

SULLIVAN  
OBAFNE052  
DAYBREAK/GIBSON  
OBAFNW097

# Mrs. Minnie Mead May Loses Last Battle

001882

VANCOUVER (CP) — Mrs. Minnie Mead May, a doughty fighter who battled 38 years in Canadian and United States courts for what she considered her rights, has died here.

Mrs. May was three times before the Privy Council in London seeking claim for herself and her late husband to the Gibson silver-lead-zinc mine near Kaslo.

In spite of continuous legal setbacks she never wavered in her determination to establish her right to the \$2,000,000 property. Often she acted as her own counsel.

Mrs. May died Christmas Day. Her age was unknown but friends said she was in the late 70s. She had been living with her son lately.

Even as her slight five-foot frame succumbed painlessly to a three-day illness she was planning to go before the B.C. legislature for a bill giving her title and possession to the Gibson Mining Company.

Born Minnie Mead Stevens in Missouri, of Virginian parents, she never lost the soft southern accent.

### TALKED FIVE HOURS

Although she often recalled she was brought up "to be seen and

not heard" she once orated for five hours before five appellate judges.

Mrs. May never denied she was psychic and said she dreamed of her husband's name before she met him. She married David Kind May in San Francisco when she was 17. He was a mining engineer.

She and her husband located some silver and gold mining property in 1917, 12 miles from Kaslo. Mrs. May said they purchased claims that year.

Three years later she said a New York concern offered \$2,000,000 for the property. It was at this time Mrs. May said a vice-president of the company got some shareholder backing and incorporated the Daybreak Mining Company, although she and her husband still had the majority of the shares.

Legal battles began in 1919. In 1932 the Mays won title to the liquidated Sullivan mine but through an oversight did not get a court order for possession.

This error was the crux of legal disasters for the Mays before the B.C. Supreme Court, Court of Appeals and four times before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Mr. May suffered a nervous breakdown in 1920 and from that time the two lived apart, Mr. May in Thompson Falls, Mont., and Mrs. May in Vancouver. Mr. May died in 1955.

All Mrs. May's available money was devoted to fighting her case while she lived in small Vancouver hotels with her trunks of legal documents.

THIRD

VICTORIA  
THE DEPT. OF LABOUR  
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TO THE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
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DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR  
OFFICE OF  
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IN ANY COMMUNICATION RELATING  
TO THIS FORM PLEASE REFER TO

No.....

March 31st, 1955.

## THIRD REQUEST

### STATISTICS OF WAGE-EARNERS EMPLOYED IN TRADES AND INDUSTRIES, ETC., 1954

The "Department of Labour Act," section 4 (*d*), requires this Department to collect such statistical and other information as may be deemed necessary.

For this purpose we mailed you a form on January 5th, 1955, and a second request on February 28th, 1955, to cover your operations for the year 1954, and at this date we have not received the completed form.

If the form mailed you has been lost or mislaid, another will be mailed on request. When requesting another form please give the number in the top right corner and address your request to:—

THE BUREAU OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS,  
VICTORIA, B.C.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. H. Sands".

*Deputy Minister of Labour.*