

# Dr. Mason, Dry Leader, Dies in Metuchen at 96

**Borough's Oldest Resident Occupied Pulpit at Presbyterian Church for 48 Years ; Ran for President, Governor and Senator on Prohibition Ticket**

**METUCHEN, March 19.** — The Rev. James Gilbert Mason, oldest resident of the borough and former pastor of the Presbyterian Church, where he occupied the pulpit for 48 years, died at his home on William street at about 8:30 o'clock last night. He observed his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday in October of last year.

In 1916, before the advent of prohibition, Dr. Mason was a candidate for president of the United States on the Prohibition party ticket. Three years earlier he was the party's candidate for Governor of New Jersey, and in 1930 he aspired to the United States Senate.

A close friend of the late Thomas A. Edison, Dr. Mason rode on the inventor's first trolley car and it was in the clergyman's church in this borough that Edison's first talking machine was placed on exhibition.

#### **Got Edison's Vote**

After his defeat in 1930, when the late Dwight W. Morrow was elected Senator from New Jersey, Dr. Mason declared, "I wasn't elected, but I got Mr. Edison's vote and that was worth more than the office."

Dr. Mason is survived by a son James Gilbert Mason of Plainfield, a daughter Irene, the wife of Rev. E. A. Harper, both of whom are missionaries of the Presbyterian Church in India, five grandchildren, and a sister, Miss Gertrude who has been making her home with Dr. Mason on William street for some time.



**REV. JAMES G. MASON**

Dr. Mason was born October 31, 1841, in Jonesboro, Tenn., one of the oldest towns in the state. He always laughingly insisted that all the Halloween sprites celebrated his birthday each year. He was graduated from Union Theological Seminary in 1866. During his senior year in the seminary he organized and became pastor of the Woodlawn Memorial Presbyterian Church, Woodlawn, L. I.

He was called to his home town of Jonesboro where he spent five years and helped organize the public school system of Tennessee. For the next four years he was pastor of the North Church in Washington, D. C.