

LAURITZ M. ENGER

Senator Reed, from a special committee, submitted the following report and moved its adoption:

MR. PRESIDENT—Your committee, which was appointed to report resolutions commemorating the life, character and services of Lauritz M. Enger, beg leave to submit the following report, and move its adoption:

Lauritz M. Enger was born on November 3, 1856, in Norway. At the age of fifteen he borrowed enough money to pay his passage to the United States and afterward worked upon a farm in order to pay his debt. He enjoyed a varied experience as a farm laborer, a clerk, as a shoe merchant, and also as a mail clerk in the Decorah post office. It was this position that fitted him to enter the employment of the Decorah-Posten in their mailing division, where he advanced until he was put in charge of it. Subsequently he was employed as an assistant in the editorial and business department. While so employed he established an insurance business which grew to proportions that demanded all of his time.

In 1910 Mr. Enger aspired to political honors, received the Republican nomination for representative from his county in the legislature and was elected. He was re-elected in 1912; in 1914 was chosen senator from the Winneshiek-Howard district, and served with distinction in the 34th, 35th, 36th and 37th General Assemblies. For several years he was secretary of the Winneshiek County Agricultural Society and more recently had been secretary of the city school board and treasurer and manager of Decorah hospital. He was an active and earnest member of the Lutheran church, and also belonged to Det Norske Selskab and Symra.

On February 10, 1880, Mr. Enger was united in marriage with Bertha Myran. Mrs. Enger passed away on February 3d last. The deceased is survived by his sons, Melvin, a professor in the University of Illinois, Norval, of Ephrata, Washington, and Arthur, of El Paso, Texas. Mr. Enger died at his home in Decorah, August 2, 1920.

Your committee recommends that as a fitting recognition of his life, the following resolution be adopted:

Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Thirty-Ninth General Assembly of Iowa, That in the death of Lauritz M. Enger, the state of Iowa has lost a faithful and conscientious citizen; a man whose desire was to so live that the world might be better for his having lived; and a man whose relations in his home and to his family were such that they will be adopted as an ideal for others to follow.

Be It Further Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread in the journal of the Senate and an engrossed copy of same be sent to the members of the family.

Respectfully submitted,

CARL M. REED,
JOHN R. PRICE,
H. S. VAN ALSTINE.

The resolution was adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

Senator Holdoegel spoke as follows:

The president has just extended to me, the opportunity of speaking a few words in memory of this distinguished senator, this friend whom we remember as one who was always directed by the best of motives while serving here. We who served with him in the Senate, those of us who were in the Thirty-seventh General Assembly as beginners, were very much benefited by his friendship and his advice. Senator Enger was a man of clean life, a man of strong personality, a man of self-sacrificing disposition, one who put the interests of the state above his own private interests, one who did not hesitate to take his own time and expense to go into other states to investigate the workings of state institutions and manufacturers there, one who was particularly interested that Iowa government should be a particularly clean government, one which should be divested of all of the things that go to make up questionable features of government, one who was always interested in the economical and just administration of our laws. In fact, we knew Senator Enger to be a very fine Christian gentleman, of a sympathetic nature, always able to assist new men, always able to devote his energies for the benefit of the state.

Senator Van Alstine spoke as follows:

I was one of the committee on that report, and I want to say that I believe I met Senator Enger at the time he was a member of the Thirty-third or Thirty-fourth General Assembly, when I came down here with reference to some matter before the legislature, and I was greatly impressed when I met Senator Enger with the cordial sympathy which he gave to me always, and the conscientious interest which he displayed in everything pertaining to everything that he conceived to be for the welfare of the state. Then when I came into this body as a novice, it was my good fortune to be seated next to Senator Enger, and as suggested by the Senator from Calhoun, his experience in legislative matters and his kindly attitude and sympathy was a wonderful help to me, and a help which came at a time when I needed it. I shall never forget the kindly soul that went when Senator Enger took the long journey.