

Death Ends Colorful Career of Landis, Baseball's Ruler



COMMISSIONER K. M. LANDIS
Baseball mourns passing of colorful czar.

Death has claimed 78-year-old Kenesaw Mountain Landis, baseball's "indispensable" man for nearly a quarter of a century.

Unwavering, fearless, and always the champion of the "little guy," the commissioner and former federal jurist died of heart disease in St. Luke's Hospital early yesterday morning.

His death left the major leagues without a guiding genius for the first time since 1921 and placed tremendous importance on the National and American League Winter meeting here Dec. 11 and 12 when a successor probably will be named.

Just a week ago, when the white-thatched commissioner was fretting over what he protested was an overly-long hospital stay, a joint committee of the two leagues recommended that Landis be re-elected for another seven-year term when his current term expired Jan. 12, 1946.

CHIDES HIS PHYSICIAN.

Ostensibly cheered by that vote of confidence, Landis chided his physician for warnings that his condition was delicate. However, he suffered a setback Sunday and was placed under an oxygen tent a little more than an hour before he died. He entered the hospital Oct. 2 suffering from a severe cold, but previously had overtaxed

his heart working in his victory garden in suburban Glencoe.

Baseball officials to a man mourned his death as not only a great blow to the national pastime but a keen loss to the nation at large.

Baseballdom, however, will not be able to pay immediate homage to his memory. In compliance with Landis' wishes, there will be no funeral services. A cremation will take place privately and friends have been requested not to send flowers.

Until the major league meetings, at least, the commissioner's office will be conducted by his secretary, Leslie M. O'Connor, who was at Landis' bedside with his family when he died and wept as he read a formal statement announcing the commissioner's death.

NO CHANGE PLANNED.

William Harridge, president of the American League, later in the day announced:

"The Commissioner left his office in the capable hands and under the guidance of Leslie O'Connor, speaking for Mr. Frick (Ford Frick, National League president) and myself, there will be no change in the

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