

FLORENCE KELLEY, HUMANITARIAN, DIES

**Welfare Leader and Secretary
of the Consumers' League
Was 72 Years Old.**

A PIONEER WOMAN LAWYER

**She Devoted Her Life to Bettering
Industrial Conditions Affecting
Women and Children.**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 17. — Mrs. Florence Kelley, distinguished welfare worker, who had been secretary of the National Consumers' League since 1899, died in the Germantown Hospital today in her seventy-third year.

Mrs. Kelley came here last September from her Summer home in Maine to seek medical advice. Suffering from anemia, from which complications later developed, she was advised to go to the hospital, where she was a patient until her death. At her bedside were her sons, John Bartram Kelley, a writer, and Nicholas Kelley, an attorney, both of New York. Mrs. Kelley's home was at 215 East Fifteenth Street.

A private funeral service will be held in an undertaking establishment in this city and burial will be near the Kelley Summer home at Brooklin, Me. Mrs. Kelley's father, the late Representative William Darrah Kelley, who represented Pennsylvania in Congress for more than thirty years and at one time was "father of the house," is buried there.

Adviser of Ex-Gov. Smith.

Mrs. Kelley spent her life in an effort to better the condition of industrial workers, women and children. More than any one else she was credited with having given former Governor Alfred E. Smith his keen understanding of the needs of the men and women employed in the industries of New York State.

Despite her notable humanitarian achievements she had not been immune from attack. Critics accused her of a belief in communism. During the World War she resigned her place on the Board of Control of Labor Standards after certain statements alleged to have been made by her were interpreted as showing her opposition to the enforcement of the selective service act. Mrs. Kelley had long been known as a radical and an enemy of what she termed "American imperialism."

Mrs. Kelley was born in Philadelphia Sept. 12, 1859. At 16 she entered Cornell University. She had already become interested in the cause of working children and she started the first Social Science Club at Ithaca. Illness kept her out of college for three years and when she was graduated in 1882 her thesis was on "The Law and the Child." It proved to be a forecast of her life work.

Mrs. Kelley wanted to be a lawyer but at that time there was no place in this country for her to study. She went to Zurich, Switzerland, for her law course, remaining there for four years. Later she was admitted to the bar in Illinois. After practicing for two years in Chicago, Mrs. Kelley became an agent for the United States Department of Labor. Her work was investigating the slums of great cities. In 1893 she was appointed the first woman Chief Inspector of Factories for Illinois. She lived at Jane Addams's Hull House in Chicago.

Fought Uphill Battle.

Mrs. Kelley held the position four years, fighting an uphill battle to aid women and child workers. Then, in 1899, she came to New York to become secretary of the National Consumers' League, which was just being organized. For over two decades she made her home at the Henry Street Settlement in the heart of the east side.

Mrs. Kelley was active in the movement against the congestion of population in New York. She was a protagonist in the fight for a children's bureau at Washington. She framed laws and then fought for their passage.

Mrs. Kelley, who was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, was the author of "Some Ethical Gains Through Legislation," published in 1905, and "Modern Industry," 1913. She edited Edmond Kelly's "Twentieth Century Socialism" in 1910 and compiled various court decisions on labor cases.

While studying in Geneva she married Count Wischwetzky, a Polish nobleman. He returned to the United States with her and they were later divorced. Mrs. Kelley resumed her maiden name and her two sons, who survive her, likewise took the name of their maternal grandfather.