailments.

The Coroner, the Consulate and several intimate friends were quickly notified. The remains were taken to the Morgue, where an autopsy showed that death resulted from organic disease of the heart. A representative of the Chinese Consul-General at once visited the Morgue, and soon afterward the dragon flag was flying at half-mast over the Imperial Consulate on Stockton street. Consul-General Li Yung Yew promptly notified the Chinese Minister at Washington, through whom the Chinese Government will be apprised of the Consul's death. It was said at the Consulate that the officials there would attend the funeral, but beyond that no arrangements consequent on the death had yet been made.

Colonel Bee had for many years been a widely known and respected citizen of San Francisco. His large, well-proportioned frame, and his face adorned by short, white side whiskers, and expressive of a kindly but manly nature, made up a familiar figure on the business streets of the city. His manner was courteous and affable, and in his intercourse with others he was straightforward and honorable.

The deceased was one of the Argonauts who reached California in 1849. He was born in 1825 in Clinton, Oneida county, N. Y., of parents who were of English and Scotch descent. An academic education was followed by his entry into the study of law. While he was pursuing these studies the excitement over the gold discoveries won him to more adventurous fields, and in August, 1849, the ship Elizabeth Allen landed him in San Francisco in company with the late James L. Flood and others, who attained prominence here.

He went to the mines and remained there fifteen years. For about three years he and his brother, Major Albert W. Bee, ran a store at Placerville. Some time before the war broke out he organized a scheme to supply the need of telegraphic communication with the East, and organized the Placerville and St. Joseph Overland Telegraph Company, with a capital of \$250,000, he being president of the company. The stock was soon subscribed, and in 1859 the line was completed to Fort Churchill, Nev. He then went to Washington and after a hard struggle enlisted Congressional aid for the enterprise. Soon after the company consolidated with the Western Union Company. About this time he was instrumental in establishing a pony express between San Francisco and St. Joseph, Mo. During the war he held the office of United States Provost Marshal for the central and northern districts of California. The next enterprise that he was associated with was the San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad, being superintendent of the construction of that line from its inception.

In July, 1876, while the sandlot anti-Chinese agitation was at its height, Congress provided for a committee of Senators and representatives to go to California and investigate the Chinese question. Governor O. P. Morton of Indiana was chairman of the committee. In anticipation of the investigation the prominent Chinese here tried to get several well-known lawyers to represent them before the commission, but none asked would serve. Governor Morton, who was an old friend of Colonel Bee, telegraphed the latter a request that he act as attorney for the Chinese, and he promptly accepted. His bold opening speech made a sensation in this State, and throughout the investigation he conducted an able fight for the people he represented. It was this which first won for him the favorable notice of the Chinese Government. In recognition of his services he was in the following year, 1877, tendered the appointment of Vice-Consul at this port and accepted it. Not very long afterward he became Consul and held that office up to his death. He was always an able, honorable and popular protector of Chinese interests in California, and his course soon dispelled the prejudice against him which his first advocacy of Chinese interests created. While he has always staunchly defended the Chinese here in maintenance of what he deemed their treaty rights, he has never connived at fraud and was always ready to assist officers of the law in repressing the highbinders in their criminal operations. He has always possessed the highest respect and esteem of the Chinese merchants and people of the better class and the confidence of the Chinese Government. The Imperial Government has three times honored him with titles and decorations. In 1886 Emperor Kuang Hsu made him a Knight of the Red Dragon and sent him a large gold medal, beautifully wrought, and presented "for his services in preserving amicable relations between China and the United States." Twice similar honors were conferred upon him later.

In 1880 the deceased was married to Miss Catherine Maxwell of New York