

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 tobacco, 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, lollypops, 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



THE DOOM OF NICOTINE.

A typical cartoon from the UNITED STATES TOBACCO JOURNAL in the days when Dr. Pease was beating the drums against tobacco. From the issue of August 12, 1911. Inset in lower left hand corner is labeled his "Non-Smokers' Protective League of America."

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

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surface cars. He resigned in 1911 from the International Art Society because an eleven-year-old girl had recited at one of its meetings a poem by James Whitcomb Riley in which, Dr. Pease averred, smoking "was mentioned four times distinctly." He refused invitations to dinners of state because committees refused to forbid smoking.

Dr. Pease made his most cogent impact on the intractable public mind as the ever-vigilant enforcer of the law he had almost single-handedly enacted. Absent-minded men who had gone down into the subway with cigars, cigarettes or pipes dangling lighted from their lips would be struck speechless when an elderly gentleman with snow-white hair, mustache and goatee and a general air of benignity would sidle up to them, knock the smoking apparatus from their mouths with a sweep of his arm, and haul them off to the nearest stationhouse.

The lone crusader made the mistake of taking this summary action with Milton P. Jackson, Deputy Surveyor of the Port of New York on April 3, 1914, and was subjected to a dressing-down by former Magistrate Charles W. Appleton for his pains.

Dr. Pease was always writing let-

ters to newspapers and to public officials, in an effort to have smoking banned in public buildings, the Tombs, and in Vassar, Mount Holyoke, Bryn Mawr and other women's colleges. He petitioned Mayor John F. Hylan in 1919 to protect voters in "their constitutional right to breathe pure (denicotined) air" in polling places. It availed him nothing.

Dr. Pease died Tuesday of hardening of the arteries in his apartment at 290 West End avenue. He was born in New York on December 4, 1854, attending the Friends' Seminary and the Shaw & Sanford School. When he was thirty-four he took up the study of dentistry and medicine, retiring from practice at the age of eighty in 1934. An adopted daughter and a brother survived.

Funeral services for Dr. Pease were conducted yesterday afternoon in the Walter B. Cooke funeral chapel, on West Seventy-second street, by Commissioner Alexander M. Damon, eastern territorial commander of the Salvation Army. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery, the Bronx.
