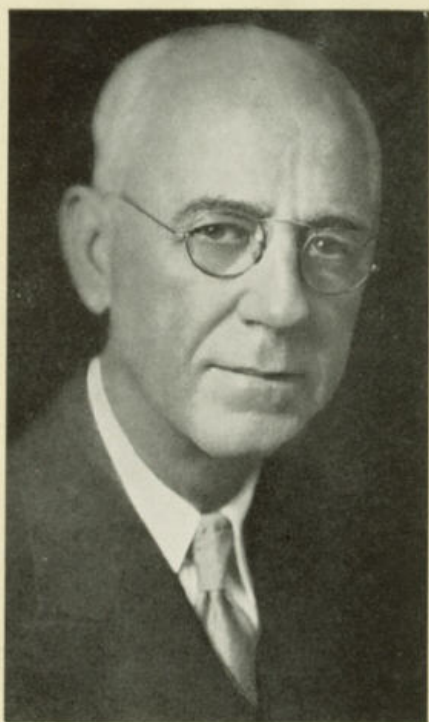


CHARLES TWEEDIE

1874 - 1945





Charles Tweedie



Charles Tweedie, president of Tweedie Footwear Corporation and prominent for more than half a century in the city's civic affairs, passed away June 15, 1945, in St. Louis at the age of seventy-one.

Mr. Tweedie had not been in good health for several months but continued his work. He decided to go to Missouri Baptist Sanitarium in St. Louis for a check-up Monday of this week. He worked until noon Monday when he departed for St. Louis.


His condition was not regarded as immediately critical but examination revealed that an early operation was imperative. Then followed a sudden attack and the surgeons decided not to delay, and performed an emergency operation.

Mrs. Tweedie had accompanied her husband to St. Louis. At noon Tuesday she phoned their son, William R., here of the seriousness of the case. He departed immediately with his family but arrived there after the operation.

Mr. Tweedie observed the 56th anniversary in the business May 19 last by attending to his regular duties at the factory during the morning hours and playing golf in the afternoon. He was not in robust health at the time but told friends that he intended to continue active at the factory as long as possible.

He was born in St. Louis June 23, 1874 to John and Anna de Beruff Tweedie. They brought him here when he was two months old and he has lived here continuously since that time.

He was active in the shoe business from the time he finished the eighth grade at old



Central School (now Trinity Lutheran School) on Monroe Street May 19, 1889, until a few days before his death. He joined his father, the late John Tweedie, to learn shoe manufacturing on that date. The company was then known as the A. Priesmeyer Shoe Co. and was founded by Mr. Priesmeyer and the elder Tweedie in 1874.

His father died in 1908 and his mother in 1934. He became president of the company upon his father's death.


Mr. Tweedie devoted his life to the shoe business and as he often told friends "enjoyed every minute of it."

In 1917 the business became known as the Tweedie Footwear Corporation. A branch plant was opened in Versailles in 1925.

Mr. Tweedie knew the business from the proverbial A to Z. He worked in every department of the factory and in the office during his long association with it. There was no branch of the industry he did not know.

He personally invented the Tweedie Boot-Top which made the company known in the industry throughout the country. The Tweedie "Top line" method in 1940 was also his invention. It was regarded as revolutionary in the business. He also secured patents on many other devices in shoe making. He invented and patented a golf glove, shortly before the war.

In 1927 he took his only vacation of consequence, going to Europe. In Germany he studied a new process in shoe making and upon his return to this country he put this method into effect in the then recently opened Versailles plant. It was the first plant in the



United States to specialize 100 per cent in that method.

The Versailles factory was converted into a war plant in the spring of 1942 as a maker of shelter halves. The factory was expanded to include other war necessities.


The factory was recently awarded its fifth Army and Navy "E".

The Bolivar Street factory opened in the fall of 1942 and became the largest single producer of canvass leggings in the United States. It, too, has expanded into other war necessities. This factory was awarded an Army-Navy "E" May 15 last and it was made the occasion for a city wide celebration.

