

JUDGE JOHN B. LEAHY

**Dies This Morning From the Effects of
a Drink of Ammonia.**

Yesterday afternoon ex-County Judge J. B. Leahy drank some stuff, supposed to be ammonia, while under the influence of liquor, which caused his death at 1 o'clock this morning.

Justice Keith was called to hold an inquest, and from the facts gleaned, it appears that the deceased had for the past two weeks been under the influence of liquor. Yesterday he attended the funeral of his nephew, Fred Percy. The following are the facts as stated by Mrs. Leahy at the inquest:

"Yesterday the deceased attended a funeral at the Catholic church in Concordia and returned home at 5 o'clock p. m. After he had come into the room where I was, he took up a vial of some kind of medicine that had been handed me previously by Mary Blanchard to take care of. My husband removed the cork and asked me what it was, and I replied that it was some medicine left for Mrs. Percy. He then suddenly poured the contents into a glass and I rushed forward to prevent him, but before I could reach him he had drank it."

"I do not know what medicine he had taken. I was with and remained with my husband during the night. He died about 1 o'clock in the morning. I think the medicine he took from the vial and administered to himself produced his death."

Mrs. Leahy further said that she was not aware of her husband's exact age, but thought he was 42. He died in terrible agony, and his sufferings were pitiable to witness. Although the inquest did not reveal the fact, it is generally conceded that the stuff was ammonia, bought by Mary Blanchard for Mrs. Percy, who had fainted upon returning from her husband's burial.

John B. Leahy was a noted character in El Paso. He had lived here for over fifteen years, and was county judge late in the seventies. It is further said that he was district judge at the same time. For some time past he has been a heavy drinker, and has been involved in numerous difficulties. Last November he was confined in the city jail, and was released on election day. He immediately went to his home and cut his throat with a razor. At first it was thought that the suicide would succeed, but physicians' skill pulled him through. For two months after this Leahy refused to touch a drop, but finally again fell into his old habits. He had been on a spree for two weeks previous to his death. Yesterday, after the funeral he called at a saloon and asked for a glass of beer, which was refused him. He immediately returned home and committed the above rash act, but whether it was a case of suicide or not could not be ascertained.

The funeral will be held this afternoon at 5 o'clock.