

## DEATH OF DR. OILLE

End Of A Brilliant and Eminent Public,  
Spirited Career

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After years of energetic public life and a successful professional career, Dr. Lucius S. Oille passed away at his house on Queen Street this morning.

When some ten days ago it became known that his health was shattered and that total dissolution would inevitably follow, a chill appeared noticeable in the whole civic populace and from throughout the entire district and even father came anxious enquiries as to the likelihood of the iron constitution of one of the best known individuals that has ever moved in St. Catharines to withstand the attack. But in his advanced age and after years of faithful work and ambitious effort he had not the strength to survive the ravages of pneumonia, and he has gone over to the great majority.

Than Dr. Oille no more loyal citizen or faithful subject of public - spirited gentleman ever breathed the healthful ozone of the Niagara district. His motto was progress, once the early history of St. Catharines and the life of Dr. Oille are closely interwoven. A man of extraordinary ability and intelligence, of unquenchable force of character he was the ruling spirit in many public enterprises, which stand today as monuments of his farsightedness and indomitable energy and public spirit.

Born in the township of Pelham, Lincoln County, on October 3, 1830, he was in the 73rd year of his age when his career was ended by the grim destroyer. He was the youngest son of George Oille, a pioneer of this country, who came as a United Empire Loyalist at the time of the American revolution. He was educated at the Grantham Academy in St. Catharines and graduated in arts at Toronto University in 1855 with the degree B.A.,

receiving that of M.A. in the following year. In 1859 he graduated in medicine and carried off the gold medal. He held the distinct honor of being the only gold medalist physician in St. Catharines.

He opened a practice in St. Catharines and became eminently successful in his profession. His success did not blind him to the requirements of the growing municipality, and his eloquent power and ability to grasp the public questions of the day soon became apparent. He entered public life as a councillor for St. Andrew's ward in 1868 and served continuously for a number of years in that capacity and deputy-reeve. He was warden of the county of Lincoln and was the second mayor of St. Catharines after its incorporation as a city, serving in 1878. Upon retiring from this position he presented the city with its first public fountain, a handsome stone affair which stands at the corner of King and James Streets.

The present excellent water works system stands as a tribute of Dr. Oille's public energy and forethought. He has been justly called the father of the system. He was a member of board of water commissioners for 17 consecutive years and was chairman of that body nearly the whole of that time, his membership concluding in 1899.

The first street railroad in St. Catharines, a horse car line from St. Catharines to Thorold, was built after vigorous work on the part of Dr. Oille. He organized the company and was the prime moving spirit in its construction, becoming its president.

One of his latest enterprises was the St. Catharines and Niagara Central Railway, of which he was the promoter, and the president of the company, which road was opened in 1887. He retained the position of president until the bond holders took possession of the road. Later it was sold and was acquired by the N., St. Catharines and T.R. company, transformed from a steam to an electric road and enlarged.

He also built the Grand Central hotel, and at the time of his death was the president of the company which owns the establishment.

In education Dr. Oille took a leading part and was greatly interested in the Collegiate Institute, being president of the board of trustees for a number of years until he was forced to retire on account of a clause of the act which prevented membership of that body and the water works commission.

When the St. Catharines board of trade was first established, Dr. Oille was one of the leading citizens who became charter members, and by his personal effort it was rejuvenated a few years ago and is now a live institution. As a member of that body he demonstrated a remarkable knowledge of public affairs. One of his latest ambitions was to have a beet sugar factory established in St. Catharines, but his death has prevented him from seeing that project carried to a successful issue.

The deceased during his life had never left the state of single blessedness. He was an ardent Mason, a past master of Temple Lodge, A.F. & A.M., and First Principal of Mount Moriah Chapter, R.A.M.

He was a gentleman of eccentric characteristics, but sound personality. He could have had the nomination of either political party during his life, but never accepted that honor. St. Catharines will mourn the loss of a great and noble citizen in the death of Dr. L.S. Oille. The members of the city council and water commission will attend the funeral, which will take place on Monday afternoon.