Mr. Tweedie took great pride in the accomplishments of these two great contributions to the successful conduct of the war but when the awards were made always kept himself in the background preferring that the public honors go to the employees.

While he devoted himself to the shoe business he found time to participate in civic work and was regarded as one of the most public spirited men in the community. Both he and his only son, William Reid Tweedie, were active in the Chamber of Commerce of which he was a charter member joining that organization back in the days when it was known as the Commercial Club. His work in various civic campaigns was outstanding. He was either chairman or a working member of every civic committee here for forty years or longer.

He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, serving as deacon, trustee, elder; member of Jefferson Lodge No. 43, A. F. and A. M.; member of Jefferson City Chapter



No. 34. R. A. M.; since 1900, member Ezra council forty-four years; Prince of Peace Commandry, Knights Templar, forty years. He served as grand master of Jefferson Lodge No. 43, was a member of the consistory of St. Louis and Moolah Temple order of the Mystic Shrine of St. Louis. Charter member of the Rotary Club, the Country Club, at one time member of the City council, past president of the Jefferson City School board, member of the Library board and one of the first members of the Municipal Golf Club. He was active in all the war loan drives in both this and the first world war.

He married Miss Lillian Willamette Reid June 14, 1899. They had two children, William Reid Tweedie and Mrs. T. C. (Lillian) Bruere, Jr., of St. Charles, Mo. There are five grandchildren.

Surviving also are two brothers, John and Joseph Tweedie, and three sisters, Mrs. Kathryn T. Mueller, Mrs. Carolyn T. North and Mrs. Carl Lange, all of Jefferson City.



The Presbyterian Church was crowded yesterday afternoon for the last rites for Charles Tweedie.

Hundreds of floral offerings were received from all parts of the country. More than six hundred pieces were banked about the casket at the funeral parlors and at the church.

The services at the cemetery again attended by many friends were under the auspices of the Masonic lodge. The Knights Templars in uniform formed an honorary escort.



The Rev. Dr. A. B. Jackson, in a brief but eloquent tribute at the church, credited Mr. Tweedie with being "the No. 1 man of the Presbyterian Church here.

"I do not like to think of this as a funeral service," Rev. Jackson said. "Instead, I like to think of it as a service of memorial, in memory of a man we loved, a man with whom we were all in some way associated, a service in which we recall the things that are in our hearts, that are enshrined and treasured there and need not be spoken.


"The life of a man like Charles Tweedie is its own best witness, and he lived a life that was a witness to the power of God in the affairs of men. He would not want an extravagant eulogy, nor have us engage in fulsome praise. I am sure he would not be interested in our reciting the honors that have come to him in the organizations to which he belonged and in which he felt a deep interest, or the service that he rendered

to them and to the host of individuals who called him "friend". You who were his friends and loved ones know these things. I would not speak of Charles Tweedie as a business man or a leader in the affairs of the community, or of him in the ordinary connections in which many of you knew him and in which many of you loved him.

"But I think it is only proper to bear testimony in a few words to the life that he lived as a Christian. If you look upon the life of Charles Tweedie, you find the life of a man of God, a man whom faith strengthened, who became strong through adversity, who loved his Lord, his Church, his family and his friends, and whom we loved and to whom for a little while we bid good-bye.

As I look back over the history of this Church, which was 111 years old the day before yesterday and whose anniversary we observed in our service this morning, and read the list of the men who made it up, read their deeds of service and of self-denial, I am not able to find any man in all its 111 years of history who over so long a period of time contributed so much to it in loyalty and service and devotion as did Mr. Tweedie. It is not always wise or fair to say that any one man is the leading member of a Church. But I think it is fair to give tribute where tribute is due, and in all the history of this Church it is perfectly true to say that Mr. Tweedie was its No. 1 man.


