

### Sir John Ramsden, Age 82, Dies After Short Illness

LONDON, April 29.—After a brief illness, Sir John Ramsden, one of the largest landowners in England, died the other day at his Buckinghamshire seat, Bulstrode Park, Gerrard's Cross, at the age of 82.

Sir John William Ramsden, Bart., was born at Newby Park, Yorkshire, on Sept. 14, 1831. He became the 5th baronet on the death of his grandfather in 1839.

Although Sir John owned 150,000 acres of land, up to three years ago this included the Ramsden estate in Yorkshire, of which the town of Huddersfield was built. In 1911, however, he made over the whole of this estate to his only son, Mr. John Frecheville Ramsden, thus avoiding the death duties.

Sir John's coming of age was celebrated with great rejoicing at Huddersfield, where for many generations the influence of the Ramsdens has been supreme. It was popularly hoped that the new baronet would introduce much-needed reforms in the management of the estates. These expectations were not fully realized, and the relations between the sole "overlord" and the people were at times strained.

In fact, Sir John had a seven years' war in the law courts with his tenants. The contest, which aroused much bitterness in the town and intense interest throughout the West Riding, arose in this wise:

The property of the fourth baronet included several pieces of common land, allotted to him in 1789, and these came to the late baronet under the will of his grandfather. The management of the estate was at the time singular in this way: A person desiring land for building purposes had to stake out. The ground rent was fixed, his name was entered in the tenant-roll; he erected his building, and paid his rent at the annual rent audit. In these transactions there was no legal instrument to define the obligations of either party. If a tenant desired to sell his buildings he negotiated for the sale in the presence of the agent of the estate, and the name of the purchaser was substituted in the tenant roll for that of the late tenant, or, in event of death, for the name of the legatee or the lawful successor. These occupants were tenants at will.

At this time, if the tenants insisted, leases were granted, usually for sixty years, renewable every twenty or forty years, on the payment of a stipulated fine. The rents paid by the leaseholders were considerably higher than those paid by the tenants-at-will.

The Canny Quaker.

Of the former class of tenant was Joseph Thornton, of Paddock, who in 1837, acquired a plot of land on

which to build a house. When the house was nearly completed Thornton had some misgivings about the security of his tenure. He consulted Jos. Brook, agent for the estate, as to the prudence of taking a lease. Brook was alleged to have replied that it would be folly to do so; that he would be equally safe without a lease, but that he could get one whenever he desired.

In 1845 Thornton acquired more land, and paid ground rent amounting altogether to five pounds six pence per annum. On taking the additional piece of land, Thornton signed the following form of application:—"Huddersfield, June 16, 1845.—Gentlemen,—I beg to make application to you for a plot of ground, situate at Paddock, Huddersfield on which I am desirous of building a mistal and other out-buildings, and which I am willing to hold under you as a tenant at will at such rent as you may think proper to fix."

Thornton alleged that he signed the paper without considering its meaning and effect, and in the firm belief that he would hold the second piece of land on precisely the same terms as those on which he had held the first piece. He also said that the purpose of the paper was not explained to him. He estimated that he had over £1,500 worth of his own property on the land.

Thornton received notice to quit, and appealed to the court of Chancery. Vice-Chancellor Stuart upheld Thornton's contention that, though he was a tenant-at-will, he had an equitable right to a lease. Sir John Ramsden, in 1866, appealed to the Vice-Chancellor, who reversed the House of Chancery's decision, but denied Sir John his costs.

Some years ago it was stated that Sir John owned the land on which every house in Huddersfield was built except one, and being desirous to obtain possession of this piece of land, he offered to sell it to the owner—a Quaker—offered to cover the ground with sovereigns.

"All right," was the reply, "I will sell to thee if thou wilt put them on edgeways up." The sale did not take place.

For thirty years Sir John sat in parliament. He was first elected as a Liberal member for Taunton in 1853, subsequently sitting for Hythe, West Riding of Yorkshire, Monmouth, the Eastern Division of the West Riding, and the Osgoldcross Division. In 1857-8 he was Under-Secretary of State for War.

Mr. J. H. Burnham (Peterboro') proposed in the Commons the Wel-land and Georgian Bay Canals that an auxiliary transportation line be established instead of canals.

