

Emil Tyden, Inventive Genius Behind Hastings' Growth, Dies

HASTINGS — Emil Tyden, the Swedish immigrant boy who in a half-century transformed Hastings from a quiet agricultural town into a busy industrial city, is dead.

Taken ill at his home at 301 South Park last Sunday, Mr. Tyden, 86, died at 4:55 p. m. Friday in Pen-nock hospital where he was admitted Tuesday morning.

Active to Last

Until the last he had been active, continuing as president of the National Bank of Hastings and of three industrial corporations he founded, the International Seal and Lock Corp., the Viking Corp. and the Viking Equipment Co.

Horatio Alger, popular boys' author at the turn of the century, might have written one of his greatest success stories about the life of Emil Tyden—if he could have persuaded the industrialist to talk. But an Enquirer and News reporter in-



EMIL TYDEN

in Brookfield town-district school and a member of the e board of review, the past five years He is a past master the Eastern Star, er of the executive community affairs. per 6, 1934.

mazoo county, was in the world war d has been engaged s. He is a Repub- ing his fourth term.

TS OF THE

interviewed the Hastings man four years ago and discovered he was an easy, pleasant conversationalist about most any subject except his own achievements. He was modest, almost to the point of embarrassment whenever his own accomplishments were mentioned.

Yet Mr. Tyden, who came to the United States from a Swedish farm at the age of 17, discovered his own inventive genius which gave Hastings the industries mentioned above plus the E. W. Bliss Manufacturing Co., now the city's largest concern and nationally known, actually "walked with kings nor lost the common touch."

Came to U. S. in 1882

Born Jan. 13, 1865 in Flisby parish of Smaland, Sweden, he came to the United States in 1882 and went directly to a Swedish settlement at Moline, Ill., where he obtained employment with the Moline Cabinet Organ Co. Three years later he was hired by the Kimball Piano & Organ Co., at Chicago, and while working there invented an improvement for the corn planter then used by farmers. As a result, the McCormick Harvester Co. took him into its experimental department.

By 1892 he had become successful enough to afford the first of 14 visits back to his native Sweden and when he returned a year later he accepted the position of land agent for the Union Pacific railroad. It was his job to secure homestead settlers for Idaho where they were needed

for section crews and he recruited them from Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska, interesting many Swedes, whom he organized into a colony known as New Sweden near Idaho Falls.

Most of the acreage was planted by the new settlers to potatoes, and the first year brought an excellent yield of big, white "meaty" potatoes. But there was no market. Mr. Tyden conceived the idea of packaging them in small sacks and having the railroad trainmen throw them off at stops all along the line. And he had imprinted on the bags, "Idaho Bakers."

He personally took bags of the potatoes into Chicago and distributed them free to all restaurants and hotels. The stunt worked and today the "Idaho Baker" is known around the world. Mr. Tyden told the writer in 1947: "One of the greatest thrills of my life was experienced during the First World war when I went into a restaurant in London and found 'Idaho Bakers' on the menu."

Perfect Freight Car Lock

But during those early years Mr. Tyden continued to use his inventive genius and in 1898 perfected a seal and lock for freight cars, which were constantly being robbed. While dickering with a Chicago firm for manufacture of the item, he chanced to visit a Colorado ranch. There he made the acquaintance of Richard Messer, a Hastings banker. When the

1869, the son of He spent his ademy, Andover, high school in school in 1892, three years and na. In 1897 he m the beginning rs has practiced is a member of former chief of unizer and regent membership of ad Rapids clinic ace. He was the which served in nk of Lieutenant nits, and for a nits association; e medical school of conditions in ring 1934-35 he He is a member alstaff club and ilitary order of overnor Brucker ed by the death