"Whenever I wanted help in anything I could count on him. The influence of the surroundings of, and his loyalty to the Church, found expression always in his daily life. I have known him intimately during my twenty years as pastor of this Church. I literally



never knew him to do an unkind deed. The men who knew him best and worked with him all loved him dearly. I know that in the dark years of depression when difficulties beset his company, that he found the way out in prayer. I know that when sorrow and trouble came into his life, he lived in almost constant contact with God. I know that no man could be as universally loved and respected by his associates in every walk of life without there being in his very makeup qualities of character that endeared him to them. Clean, honest and true, his was what might be said, I think, without exaggeration, a noble life.

"I like the words that Jesus gave as a promise to men like this. I have read them, I think, every time I have ever conducted a funeral service during my ministry, and that has been more than a thousand times. They have been a great source of comfort to others and to me. I would not dare to stand before you here if I did not believe them true.


"You remember how Jesus gathered in the Upper Room with His disciples on the night of His betrayal and instituted there the Lord's Supper, that we have observed in our various ways and in our different denominations from that time to this as a memorial to Him. You remember how He showed the disciples an example of loving service when He laid aside His gaily colored holiday robe, girded Himself with a towel and washed the disciples' feet. This He did, serving as one of the most menial servants in any eastern home. You recall how He said to them: "He who would be greatest among you, let him be the servant of all". Then He told them how it was expedient that He should go away; and yet that they were not



to worry about His passing: "Let not your heart be troubled", He said, "ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself, that where I am there ye may be also. If ye love Me, keep My commandments, and I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him. But ye know Him for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world seeth Me no more, but ye see Me; because I live, ye shall live also.

That is the promise of our Lord and Saviour as He stood in the shadow of the cross, walking the way of pain and sorrow; a promise made that we might never fear to walk that way, for He walked it, bearing our sins and our troubles that He might blaze the way so that we could finally find the way to the Father's house of many mansions—the Father's home of many rooms.

"And I like that text that is found in the story that was told of Jesus just a little while after this. After He had gone to the cross and had broken the power of the tomb, and waited on the shore for the disciples as they came back from that first fishing trip after His death. The record reads: 'And when morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore.' Sometimes we are like poor navigators who are tossed upon the deep and cannot even see the shore. This life of ours is



a troubled sea, beaten by the winds, dashed into foam and swelling with the storm. It would be a poor life indeed, if when our fishing were done and we gave it up and went home, we could not see the Saviour there waiting for us on the shore. We have told goodbye to a man we deeply loved. Jesus waits for such as he upon the shore. And when we come to the time that our lives are ended and we cross the river to that unknown land, we know that He waits for us too, for He went to prepare a place there for us, and He comes again to receive us into that larger life with Him where there is no more sorrow, pain nor death.

"I remember how Martin Luther wrote that grand old hymn:

"A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper, He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing".

"God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He changes not. He is the island on which shipwrecked lives find refuge. He is the covert beneath which men find safety in the tempest. He is as a river of water in a dry place. He is the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. When the rivers have run down to the sea and the sea, itself, shall have dried into dusty desert; when the stars have burned down in their sockets and the worlds have ceased to be; God remains. He lives on, and because He lives, we, too, shall live. These are the things that He has promised in His Word; these are the things to which we tie our lives.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. Our friend lived worthily,



kindly, nobly. He was a life-time member of this church, was for nearly thirty years an Elder in it, for many more years had some official connection with it. We bid him good-bye without any fear or misgivings. We give him back to God, asking only that he might also wait there for us, so that when the time comes for us to go, he may be on the shore waiting to welcome us home.

“May God’s grace, His rich hope, His deep faith and the presence of His Spirit strengthen and bless you all until that day.”

*A*T THE expressed wish of CHARLES TWEEDIE, the Board of Directors of the Tweedie Footwear Corporation have elected William R. Tweedie President and Treasurer.

He has for twenty years been Vice-president and General Manager, directing successfully the entire operation of the business and eminently fitted to maintain the integrity of the corporation and the high standard of its products.

