

CONRAD GOTZIAN DEAD.

He Passes Away Last Evening at His Residence—Sketch of an Earnest and Successful Life.

Conrad Gotzian, one of the merchant princes and foremost citizens of St. Paul, died at ten minutes past 7 last evening at his residence, No. 254 East Tenth street, of inflammation of the brain. His funeral will take place on Thursday, notice to be given hereafter. It is only about four weeks ago that Mr. Gotzian was taken ill, and then so slightly that serious results were not apprehended. In company with Dr. Hand and the Hon. R. L. Frazee of Frazee City he went to Riverside, California. While there his health failed so rapidly that it was deemed advisable to return home at once. He started by special car, but was delayed forty-eight hours by the late storm and did not reach St. Paul until 2:15 p. m. Sunday. Monday morning a consultation of his physicians—Doctors Wheaton and Hand of St. Paul and Hagan of Los Angeles, Cal.—was held. Conscious to the last, and knowing his family and the intimate friends that surrounded him, he passed away very quietly last evening. J. J. Hill, George Freeman, his partner and friend, Theodore L. Schurmeier, A. B. Driscoll, Fred Driscoll, Sr., and other personal friends remained last evening with the stricken family.

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Conrad Gotzian was born Aug. 15, 1835, at Berka-on-the-Werra, Saxony Germany, and at the time of his death was in his fifty-second year. Educated in his native country, at the age of seventeen he crossed the ocean to America and passing through Philadelphia, and came directly to St. Paul. He was gifted even as a young man with remarkable business adaptability and probity, and when two years after his arrival in St. Paul (1856) he opened a retail boot and shoe store on Jackson street near Sixth, he laid firmly the foundations of that success that afterward carried him to the foremost ranks in the progress of St. Paul. He was essentially a warm-hearted, thrifty citizen, interested not only in his own affairs but those also of his city. In 1860 his business had grown to such proportions that he widened its scope and made it wholesale. Nine years later, blessed with prosperity and advancement, he entered on the manufacture of boots and shoes and moved his establishment to its present location—the great wholesale concern on East Third street and known as C. Gotzian & Company. On Jan. 13, 1859, Mr. Gotzian was married to Miss Caroline Busse of St. Paul, who, with six of the nine children born to them, still survives him. Of these children, the eldest, Caroline E., is the wife of Theodore L. Schurmeier of St. Paul; Helen E., wife of A. B. Driscoll of St. Paul and Paul H., Harriet F., Vallie and Ruberta are at home still. Mr. Gotzian leaves also one brother in this country—Henry Gotzian of Grand Forks—and four brothers and a sister in Germany. Though noted for his public spirit and the intense interest that he always manifested in the welfare of St. Paul, Mr. Gotzian never sought public office, and but once accepted the many official trusts tendered him, and that as a member of the house of representatives in 1883 from Ramsey county. His work for the good of all was essentially in private and with a lack of ostentation that marked the character of his modesty. He was a member of Ancient Landmark lodge, Masonic order, and, with J. J. Hill, one of the first organizers of old Engine Company No. 2 in the early volunteer fire department of St. Paul.