

J. L. HEATON DEAD; EDITORIAL WRITER

Active on The New York World
for 32 Years—His Influ-
ence Was Wide

HELPED DEFEAT SHEEHAN

Took Part in Naming of Charles
E. Hughes as Counsel for
Insurance Inquiry.

John Langdon Heaton, a life member of the advisory board of the Pulitzer School of Journalism, who was an editorial writer on The New York World for thirty-two years, 1899-1931, died yesterday afternoon at his home, 131 Westminister Road, Brooklyn, at the age of 75. For the last three years he had suffered from the chronic progressive nerve ailment known as Parkinson's disease.

Several months ago Mr. Heaton wrote his own obituary, which follows:

"John Langdon Heaton was born on Jan. 29, 1860, in Canton, N. Y. After graduating from St. Lawrence University he taught one year in Rutgers College Grammar School, New Brunswick, N. J. He joined in 1881 the editorial staff of The Brooklyn Times and later left to establish The Providence (R. I.) News. Returning to New York he served The Recorder until it went out of publication. Then he went to The World, where he was soon promoted to be an editorial writer. In that work he continued a long time. On the staff were W. H. Merrill, George Cary Eggleston, David Graham Phillips, Count Dillon and E. W. Osborn. From her Philadelphia home Rebecca Harding Davis sent occasional articles. Later he worked with Frank I. Cobb, Sam Moffett and J. W. Clarke, and stayed to the end with Lippmann, Nevins, Merz, Scroggs and Paulin, and with H. S. Pollard, Claude Bowers and Ernest Howard on the staff of The Evening World.

"Mr. Heaton could not serve so powerful a paper so long without at times helping to make history. There was the episode of Blue-Eyed Billy Sheehan, who aspired to the Senatorship. Legislative insurgents asked Edward M. Shepard to enter the lists with Sheehan. Mr. Shepard sought and followed the advice of Mr. Heaton, who told him:

"You can add to a creditable career of public service by blocking Mr. Sheehan." A legislative leader of the insurgents in that successful fight was a young man new to politics in New York, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Hughes and Insurance Inquiry.

"There was a critical time in the career of Chief Justice Hughes. Mr. Hughes had done good work as counsel to the legislative committee on the problems. A greater inquiry to which a reluctant Legislature was driven by The World was at hand, the famous insurance investigation. State Senator Armstrong and one or two associates in the committee called upon Mr. Merrill, chief editorial writer, and Mr. Heaton to ask if they would recommend a lawyer for chief counsel. They declined.

"How would Charles E. Hughes suit you?" asked Mr. Armstrong. He would be quite satisfactory was the reply. All The World wanted was an honest effort to get at the facts as a basis for necessary legislation. * * *

"Mr. Heaton wrote in 'The Story of a Page' the account of thirty years of struggle and achievement of The World's editorial page under Joseph Pulitzer. Later he compiled in 'Cobb of the World' a number of Frank I. Cobb's more famous editorials and one or two of his rare public addresses and magazine articles.

His Work for Pulitzer School.

