

# DR. PEARSON'S BODY RECOVERED

## Head of Pearson Interests Goes Down With Lusitania; Wife Also Lost.

Dr. Francis Stark Pearson, head of the Pearson interests in the southwest and Mexico, was drowned on board the steamship Lusitania, together with his wife.

Dr. Pearson's name was carried among those who were lost when the lists of bodies recovered were sent out late Saturday evening by the Associated Press. Sunday morning J. O. Crockett, vice president of the El Paso Milling company and the Mexico North Western railroad, both Pearson companies, received telegrams from Dr. Pearson's son, Ward Pearson, and from H. I. Miller, saying that the death of Dr. Pearson had been confirmed. Later the body of Dr. Pearson was claimed in the morgue at Queenstown by relatives, who were searching Sunday for the body of Mrs. Pearson, who is also missing.

### Had Varied Interests.

Dr. Pearson was one of the most extensive development operators in the United States. In addition to the Mexico North Western railroad, the El Paso Milling company, the Madera Co. Ltd., which includes the Pearson and Madera mills and lumber tracts, Dr. Pearson organized the Texas Land and Irrigation company, which owned 63,000 acres of land in the Plainview, Tex., district, and which was being developed as a pump irrigation project. He also promoted the Medina dam project near San Antonio, owned the 4,000,000 acre Del Rio ranch near Ahumada, Chih., and was at one time considering a plan of damming the Devil's river near Del Rio, Tex., to irrigate large tracts of land.

In addition to his Chihuahua holdings in Mexico, Dr. Pearson's syndicate controlled the Mexico City tramways, light, power and heat plants in Mexico City; the Sao Paulo railroad in Brazil as well as the light, power, telephone and water plants in the city of Sao Paulo and the docks at that port. In Barcelona, Spain, he controlled the light, power, telephone and tramways as well as the power reservoir and irrigation system 100 miles from Barcelona. He was a director in the Denver & Salt Lake railroad and was recently elected a member of the executive committee of the railroad.

### Offices in Paris and London.

Dr. Pearson, although an American, had offices in London and Paris as well as in New York and he spent much of his time abroad financing the various organizations which he controlled. He visited El Paso frequently after getting control of the lumber and railroad interests in northern Mexico and he was in Plainview only two weeks ago with H. I. Miller, his assistant, to inspect the development work of the Plainview project. He was in El Paso last in November, coming here for a conference with his representatives in the southwest.

Dr. Pearson entered the southwestern development field about three years ago when he gained control of the old Chihuahua and Pacific railroad in Mexico. He then bought the Rio Grande, Sierra Madre and Pacific railroad, combined them and connected them with a line between Pearson and Madera which made up a connecting link in the line from Juarez to Chihuahua. He also took over the Greene interests in western Chihuahua and bought additional lumber tracts in that district to supply timber for the Madera and Pearson lumber plants.

He also arranged for the construction of the El Paso Milling company in El Paso to work much of the timber from the Mexican properties and, when here last, announced that a paper pulp mill and other additions would be built here as soon as the Mexican trouble was settled.

### Was Democratic.

Although one of the biggest engineering and development men in the country, Dr. Pearson was most democratic and he was never hard to approach when he made his frequent trips to El Paso. He usually traveled in a private car for convenience but insisted upon walking wherever he went about the city and would even walk down to the El Paso mills from his car. He is survived by his two sons, one of whom is in New York, another in college and a daughter, who is now in England. He was 54 years old and was a man of striking appearance, being tall, slender, and with a heavy head of gray hair. He was a native of Massachusetts.

The El Paso Milling company's plant and the Madera and Pearson plants will be ordered closed by J. O. Crockett on the day of Dr. Pearson's funeral, out of respect for the memory of the man who made these projects possible.