### VILLA'S RECORD IS TERRIBLE ONE IN CRIME

#### He Has Himself Murdered Over 100, Mostly Poor People.

Writing to the "Daily Telegraph," a correspondent recalls the awful career of Francisco Villa, the Mexican General, whose hands reek with the blood of innocent men, women and children. The writer says that Villa, who was born in 1868, was only fourteen when he was sentenced to a term of imprisonment for cattle stealing. On his discharge he settled in the mining camp of Guanacevi, where a few months later he underwent another sentence of imprisonment for homicide. When he came out of prison for the second time he organized a band of robbers, who had their headquarters in the mountainous region of Durango, and were the terror of all that district.

In the year 1907 he was in partnership with one Francisco Reza, stealing cattle in Chihuahua, and selling them in the United States, and then stealing mules and horses in the United States, and selling them in Chihuahua. In consequence of some disagreement he shot and killed Reza in broad daylight.

During the early part of November, 1910, he attacked the factory of a Mr. Soto, in Alende, State of Chihuahua, and killed the owner. By threatening the latter's daughter he forced her to show where she had hidden a sum of 11,000 dollars, which he stole. He then joined Madero's revolution, uniting his band with Urbina's column. In January, 1912, he was at Casa Grandes, Chihuahua, where he killed Carlos Alatorre and Luis Ortiz for refusing to pay the money he demanded for their ransom.

At Batopilas, State of Chihuahua, in February of the same year he tortured Senora Maria de la Luz Gomez until he made her pay him \$30,000. She died from the effects of the barbarous treatment she received.

After the triumph of the revolution, Villa, in November, 1911, obtained a monopoly for the then Governor of Chihuahua for the sale of meat in the city of Chihuahua which he procured by stealing cattle from the neighborhood, suspecting one of his subordinates, Cristobal Juarez, of stealing on his own account, he killed him.

Sacking a Town.

In the early part of May, 1913, Villa, with seventy-five men, assaulted a train at Baeza, State of Chihuahua, that was carrying bars of gold and silver, killing the crew and several passengers.

Later in the same month he entered the town of San Andres, Chihuahua, and assaulted the house of Senor Sabas Murga, an Hacendado, who with his two sons, tried to defend themselves. Two of his nephews were killed, but the Murgas got away. Villa then got hold of two sons-in-law of Murga who had not taken any part in the fight, and after torturing them to say where their father-in-law had hidden his money he had them killed.

Towards the end of the month Villa's band took the town of Sta. Rosalia, Chihuahua, shooting all prisoners and treating the principal officers with terrible cruelty. Many private persons were murdered, one of the worst cases being that of a Spaniard, Senor Montilla, cashier of the house of Sordoy Blanco, who was shot over the head by his wife, who tried to defend him. Villa personally kicked her in the face as she lay on the dead body of her husband.

He arrested more than twenty of the principal people of Sta. Rosalia torturing them and taking them out to be shot, until he obtained from them 70,000 pesos, which were collected by several people in order to save their lives. One of these was Senora Maria B. Coviero, who was herself also tortured.

In July, 1913, Villa took Casas Grandes, Chihuahua and shot more than eighty non-combatants, violating several young girls. He attacked and took the town of San Andres, which was held by the Federals, in September 1913, shooting many peaceable residents and more than 150 prisoners, many of these being women and children. In shooting these people, in order to economise cartridges, he placed one behind the other up to five at one time, very few of them being killed outright. The bodies of the dead and wounded were then soaked with petroleum and thrown into bonfires prepared for the purpose. The prisoners were forced themselves to make the bonfire and cover with petroleum the rest of the victims.

Held to Ransom.

On Sept. 29, 1913, Villa, having overpowered a force of over 600 Federals commanded by General Alvarez at Avies fifteen kilometers from Torreon, had every prisoner shot. Towards the end of November he took the city of Juarez by surprise. Nearly all the Federal officers who were taken were shot, as well as some sixty non-combatants, most of them inferior employes and servants.

Senor Pedro Olivares, an old and very infirm man, whose shop, under the name of Jose Ma Sanchez Succesor, had been already plundered, is being held until he pays \$50,000 ransom. He has already paid \$10,000 for two of his children, these also having

been held for ransom. Villa also took prisoners two children of fourteen years of age called Lorenzo Arellano and Alfonso Moliner, sons of two gentlemen who were able to leave Chihuahua before Villa arrived. Villa has shot in Chihuahua 150 non-combatants, the greater number being poor people who could not leave for want of means, or because they thought they ran no risks, as they took no part in politics. Senor Ignacio Irigoven and Senor Jose A. Yanez though in no way connected with politics, were taken by Villa and tortured for several days, with threats to shoot them until they paid ransoms of \$20,000 each. Having obtained from Villa himself safe conducts to leave by train for the border, the train in which they were, was caught up at the station of Montezuma by a locomotive in which were several officers in Villa's confidence, headed by an ex-Maderista deputy called Miguel Baca Ronquillo, who took them from the train and shot them in the presence of the passengers.

