

# Charles Copeland

1867 - 1944

Charles Copeland, a member of the Business Historical Society, died on the third day of February, 1944. He was born on March 30, 1867, in Englewood, New Jersey, the son of Charles Frederick and Sophie Ellen Walker Copeland.

A graduate of the Roxbury Latin School and of Harvard College, Charles Copeland began his business career in 1889 with the Wilmington & Northern Railroad. Ten years later he became assistant to the president of the Laffin & Rand Powder Co., and eventually treasurer of the Eastern Dynamite and Lake Superior Powder Co.

In 1903 he entered Du Pont's as assistant treasurer of the old E. I. du Pont de Nemours Powder Co. When the company was reorganized as E. I. du Pont de Nemours, Inc., in 1915, Copeland became assistant treasurer. In 1921 he was made director and secretary of the company, succeeding Alex I. du Pont, which position he held until 1932. From that date until 1942 he served as a director of the company. His son, Lamnot du Pont Copeland, is now a director and also a member of the finance committee.

Charles Copeland typifies a group of business executives who, although they hold key positions within firms and are also prominent in the industry, are not well known to the general public. They constitute a kind of private business bureaucracy without which business could not possibly operate. Not infrequently, as in the case of Charles Copeland, who married Luisa d'Anbelot du Pont, they marry daughters of leading business men with whom they are associated. This is one way in which business families maintain their strength, a more important factor in sustaining a strong American business leadership than is generally recognized.