

# RICHARD CAPLES IS CLAIMED BY DEATH

## Prominent El Pasoan Dies In Los Angeles Wednesday Morning.

Richard Caples, former mayor, prominent politician and one of El Paso's wealthiest and most active business men, died Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock at Los Angeles, where he has been confined in a hospital since he left El Paso for the coast in search of his shattered health.

A telegram to J. J. Longwell received today announced that the pioneer El Pasoan had died at the Sisters' hospital in Los Angeles, Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock, following a protracted illness.

Richard Caples was about 58 years of age, and was born in Canada. He came to El Paso in 1882 and shortly thereafter formed a partnership with Louis Hammer in the contracting business, in which he was actively engaged until the time of his death. Their first big job was the building of the international dam at Hart's mill. He was mayor of El Paso from 1891 to 1895, and prior to that was a county commissioner. He was reputed to be one of the wealthiest men in El Paso.

He is survived by a wife and five children, Ed., Joe, William, Richard, jr., and Margaret, and a brother, William Caples, connected with the immigration service

in this city. His sons were associated with him in the contracting business.

Funeral arrangements have not been made, but the body will probably be brought back to El Paso for interment.

### Known to All.

"Uncle Dick," as he was familiarly known to almost everyone in El Paso, came to El Paso from California. He learned his trade of stonemason in Boston, Mass., and engaged in the general contracting, building and brick making business after locating in El Paso. He was married in Missouri before he removed to California and later to El Paso, having three children when he came here.

### Built First Skyscraper.

He became the senior member of the firm of Caples, Powers & O'Connor. This firm engaged in railroad construction and grading contract work. Mr. Caples was owner of a large amount of real estate in El Paso, built the first concrete skyscraper, the Caples building, to be erected in El Paso and later erected the Caples building No. 2 on the opposite corner of San Antonio and Mesa avenue.

He had a beautiful home on Missouri street and was the owner of the lime kilns on the mountain. He had other holdings, being a stockholder in the American National bank and other business enterprises in El Paso. He had the contract for the building of the county road down the valley.