

United States Tobacco Journal

Dr. Charles Pease, Arch-Foe of Tobacco, Dies at 86; Tilted Long With "Journal"

WAS TARGET OF PUBLICATION IN HIS CRUSADING DAYS

Called "Male Counterpart of Carrie Nation," He Stormed Against Tobacco for Years, But Succeeded in Forbidding Its Use in Subways — Headed the "Non-Smokers' Protective League" — Also Railed Against Meat, Ice Cream Sodas, Vaccination and Tammany Hall.

The ghost of forgotten days stalked through the editorial offices of the UNITED STATES TOBACCO JOURNAL this week when it learned of the death on Tuesday of Dr. Charles Giffin Pease, founder and president of the Non-Smokers' Protective League of America.

For between Dr. Pease and the late Ismar S. Ellison, then the "Journal's" crusading editor and publisher, there was waged for years a desperate combat, as this publication fought with words and pictures the efforts of the anti-nicotine bigots to deprive the public of cigars, cigarettes and tobaccos. The cartoon which illustrates this account is one of dozens spread across the pages of the "Journal" in those days.

An elegant male counterpart of Carrie Nation, who wielded a figurative ax against the unyielding bulwark of the "tobacco interests" for half a century, Dr. Pease achieved two triumphs — the passage in 1909 of an ordinance forbidding smoking in the subways, and thirty-two lines in "Who's Who in America" under the heading, "PEASE, Charles Giffin, reformer."

Aside from these lasting monuments to his unflagging zeal, Dr. Pease made little headway in his remarkable career of tilting with some of the most stable windmills ever constructed in the progress of civilization. Besides to-

bacco, Dr. Pease was against virtually every ordinary beverage, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, including ginger ale ("When a deer in the forest fastness desires drink it seeks not a brew but the crystal water brooks at which to quench its thirst," he would tell his inquisitors), meat, chocolates and chocolate ice cream sodas, vinegar, lollipops, corsets, vaccination, toxin antitoxin, a wide variety of drugs, capital punishment and Tammany Hall.

After acquiring a medical and dental education somewhat late in life, Dr. Pease, fortified by his new scientific distinctions, issued innumerable pamphlets and delivered countless prepared and impromptu lectures against the influences which, he said, were driving the human species toward inevitable moral and physical degeneration.

Dr. Pease's sole major victory came early in his singular career when, despite his ignorance of the intricacies of the law, he bested George Gordon Battle, counsel for the tobacco industry, on his own ground, and made it against the law to smoke in subway trains.

Emboldened by these triumphs of the right, Dr. Pease became an inspired, dauntless knight with flaming sword. A militant minority of one, he appeared at Public Service Commission hearings to protest against the plan to permit smoking in the four rear seats of open

(Continued on Page 27)