

# JUDGE TOWNSEND DROPS DEAD OF HEART FAILURE

**Former Prominent Jurist and  
Pioneer El Pasoan Suc-  
cumbs to Sudden Attack.**

Judge James E. Townsend dropped dead with heart failure Saturday afternoon at about 2 o'clock, while in a store near the smelter. He had just answered a telephone call, when his death occurred.

Judge Townsend was superintendent of county roads and had always taken an active part in the life of El Paso since locating here in 1886, when he practiced law. He was at one time county judge, having been elected by a large majority, and to him was due the creation of El Paso county's permanent school fund.

#### **Created School Fund.**

When he assumed the office of county judge the school land owned by the county in Fisher county had been settled upon by "squatters." Through Judge Townsend these were removed, and the land sold on long time payments at 8 percent interest, starting the county school fund. Later he served two years as city attorney.

Judge Townsend again took up the practice of law upon his retirement from office, but became interested in mining machinery, and developed a most successful business in this line in Mexico until the Mexican revolution began.

#### **Reenters Public Life.**

With his appointment as county superintendent of roads, he again entered public life. He was engaged in supervising the removal of slag from the smelter to be used in road work, when his sudden death occurred. He had been feeling unusually well Saturday morning, and his death was a shock, as he was very well known throughout El Paso. He was 56 years old at the time of his death, having been born in Albia, Iowa, in 1858. Surviving are his widow and three children, J. Selby Townsend, of Chicago, James E. Townsend, Jr., and Mrs. George LeBaron of El Paso, and two brothers, Fred Townsend, of Albia, Iowa, and Dr. Wilber Townsend, of Los Angeles, Calif.

The funeral service will be held Tuesday morning at 9:30 o'clock from the family residence at 815 Mesa and the interment will be private.