

DR. A. R. WALLACE, SCIENTIST, DEAD

Was Co-Discoverer with Darwin of the Laws of Natural Selection.

AUTHOR OF NOTED WORKS

Declared in "Social Environment" That Our System of Society is Rotten from Top to Bottom.

By Marconi Transatlantic Wireless Telegraph to The New York Times.

LONDON, Nov. 7.—Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace's end to-day came very gradually and peacefully. The aged scientist had a severe attack of ague on Monday, followed on Tuesday by a succession of serious attacks. Then a lull came. There was a distinct lessening of the pulse beats and the breathing became spasmodic.

On Thursday Dr. Wallace seemed to rally, and those watching began to hope for his recovery, but he slowly lapsed into a state of coma. The end is best expressed by a telegram sent by Wallace's only son to a friend: "Dr. Wallace passed away very peacefully without regaining consciousness."

Dr. Alfred Russel Wallace, O. M., was 91 years old. He was the co-discoverer with Darwin of the laws of natural selection. He had made important contributions to the theory of geographical distribution of animals and other branches of science. An eminent student of the land question, he favored land nationalization. The pursuit of his studies and investigations had carried Dr. Wallace into almost every part of the known world.

Dr. Wallace was looked on in England as "the last of the giants" belonging to that wonderful group of intellectuals that included, among others, Darwin, Huxley, Herbert Spencer, Lyell, and Owen, whose daring investigations revolutionized and evolutionized the thought of the century.

Apparently the "Grand Old Man of Science," as he was often called, took a lugubrious outlook on life to such an extent that he disbelieved that man had improved. Once he contemplated some ancient relics dug from an Egyptian tomb and asserted that if Newton and Darwin had been born in the times of the Egyptians they could not have done more than the Egyptians did.

In one of his last books, called "Social Environment and Moral Progress," reviewed several months ago in THE TIMES Sunday Magazine, Dr. Wallace made the assertion, "Our whole system of society is rotten from top to bottom, and the social environment as a whole, in relation to our possibilities and our claims, is the worst that the world has ever seen." In the same book he ridiculed the eugenists of modern times, and entered a "strenuous protest against any direct interference with the freedom of marriage," because, as he explained, he considered it "unnecessary."

In an interview arranged especially for THE TIMES, Dr. Wallace once gave this interesting account of his early life: "I was born a pretty long time ago," he said, "on Jan. 8, 1823, to be exact. My people were of Scotch descent, living near Sterling. I left school when about 14 years old, and went to work in my brother's office as an architect and surveyor. One of my duties as I got older was to collect money from the farmers for certain services, but, frankly, that business always repelled me, and finally I resolved to have nothing to do with it. In order to emancipate myself from office drudgery I made a proposal to Henry Walter Bates, the entomologist, that I should be allowed to join a scientific expedition to the Amazon. To my great delight my application was accepted."

Dr. Wallace traveled with Bates from 1848 to 1852, and the account of their journeys and expeditions was detailed later in his first book, called "Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro," which established his reputation. His first book was followed by "Palm Trees of the Amazon."

His next expedition carried him to the Far East, where he spent eight years in the Malay Islands. While in the Malay Islands he thought out his theory of natural selection, and set forth his theories on that subject in an article entitled "On the Law Which Has Regulated New Species." That was in 1855. It was not until 1869 that he published his famous book "The Malay Archipelago." In 1875 he completed and published his book "Miracles and Modern Spiritualism," which immediately aroused the interest of English-reading peoples and later foreign theorists. His "The Geographical Distribution of Animals" appeared in 1876, at a time when Dr. Wallace was President of the Biological Section of the British Association. Two years later he completed a volume entitled "Tropical Nature."

In the following years his prolific pen turned out "Land Nationalization," "Bad Times," "Darwinism," "Vaccination a Delusion," "The Wonderful Century: Its Successes and Its Failures," "Studies Scientific and Social," "Man's Place in the Universe," "My Life," "Is Mars Habitable?" "Notes of a Botanist," and others.

Soon after the publication of his book on land nationalization in 1882, in which Dr. Wallace undertook to elucidate the whole subject of land tenure by proposing a practical scheme of ownership under the State, a Land Nationalization Society was formed and he was made its President. Soon afterward he outlined a plan of nationalization of the Church of England.

As a recognition of his scientific investigation Dr. Wallace received a yearly pension of \$1,000 in 1881. The next year the University of Dublin conferred on him the degree of LL.D. and in 1880 the honorary degree of D. C. L. was conferred on him by the University of Oxford. In 1890 the first Darwin medal of the Royal Society was awarded to Dr. Wallace, and in 1892 he also received the Founders' gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society and the gold medal of the Linnaean Society.