

## Roland Blennerhasse Mahany

(28 Sep 1864 – 2 May 1937)

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*The Evening Star, June 22, 1920, p. 2*

### **Legal Posts Filled by the President**

Fred K. Neilsen of Nebraska was appointed today by President Wilson to be solicitor of the department of State and R.B. Mahany of New York was appointed solicitor of the Department of Labor, both being named as recess appointees.

Mr. Mahany's work as conciliator for the Department of Labor centered largely in Washington during the past four years. He is a former representative from the state of New York, and has been identified with official life in this city for more than a decade. He succeeds John W. Abercrombie of Alabama, whose resignation as solicitor of the Department of Labor also was announced today.

He was named a conciliator in the local street car strike during 1917, and since then has engaged in more than a dozen labor controversies as a settlement expert.

During the past year he forestalled a strike on the Washington Railway and Electric Company lines by bringing officials of the company and members of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, Division 875, to an agreement at the eleventh hour.

Shortly after this he was detailed as conciliator in a threatened bakers' strike, bringing into harmony both union men and employees during a tense period when it appeared that Washington was about to face a breadless situation.

He also acted as one of the leading conciliation experts of the bureau of conciliation of the Department of Labor during the past three years handling several textile workers' controversies in New England.

**Mahany, Rowland B.** On Sunday, May 2, 1937, at his residence, 1414 Madison st., Hon. Rowland B. Mahaney. Funeral from the above residence on Thursday, May 6, at 3 p.m. Relatives and friends invited. Interment Congressional Cemetery. Services by the W.W. Chambers Co., 1400 Chapin st. n.w.

*The Evening Star, Monday, May 3, 1937, p. A12*

### **R.B. Mahany, 73, Statesman, Dies**

#### **Was Journalist and Diplomat--Served as Minister to Ecuador**

Death dwindled the ranks of Washington's "gentlemen of the old school" yesterday when Rowland Blennerhassett Mahany, 73, journalist, statesman and diplomat, died at his home, 1414 Madison street.

Courtly of manner and always elegantly attired, Mr. Mahany was one of the Capital's bon vivants when he came here as a member of Congress from Buffalo in 1895 and in later years charmed his wide circle of friends with stories of the past.

Although he had been in failing health for several weeks, Mr. Mahany left his sick bed two weeks ago to visit the National Press Club and reminisce with 80-year-old Charley Hamilton, dean of the newspaper corps here, and other members of the Old Timers' Club.

#### *Poet of Distinction*

A poet of distinction, Mr. Mahany was a crony of "Marse Henry" Watterson, Alfred Henry Lewis and others of Washington's brilliant corps of journalists along old "newspaper row."

Mr. Mahany was born in Buffalo, September 28, 1864, and was educated at Hobart, Union and Harvard. He was elected first marshal of the Phi Beta Kappa Chapter at Harvard, but resigned in favor of William A. Leahy.

In 1888, immediately after his graduation, Mr. Mahany became associate editor of the Buffalo Express. In addition to his newspaper duties he was an instructor in history and literature in the Buffalo High School.

Mr. Mahany went to Ecuador in 1890 as secretary of the American Legation, a post he held for two years, when he was appointed Minister by President Benjamin Harrison. The Santos treaty was consummated while he was in office. He served in Congress from 1895 to 1899, when he became harbor commissioner of Buffalo. He became general counsel to the Polish Patriotic Congress in 1903.

#### *Returned to Newspaper Work*

Returning to newspaper work in 1910, Mr. Mahany became editor of the Buffalo Enquirer. From 1914 to 1918 was United States commissioner of conciliation. In the following year he was an assistant to the Secretary of Labor and foreign trade relations commissioner of the State Department.

President Wilson appointed Mr. Mahany as one of the 10 Federal umpires of the National War Labor Board in 1919. He was also made a director of the United States Housing Corp.

As solicitor of the Department of Labor, Mr. Mahany served as Acting Secretary in 1920 and in 1921 he was the American representative at the meeting of the International Commission on Immigration and Emigration at Geneva.

