

'The Man Who Would Be King'

GAVE JEWELLED SADDLES TO MENELIK

Dies After Colorful Career

New York, September 30.—William Henry Ellis, romantic figure in America's international affairs in 1904, died in Mexico City on September 24, according to cable advices received today by his family in Mount Vernon. He was 59 years old. His eldest son has gone to Mexico City to make arrangements for bringing the body here for burial.

Known as "the man who would be king," Ellis' career was a varied one. Cowboy, ranchman, banker, broker, promoter and later diplomatic envoy to Abyssinia, Ellis, in his ambition to be king of Abyssinia and make it a nation of negroes equal to European powers, led a life of adventure. He made several fortunes, but slighted his genius for promoting to obtain, as he told his friends, the monarchy of Abyssinia, and, with it, command of the resources of the richest country in Africa and \$150,000,000.

After much of the negotiation in 1904, he induced the state department to draw up a treaty of amity and commerce with King Menelik of Abyssinia and wished to present it himself as the first step in a plan to oust Menelik. Kent J. Loomis, a brother of F. B. Loomis, assistant secretary of state in the Roosevelt administration,

was delegated to deliver the treaty. While the liner Kaiser Wilhelm II was in the English channel Loomis fell or was washed overboard, and Ellis completed the duty.

Heavily jeweled saddles, weapons and other gifts were bestowed upon King Menelik by Ellis, who in turn was made Duke of Harrar and Hawasha, territory covering 1,600,000 fertile acres, by the grateful monarch. The planned monarchical revolution never materialized, however, and Ellis turned his attention to Mexico.

In 1890 he endeavored to promote a huge colonizing scheme to plant a Mexican province with southern negroes. He prospered, but the colony failed. He made large sums speculating in Wall street, and later organized several companies to exploit Mexican resources. In 1902 Ellis was said to have been behind the famous Manning and McIntosh claim against the Mexican government, involving \$105,000,000 in Mexican currency. He was manager of several Mexican ranches after he decided to make his home in Mexico City.

Ellis was either a Cuban or of mixed parentage, but preferred to be known as a Cuban, as he signed himself Guillermo Enrique Eliseo.