

Mr. McArthur presented petitions of citizens of Des Moines county asking for removal of dam at Bonaparte.

Referred to Committee on Fish and Game.

Mr. Weaver presented petition of citizens of Louisa county asking for equal political rights for women.

Referred to Committee on Woman's Suffrage.

Mr. Speaker presented the following resolution of the Synod of Iowa of the Presbyterian church:

Hon. W. H. Byers, Speaker of the House of Representatives,

Des Moines, Iowa.

DEAR SIR—I am directed by the Synod of Iowa of the Presbyterian church, representing a membership of 35,829 communicants, and a constituency of more than 100,000 citizens of the state, to communicate through you to the House of Representatives over which you preside, the action taken unanimously by the Synod at its late annual meeting at Le Mars, as follows:

The attention of the Synod having been especially called to the fact that at the next meeting of the Legislature of Iowa an effort will be made to secure a change in the law as to the age of consent, and to make it eighteen years instead of thirteen years as at present. The following action was taken:

Resolved, That in consideration of every interest of good government, the morality of the people at large, the conservation of the good name of our noble young state, and in testimony against sin, we feel bound respectfully and gravely to urge our Legislature and all our people, to strive most earnestly and in every practical way to secure this desirable change.

Done by the Synod of Iowa, in session at Le Mars, Iowa, on this 19th day of October, 1895.

I have the honor to be very respectfully yours,

ATTEST:

J. C. McCLINTOCK,

Stated Clerk.

Mr. Miller of Cherokee offered the following resolution of the committee to draft resolutions on the death of Hon. M. S. Butler:

MR. SPEAKER—Your committee to draft resolutions on the death of Dr. M. S. Butler beg leave to make the following report:

WHEREAS, It has pleased an all-wise Providence to remove from our midst Dr. M. S. Butler, of Cherokee county, who was a member of this House in the Twenty-first General Assembly of Iowa, and an honored and highly respected citizen of Cherokee county; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the people of this state by his death have lost a wise and able legislator, a good counselor, and an honorable, public spirited and upright citizen, a man whom it was ever pleasant to meet, who always had a kind word of comfort and cheer for all; liberal in his views, yet firm in his conviction of right and justice; charitable toward all and generous to the needy.

Resolved, That the House do hereby tender to his family the sympathy of this body, and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to his bereaved widow.

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the House cause a copy of these resolutions to be spread upon the Journal of the House.

WIREMAN MILLER,
W. B. CHAPMAN,
J. T. P. POWER,
Committee.

Mr. Smith offered the following concurrent resolution, which was laid over under rule 34:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, Serious charges have been made through the press and from other sources against the Monument Commission, on account of their action in placing medallions of members of the commission on the monument, and charging said commission with unjust discrimination in the selection of said medallions, and various other charges which reflect on the honor and fairness of said commission; and

WHEREAS, Said Monument Commission have been charged by many persons, both publicly and in private, with extravagance in the expenditure of public moneys in traveling over the country unnecessarily, and with keeping a lobby during several sessions of the Legislature at great and unnecessary expense, to secure by undue influence appropriations for the erection of said monument, and with reckless and unnecessary expenditure of public money, unjustly discriminating in favor of some members of said commission and against others; and

WHEREAS, If said charges are true, and the public moneys have been squandered, it is due the people that a full investigation be had, and if not true the honor and patriotism of said commission should be vindicated by an impartial and thorough investigation by this General Assembly; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House, the Senate concurring, That a committee of five, three from the House of Representatives and two from the Senate be appointed to make a thorough investigation into said charges of extravagance and useless expenses and unjust discrimination in placing medallions on said monument, and all the acts and doings of said Monument Commission in selecting plans, traveling and other expenses of the commission, the amount expended, expenses incurred by each member of said commission separately, and the manner of letting the contract to everything pertaining to the erection of said monument by said commission, and report the same to the General Assembly on or before March 15, 1896, and that said committee have power to call before it persons and papers, and to swear all witnesses brought before it; *provided*, that said committee shall not be composed of persons who were on said commission or whose medallions have been selected by said commission to be put on said monument; that said committee report how many hours per day and how many days each member of said Monument Commission has devoted to the discharge of the duties of the commission for which they drew compensation; unexpended