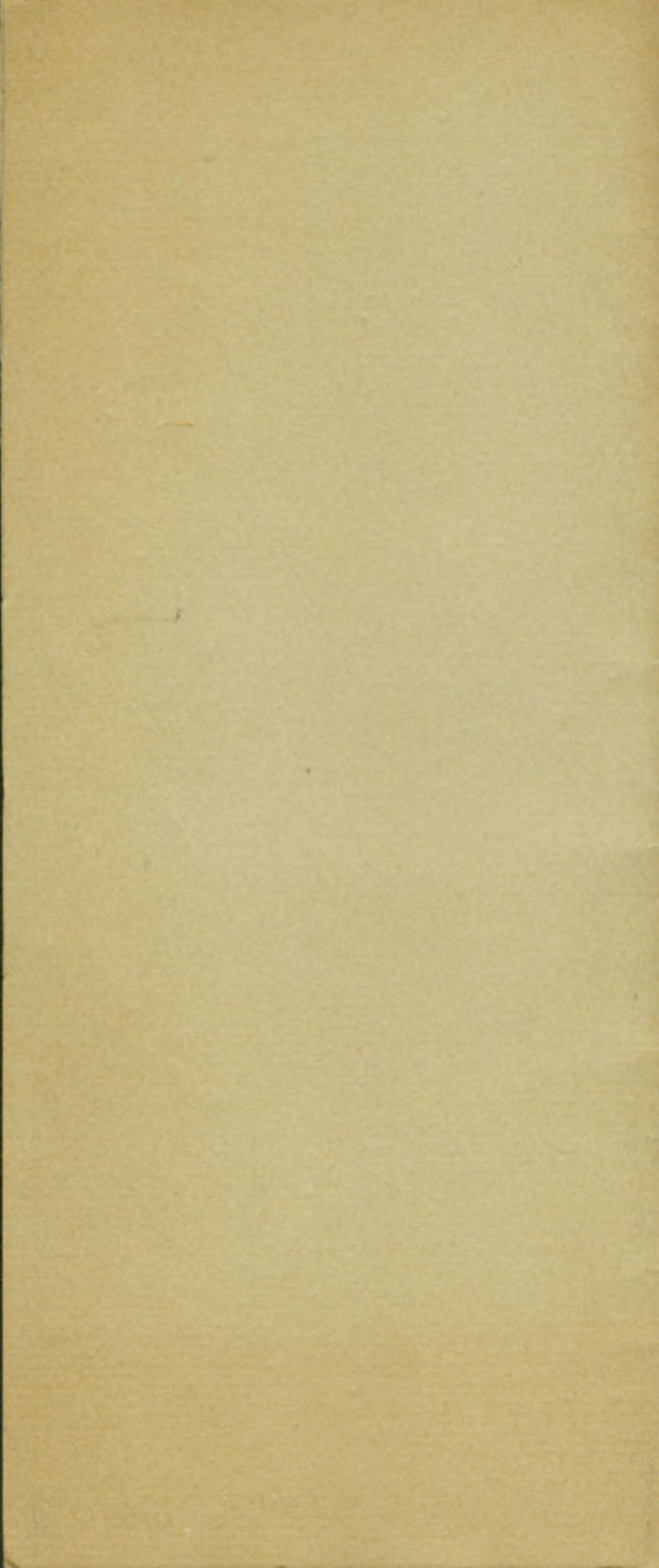
John Tweedie, with the company for fifty years and for many years Superintendent of company plants, has been elected Vice-president, and Mrs. Charles Tweedie, Secretary.





Shoemakers Since 1874

TWEEDIE FOOTWEAR CORPORATION
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI



Tweedie Footwear Corporation

Women's



Young Girls'

JEFFERSON CITY, MO.

7-17-45

Dear Folks:-

We thought you'd like a copy of this little memorial booklet we've had printed, about our Charles Freddie, so long and ably our co-worker and President.

As the present head of your company I want to assure you that the same policy of kindness, appreciation of each other, quality in shoe-making and shoe material, and good deliveries of same, will be continued.

Thank you, each and all, for the many kind words, and acts done, for, me and my family and the company. Your continued friendships and cooperation will be appreciated and respected as always.

Sincerely

Bill Tweedie