

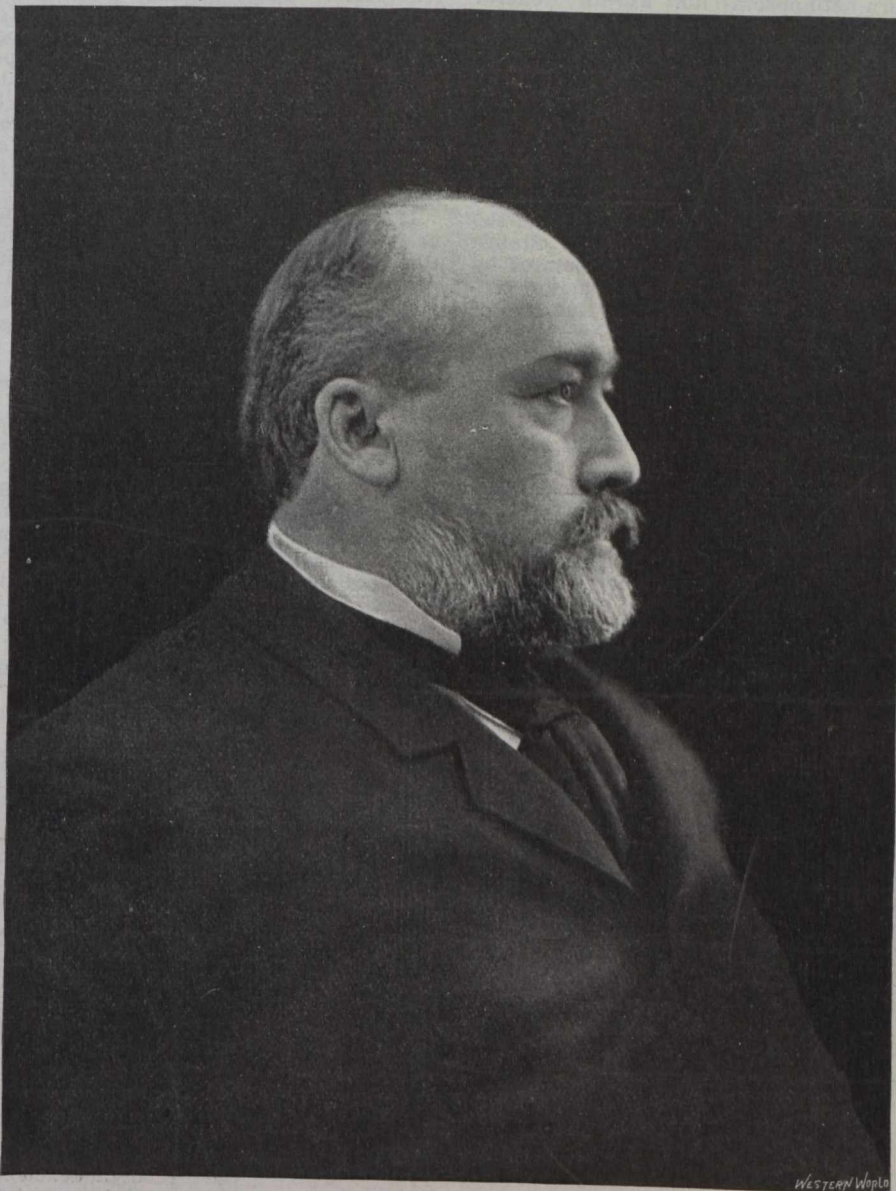
The Death of Sir William Van Horne.

Following the operation on Sir William Van Horne at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, on Aug. 23 for an abdominal abscess, which was referred to in the last issue of Canadian Railway and Marine World, very encouraging bulletins were issued, as he appeared to have stood the operation well, and for some days he took ample nourishment and slept satisfactorily, but about a fortnight later a bulletin announced that his condition had changed for the worse, his temperature and pulse having risen considerably, and he gradually sank until he passed away on Sept. 11 at 2.10 p.m., surrounded by his family. To the general public the news of his changed condition came as a surprise, but to his family and to his immediate friends it was probably not unexpected, as owing to his condition of health when he underwent the operation grave apprehension was felt from the first. Until some two years ago Sir William enjoyed wonderfully robust health. A few hours after addressing the Canadian Club in Toronto on Nov. 17, 1913, he was taken ill and was laid up for some little time, but he improved materially and made trips to Cuba, besides spending considerable time at his summer home at St. Andrews, N.B. During the past summer his condition caused his family considerable anxiety, and at last, an operation becoming necessary, he was taken to the hospital hurriedly during the night of Aug. 22-23, and was operated on at 2.30 a.m. As stated above, his condition for some days was considered satisfactory, but diabetic conditions developed that rendered recovery impossible.