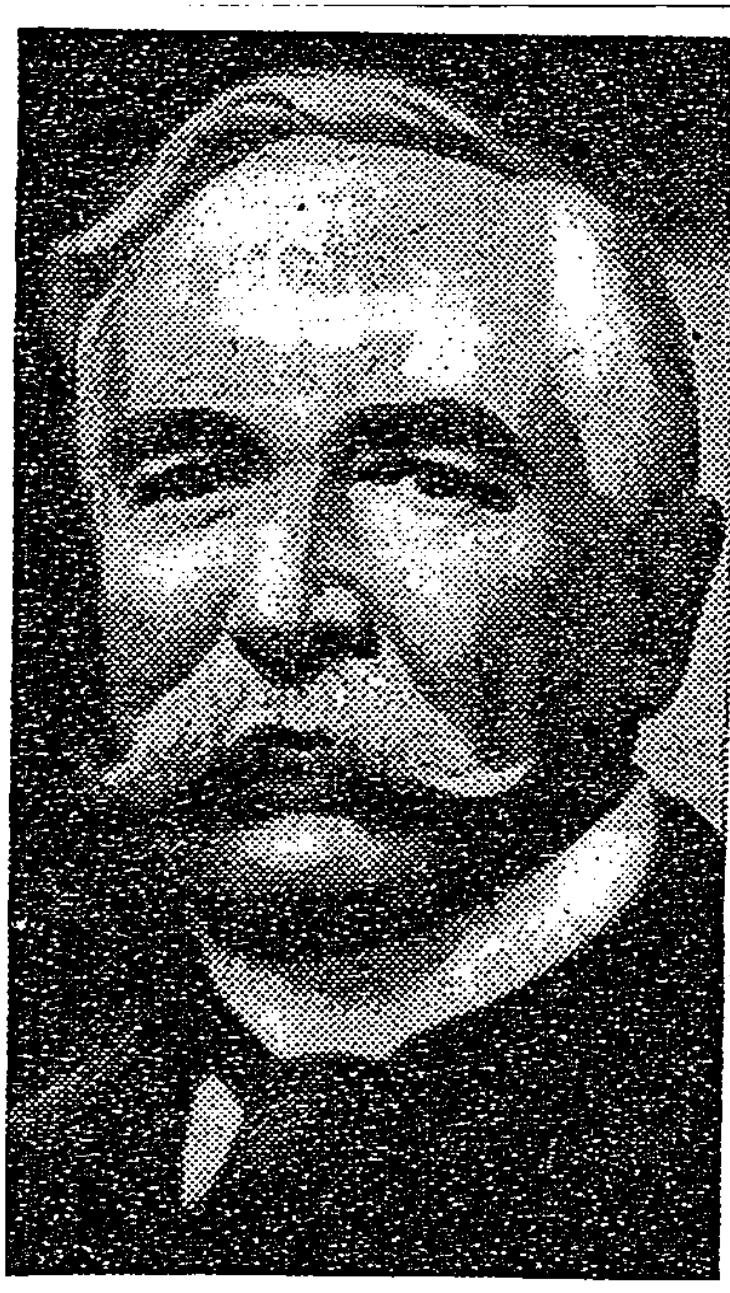
"The Pulitzer School of Journalism of Columbia University, founded and endowed with \$2,000,000 by Mr. Pulitzer, was in its field a pioneer. Mr. Heaton was commissioned by Mr. Pulitzer to make a preliminary study and report. * * *

When the school was finally organized Mr. Heaton was designated as a life member of the advisory board representing The World. The original board included Charles R. Miller of THE TIMES, E. P. Mitchell of The Sun, Whitelaw Reid, St. Clair McKelway of The Brooklyn Eagle, Victor Lawson of Chicago and Samuel Bowles of The Springfield Republican. With appreciated aid from Dr. McKelway, Mr. Heaton was instrumental in obtaining Talcott Williams, an ideal selection, to act as the first director of the school.

"Mr. Heaton acted as chief editorial writer during the absence or illness of Mr. Merrill or later of Mr. Cobb. He for years took the Sunday shift, in charge of the editorial writing for Monday's paper, and as eminent men have a way of dying on Sunday he was perforce somewhat of a specialist in passing final comment upon notable careers. In this way it happened that he wrote The World's comment upon the career of William J. Bryan, and upon Joseph Pulitzer himself, since he died on a Sunday, and quite unexpectedly.

"Mr. Heaton married in 1882 Eliza Osborn Putnam of Danvers, Mass., who became a brilliant writer and newspaper and syndicate director, a pioneer of the many women now in journalism in New York and other cities. Her health failed after years of strenuous work and in 1919 she died. Her book on 'By-Paths in Sicily' was well received. A son, the only child of the marriage, died in 1926. He leaves a sister, Dr. Lucia E. Heaton, and a daughter-in-law, Mrs. James P. Heaton, and a grandson, John L. Heaton 2d of Winchester, Mass., and Louis H. Pink, a nephew."

The funeral will be conducted at the residence in Brooklyn at 2:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.



JOHN LANGDON HEATON.