### HER TEMPERATURE REGISTERS 122.

Girl in Kieff Hospital Proves an Extraordinary Patient.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 25.—Medical authorities of this city are deeply interested in the case of a girl in a hospital at Kieff, whose temperature is certified indisputably as 122 degrees Fahrenheit.

It has been reported (but this lacks confirmation, that her temperature rose to 140 during an attack of typhoid fever before she entered the hospital.

She now has headaches and is suffering from extreme weakness.

### KELVIN

The recent rain will be a great benefit to the fall wheat and clover in this vicinity.

A number in this vicinity have commenced their Spring seeding.

Mr. Guest of Toronto, was in this place on business on Tuesday.

Mrs. Eugene Messecar spent Saturday in the Telephone City.

A few from this place attended the

### ALBERTON

(From our own correspondent.)

Wm. Marwick, Niagara Falls, spent a few days recently with friends here.

Mrs. Wm. Sharpson has returned from visiting her son in Carluke.

Florence Baker is quite poorly.

The Ladies Aid Society met at Mrs. Eber Ballfield's Thursday afternoon.

Miss Alice Fernley and friend, Westover, spent Sunday with friends here.

Mrs. Jas. Morwick has returned from visiting her mother, Mrs. Wm. Vansickle, Elmvale.

Adam Kelly, Ancaster, was the guest of his brother A. R. Kelly, Friday.

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London and Brantford with relatives.

Mr. A. C. Eddy of Scotland, was in this place on business one day last week.

Mrs. E. Smith of Teeterville, has been visiting her parental home here.

Mrs. Wilcox was calling on some of her friends on Thursday afternoon.

The Colorado mine strikers captured the town of Chandler and a tense situation exists.

## Shall Wholesale Murder Continue in Mexico ?

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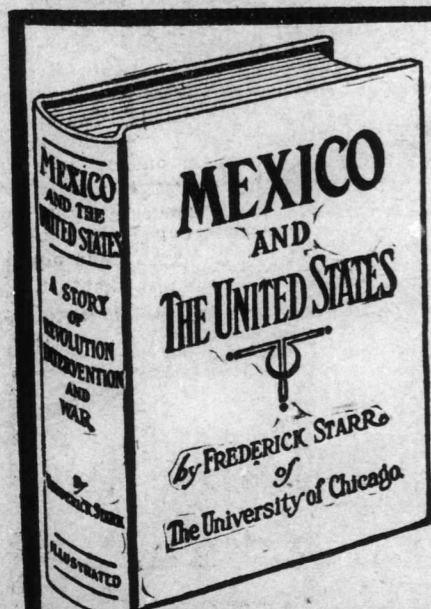
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a detachment would be sent into a region where the most serious part of the strike's history has taken place.

The battle at Walsenburg was expected to be between one hundred soldiers, divided into two companies of about fifty each, and more than a hundred strikers entrenched in rifle pits and the lava formation of the mountain which form a semi-circle around Walsenburg from north to south, a distance of three miles. The strikers had started to the Walsenburg mine far end of the ridge, to aid in the defence of that property.

Under Lieutenant Scott's command advanced along the ridge which followed a valley across the mountains from the first detail, considerable distance in the rear. The soldiers were armed with rifle service revolvers and proceeded out thought of attack.

Suddenly from the rifle pits a rain of bullets over the heads of the first detachment, Lieut. Scott and his men up in fighting line ordered the fire returned. Soon thereafter the attacking force grew numbered his men, that they had the advantage of the natural fortification and he ordered his men into a line.

Captain Swope hurried to the vanguard, his men firing as they ran. When the two companies of strikers gradually withdrew from the arroyo and advanced upon his

(Continued on page 3)

PAINTERS ON STRIKE

Brantford painters walked on strike this morning and the conversation of one of the leading firms of the city this afternoon seems little of an amicable settlement.

Some time the local painter has been gathering strength and securing additional strikers in membership and the war this morning was not unexpected. There is some doubt as to the number on strike, but it is estimated that between thirty and forty men have gone out. They are demanding 30 and 35 per hour and other conditions. There are five or six firms all the men have not gone out. One proprietor said his men were perfectly satisfied.