

# GERMAN CONSUL MAX WEBER DIES

## Expires in El Paso Hospital; Son Is Fighting for Kaiser in France.

Max Weber, German vice consul in Juarez, and one of the wealthy pioneer residents of the border town, died in an El Paso hospital Thursday morning at 7 o'clock of pulmonary edema. About 18 months ago he was stricken by paralysis. He was 62 years of age.

Mr. Weber's body was removed from the hospital to the undertaking house of McBean, Simmons & Hartford, on Stanton street. Funeral services will be held at 10 o'clock Friday morning at the undertaking chapel, conducted by Rev. Arthur C. Harris, pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church. Interment will be in Concordia cemetery. Germans in El Paso and Juarez will attend the funeral.

### Kaiser's Agent in Northern Mexico.

Mr. Weber was a consular representative of the German empire during the six years of Mexican revolution, at one time being in general charge of German affairs in the northern section of Mexico.

Mr. Weber is survived by his widow, and a son and a daughter. His son, Max, jr., is a cavalry sergeant in the German army on the western front in France.

### Came Here in 1881.

Mr. Weber came to El Paso and Juarez in 1881 as representative of the firm of Ketelsen & Degetau. He established the branch houses of this firm at Juarez and at Casas Grandes and for many years was in its employ.

### Decorated by Germany and Japan.

About 25 years ago, Mr. Weber was appointed German vice consul to Juarez and has held this position continually during this period. He has been decorated by both the German emperor and the emperor of Japan for services to those two governments. Three years ago he was decorated with the medal of the order of the crown of Prussia by emperor William. The emperor of Japan decorated him with one of the medals of a Japanese order two years ago for saving the lives of the Japanese residents of Juarez who were threatened with execution by Francisco Villa when he captured Juarez in 1911. Mr. Weber was also commended by the Chinese minister to Washington for services to the Chinese government in protecting Chinese residents of Juarez from harm at the hands of the Villistas.

### Served in German Army.

Mr. Weber served in the German army 40 years ago. He was in the cavalry forces in Saxony during his military service. While in the army he received the decorations of several military orders.

Mr. Weber was born in Saxony, 62 years ago. He left Germany about 35 years ago coming direct to Mexico and later settling in Juarez.

### Son Is Cavalry Sergeant.

Mr. Weber's son, Max Weber, jr., is in the German army. He is a sergeant of cavalry and is fighting on the western front. Young Weber was in college in Germany when the war broke out and was taken into the army when the reserves were called into service. He is 20 years of age.

### Daughter in Red Cross Work.

A daughter, Miss Consuela Weber, was also in school in Germany when the war broke out. She served several months in German Red Cross relief work and then returned to her home at Juarez. She is now residing with her mother there.

# Max Weber, Fighter For Mexican Irrigationists Close Friend of Ministers In Old Diaz Cabinet

By J. D. PONDER.

**M**AX Weber, German vice consul in Juarez, who died in El Paso Thursday morning, exerted an influence on this border for 20 years and El Paso cannot forget that it was mainly through his efforts that the Mexican government filed its claim of \$20,000,000 against the United States to indemnify Mexican citizens in the valley below Juarez for losses sustained by being deprived of the use of the waters of the Rio Grande through the operations of irrigation companies in Colorado and New Mexico. The Mexican claim was based on the riparian rights of Mexican citizens who had used the waters of the river a century before agricultural development began in Colorado.

#### Advocate of Mills Dam.

In conjunction with Capt. Juan S. Hart and C. R. Morehead, Mr. Weber was an earnest advocate of what was known as the Mills dam, an international dam proposed by Gen. Anson Mills, to be erected just above this city to conserve the flood waters of the Rio Grande for the restoration of the riparian rights of the planters of the El Paso and Juarez valleys. Mr. Weber stood close to the members of the Diaz cabinet, enjoyed their confidence and was an indefatigable worker for any cause he espoused. Prior to the filing by Mexico of its \$20,000,000 claim, Mr. Weber had translated for me numerous letters he received, relative to the

matter, from close advisers of president Diaz.

#### English Company Attempts Cinch.

An English company had secured from the secretary of the interior at Washington a permit to build a dam and reservoir at Elephant Butte. The same company and its stockholders in this company secured options on many acres of land under the dam in New Mexico. If this enterprise had been carried through it would have deprived the people of this valley of any voice in the control and distribution of the waters of the Rio Grande. The English company would have had absolute control of all waters for the irrigation of the Rio Grande valley, from Rincon to Fort Quitman, Texas.

#### U. S. Enjoins the English.

It was to avoid such a condition that the Mills dam was projected. But the appeals from the people of this valley availed naught and not until the Mexican claim came to the front did the government at Washington call a halt to the English company's enterprise. It was a long fight and Max Weber was constantly on the firing line. The government enjoined the English company.

#### Properly Safeguards Valley.

But New Mexico and Colorado then entered the list as champions for the Elephant Butte project and the fight between El Paso and New Mexico became very bitter. However, in 1903, when the International Irrigation congress met in El Paso government influences brought the El Paso and New

Mexico interests together and an agreement was reached whereby El Paso was to support the Elephant Butte project, provided it was built by the government and the rights of Mexico and the El Paso Valley were properly safeguarded.

#### Big Claim Wins Fight.

It was Mexico's claim, though, which eventually won the fight for El Paso, and it was Max Weber who worked day and night among the property owners of the Mexican valley to get their claims in shape to go to the Mexican government.

Anyway, the Mexican claim resulted in a treaty being negotiated between the two countries and under which the United States became pledged to build the dam at Elephant Butte and to give Mexico its share of the water conserved by the dam, and thus the water users of the New Mexico and El Paso valleys were given control of the distribution of the waters in their respective territories and given time in which to pay for the dam and irrigation ditches.

#### Weber, Loyal German.

Mr. Weber never became a citizen of this country, but held fast to his allegiance to Germany. He was a loyal, patriotic subject of the emperor and never hesitated to proclaim the same. If he boasted of superiority of the German government and people over all other governments and peoples on earth, it may be attributed to his excessive zeal for his emperor and his love for his fatherland.