His funeral, which took place from his house, 513 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, Sept. 14, was a remarkable national tribute, the attendance including representatives of the Governor General, the Dominion and the Quebec Governments, Sir Thos. G. Shaughnessy, President, Geo. Bury, Vice President, a number of other directors and a very large number of C.P.R. officials, representatives of the judiciary, the professions, the transportation, banking, manufacturing and other commercial interests, and thousands of the masses. The funeral service in the great drawing room at 10 a.m. was of a very simple character, the pastor of the Church of the Messiah, of which Sir William was a member, reading passages from the Bible and an extract from Emerson's Threnody, treating of life and character and destiny. From the house to the Windsor St. Station the streets were thronged with people. First went four carriages filled with flowers, then the hearse, followed on foot by the only son, R. B. Van Horne, the little grandson, W. C. C. Van Horne, and Sir William's brother, A. C. Van Horne, of Joliette, Ill. Next came Sir Thomas Shaughnessy with R. B. Angus, followed by Sir Edmund Osler and C. R. Hosmer, George Bury and the other vice presidents and heads of departments, and hundreds of other representative citizens. At the station the body was placed on a special train, which left at 11 a.m., having on board R. B. Van Horne and his wife, A. C. Van Horne, and W. F. Lynch, who was for many years Sir William's private secretary, and is now Purchasing Agent of the Cuba Co. in New York. Lady Van Horne and Miss Van Horne, the only daughter, remained in Montreal. The train, which was run at moderate speed, reached Toronto at 8.35 p.m., where it was met by one of Sir William's oldest Canadian friends, who remained with those on board until it left again, about 9 p.m., and ran direct to Joliette, Ill., which was reached the next

morning at 10 o'clock. There it was met by Col. Fred Bennet, of Joliet, one of Sir William's oldest friends, and by a delegation of representatives of the oldest families of Will County, who had known Sir William as a boy there. He was buried in the family plot beside his father and mother. The C.P.R. general offices in Montreal were closed for two hours on the morning of the funeral service there and flags

Horne was elected mayor of Joliet and was that city's first executive. In 1954 cholera swept through the valley and Mayor Van Horne succumbed to the disease. Following the death of the father the mother located in another section of the little city. William was educated in the Joliet public schools, which he attended until 1857. He read every book obtainable, and drew crude maps of engines and of ships. One day he



Sir William C. Van Horne, K.C.M.G. From a photograph taken in 1897.

were half masted on the company's buildings from London to Hong Kong.

William C. Van Horne was born Feb. 3, 1843, in a little loghouse at a small cross-roads settlement then called Chelsea, in the wooded country between Frankfort and Mokena, in Will County, Illinois, the son Cornelius Covenhoven Van Horne and Mary Minier Richards. The father was a lawyer of some local repute, but failing fortune compelled his son William to enter the service of a farmer at an early age. The boy hoed potatoes and curried horses, but thought of higher things. When the valley of the Desplaines became the great highway into Chicago, the Van Horne family moved to Joliet. In 1852 the elder Van

took up the study of telegraphy and soon was master of the Morse Code.

He entered the Illinois Central Rd. service as a cub telegraph operator in 1857. This was when the road was under General McClellan and Ackerman and other early-day managers. The new operator received \$40 a month, a munificent salary for a boy whose training had been bounded by the rail fences of an Illinois farm. It is said of him in those days: "He learned to fiddle a little and drum a piano, and, having a talent for drawing, he began to cultivate art. He once drew a caricature of General McClellan on the brown painted side of his telegraph station on the Illinois Central, which came near costing him his place. The picture represented General McClellan