

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

MEMORIALS

SENATE CHAMBER,
DES MOINES, IOWA, APRIL 20, 1937.

The Senate met in memorial session, President John K. Valentine presiding.

GEORGE W. CLARKE

MR. PRESIDENT: Your committee, appointed to prepare suitable resolutions commemorating the life, character and public services of the late Honorable George W. Clarke, Governor of Iowa, begs leave to submit the following:

George W. Clarke was born on a farm in Shelby county, Indiana, October 24, 1852, and died in his home in Adel, Iowa, November 28, 1936. Burial was in Oakdale Cemetery, Adel. His parents, John and Eliza J. Clarke, removed in October, 1856, to a farm a mile and a half southeast of Drakesville, Davis county, Iowa. There George grew to manhood, helped on the farm and attended local public school. He taught school for about a year in all, first in the country, then in Drakesville, and in Bloomfield.

In 1874 he entered Oskaloosa College, graduating therefrom in 1877. He read law for a brief time in the offices of Lafferty & Johnson at Oskaloosa, then entered the law school of the State University of Iowa, from which he graduated in 1878. The same year he began the practice of law in Adel. On June 25, 1878, he married Miss Arletta Greene of Adel and they established a home, in the maintenance of which, with the two sons, Fred G. and Charles F., and the two daughters, Portia and Frances, who joined their family circle, they found much real happiness. In 1882 he joined with John B. White of Adel in the firm of White & Clarke, which in the course of time came to be regarded as one of the leading law firms of central Iowa.

In 1899, as a Republican, George W. Clarke was elected representative of Dallas county. He was re-elected in 1901, in 1903, and in 1905. He served in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth General Assemblies, and was elected Speaker of the House in the Thirtieth and Thirty-first General Assemblies. In 1908 he was the successful Republican candidate for lieutenant governor. After serving two terms as lieutenant governor, he was elected governor.

During his first term as governor, he fathered the idea of capitol extension. He advocated condemning and buying all the property near the capitol—about one hundred acres in extent. This move brought upon him

the severe condemnation of angry taxpayers. In his campaign for re-election, from every public rostrum in the state of Iowa he defended his capitol extension program. Although his majority was greatly reduced, his sublime confidence in the wisdom of this proposition was sufficient reward. Today we wonder why any sane citizen of Iowa opposed his extension program.

During his four-year term as governor he pioneered in the development of permanent roads, and workmen's compensation; he gave new life to the library movement; he worked hard for enforcement of all laws against intemperance. The Blue Sky Bill which provided for licensing and state supervision of investment companies was another step of progressive legislation passed during the Clarke regime, the entire period of which was characterized by honesty and efficiency in state government.

Soon after retiring from the governorship he returned to Adel, seeking repose and rest among his old time friends, his books, and flowers. He was a man of strong convictions, high ideals, and a lover of his fellow man and of Nature. A clean, conscientious, Christian gentleman, the outstanding characteristic of George W. Clarke in all walks of life was his innate honesty. He served his community, his state, and his nation, and he served them well. Therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Forty-seventh General Assembly in Regular Session: That in the passing of the Honorable George W. Clarke, Iowa has lost an honored, upright and beloved citizen, a man of great character and worth, a man of high ideals in brotherly living and useful citizenship, and the Senate by this resolution tenders its sincere sympathy to the surviving members of his family in their sorrow.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the Journal of the Senate, and that the Secretary of the Senate be directed to forward an enrolled copy to the family of the deceased.

GEO. M. HOPKINS,
ORA E. HUSTED,
I. G. CHRYSTAL,

Committee.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Senator Hopkins spoke as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT: My personal contact with Governor George W. Clarke would indicate that he was one of the cleanest men to occupy the high position of governor of the state of Iowa.

It was my privilege while campaigning for the first time for nomination as state senator from the seventeenth district, to visit him at his home in Adel. We had a very pleasant chat. Nothing was said about my candidacy. He seemed to have a satisfied feeling as to his administration as governor. While not boasting, he said that it required quite a bit of nerve force to promote capitol extension. In a few days after this visit I received a letter from Governor Clarke announcing his personal support of me for the office of state senator. I prize this letter the most highly of any letter I have in my files.

Everybody in the town of Adel knew Governor Clarke, and he likewise