Upon his return from Geneva Mr. Mahany opened a law office here. He was counsel for the Japanese government in important war claims cases. In 1924 and 1928 Mr. Mahany was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

One of the founders of the Congressional Club, Mr. Mahany also was a member of the Metropolitan and the National Press Clubs. He was an honorary member of the South Carolina Society and a member of the Columbia Historical Society.

In 1909 Mr. Mahany published "Tuscany and Other Poems." In recent years he had confined his public writing largely to "Letters to the Editor," which were outstanding because of their beautiful composition.

He is survived by his sister, Miss Mary E. Mahany of New Jersey.

*The Evening Star, Thursday, May 6, 1937, p. A15*

#### **Mahany Funeral This Afternoon**

#### **Journalist, Statesman and Diplomat to Rest in Congressional Cemetery**

Funeral services for Rowland B. Mahany, 72, journalist, statesman and diplomat, are being held this afternoon at his residence, 1414 Madison street, where he died Sunday. Rev. Dr. J.J. Queally, rector of the Transfiguration Episcopal Church, is officiating. Burial will be in a plot in Congressional Cemetery, next to the grave of Elbridge Gerry, early Vice President of the United States.

Many prominent persons are included in the list of honorary pallbearers, a number of them from the Old Timers' Club. Those from the latter club include Representative Mead of New York, former Representative Campbell of Kansas, former Representative Dempsey of New York, Frank Healy, W.W. Husband, Robert B. Armstrong, sr.; James F. Doyle, Julius Reiners, James M. North, Harry Ward, W.M. Smith, Charles A. Hamilton, Ralph Collins, Ernest Allwine, Thomas J. Keefe, Morton M. Milford, Dr. E.H. Silver, L.M. Eidsness, jr.; J.D. Hufham, A.W. Hodgkins, W.L. Brukhart, Lee Poe Hart, Eric L. Bark, E.S. Leggett, Maj. C.C. Childs, John O. Williams, Soterios Nicholson, Frank Wixson, J.H. Shay, John Walsh, Al Whittington, J.P. Yoder, and John J. Daly.

Other honorary pallbearers are former Representative Gittins of New York, Charles A. Douglas, John Davidge, Walter Davidge, Russell Duane, Robert J. Caldwell, Gutson Borglum, Charles Lamson Griffin, Dr. T.V. Hammond, Augustus Rubino, Hugh L. Kerwin, John F. Costello, Copley Amory, E.H. Harriman and Alfred K. Moe.

*Biographical Directory of the United States Congress 1774-1989*

A Representative from New York; born in Buffalo, NY, September 28, 1864; attended the public schools, Hobart College, Geneva, NY, and Union College, Schenectady, NY; was graduated from Harvard University in 1888; studied law in Buffalo, NY; associate editor of the Buffalo Express in 1888; instructor in Buffalo High School in 1889 and 1890; declined the appointment as secretary of the legation to Chile in 1890; appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Ecuador on February 24, 1892, and served until his resignation in June 12, 1893; unsuccessful candidate for election in 1892 to the 53rd Congress; returned to Ecuador in 1893 and concluded the Santos Convention, negotiations for which had remained unsettled for nearly 19 years; elected as a Republican to the 54th and 55th Congresses (March 4, 1895-March 3, 1899); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1898; was admitted to the bar in 1899 and engaged in the practice of law in Buffalo, NY; harbor commissioner of Buffalo 1899-1906; editor of the Buffalo Enquirer in 1910 and 1911; commissioner of conciliation, Labor Department, in 1914 and 1915; assistant to the Secretary of Labor in 1918 and 1919; member of the Foreign Trades Relation Committee of the State Department in 1919; appointed by President Wilson as one of the ten Federal umpires for the War Labor Board in 1919; member of the United States Housing Corporation in 1919; appointed representative of the U.S. to the International Commission on Immigration and Emigration at Geneva, Switzerland in 1920; solicitor and Acting Secretary of Labor in 1920 and 1921; resumed the practice of law in Washington, D.C., retaining his residence in Buffalo, NY; delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1924 and 1928; died in Washington, D.C., May 2, 1937; interment in Congressional Cemetery.