DEATH WAS VERY SUDDEN

Francis I. Meston Passed Away Yesterday Morning.

IN THE PRIME OF LIFE

Did Much to Develop and Beautify the City.

Yet on the sunny side of life's prime, Francis Ingersoll Meston, one of Pueblo's most prominent citizens, and promoter, of large interests in the west, died at an early hour yesterday morning of heart disease.

Among the list of men who have done much for the development of southern Colorado and Pueblo in particular, the name of Mr. Meston will ever stand among the most prominent. During the period of residence in this state he has been identified with many of the largest and most important development movements that have been originated in the southern territory, of the state. In all of them, by his excellent judgment and great enterprise, he has promoted the welfare of the people and the prosperity of Pueblo and adjoining counties.

The deceased had made Pueblo his home since 1891 and during that time he has been instrumental in securing many of the most substantial buildings of the city. Among the number are the Meston-Olmes building, Moch Brothers building, Whitcomb block, Pope block, King Warehouse, Gray Warehouse, Mechanics building, Rover Wheel and Athletic club building, Silver Grill, Dundee addition and various others of lesser size. He always advocated and has been closely identified with all the forward movements of Pueblo. He was the organizer of the Citizen's committee and was its president, unified the electrical interests, launched the Park and Improvement society, secured the site for the city park, started the movement for street paving and pressed it into consideration; organized the Caladonia Land company and developed the Dundee addition of over 400 lots. In the last few years he has been the chief promoter of the Custer Mining and Realty company in Custer county and the present growing town of Custer City. He had been but little in Pueblo for the last few months and had returned only a few days ago preparatory to going east in the interest of some large enterprises, among the number being the new railroad to Beulah.

None could present the salient features of a business scheme better than he and certainly none in the state had been more universally successful in all his enterprises the consequence was that no one was credited with better judgment by men of wealth in the east as well as capitalists at home. His shrewd business tact, coupled with the pleasant and agreeable social qualities, made him one of the most popular men of the county. The man who labors to secure the development of a locality, striving to bring out its latent resources, who is devoted to the general welfare of the people, who seeks to interest outside capital in local interests; who endeavors to promote the commercial status of his community, becomes a public benefactor, and his work brings results of greater value than either he or others can compute. Such was the character and such the record of F. I. Meston.

The deceased was the decendant of one of the oldest and substantial families of early American history. He was born in Boston October 26, 1864 and at the time of his death was nearly 38 years of age. He came from a family of preachers and noted divines, many of whom in this country and Scotland, the home of his ancestry, have been leaders in literature and biblical exposition. Thoroughly educated, he was possessed of that finer and more delicate sensibility and sentiment that made him a man of tender and helpful sympathies. Liberal, large hearted and generous, he was possessed at all times of that delightful and genteel appearance that won alike the confidence and respect of all who met him.

He graduated from Dwight school in Boston, as valedictorian of the class, and finished his school career in the English High school in the same city. After leaving school he entered into the banking business with George William Ballou & Co., and was connected with many other interests in Boston, but finally gave up all and came to Colorado and settled in Pueblo.

In 1888 Mr. Meston was married to Miss Alice B. Dean, Rev. Phillips Brooks performing the ceremony. He leaves a wife and five children, four daughters—Margaret, Alice, Dorothy and Elinor and one son, Robert D. Meston, Jr. His mother is also living and resides in Boston as does his sister, Mrs. Addie M. Waite, George D. Meston, of this city, is a brother and has been associated with the deceased in all the business enterprises.

Mr. Meston was also prominent in lodge and club societies. He was a member of Silver State lodge No. 95 A. F. and A. M.; the Ancient Order of United Workmen; Woodmen of the World and Minnequa Tribe No. 17 I. O. R. M. He was also a member of the Minnequa club, Pueblo club, and the Rover's Wheel and Athletic club and other organizations.

A man of sterling qualities, indomitable energies and great enterprise, he had no peer in this section of the country and the many enterprises that are now flourishing in the city will stand as a monument to his skill in business and commercial accumen.

The funeral will take place from the family residence at the corner of West and Eighteenth street at 10 o'clock Saturday morning. Interment will be in Riverview cemetery.