

SENATE CHAMBER,
DES MOINES, Friday, April 4, 1903. }

Senate met in regular session at 9:30 o'clock A. M., President Herriott presiding.

{Prayer was offered by Rev. Albert A. Walburn of Coin, Iowa.

On request of Senator Young of Washington, leave of absence was granted Senator Crawford until tomorrow.

Senator Blanchard called up the concurrent resolution relative to the death of Hon. John H. Gear.

Senator Blanchard spoke feelingly in favor of the resolution, as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT—At this late day in the session, when business of importance is crowding the Senate, I realize that my remarks on this occasion should be brief.

The resolutions of the committee meet my hearty endorsement. They are not extravagant or overdrawn, but truthfully express the sorrow which the people of this great state feel in the death of their distinguished senator.

The life of John H. Gear was in many respects a remarkable one. Commencing his business career at the age of 19 in the then straggling village of Burlington, on the banks of the Mississippi, in what was then the Territory of Iowa, by his own energy and force of character he became a successful business man, and later in life, after his faculties had fully matured, he entered public life in which he attained honor and success. His first office was that of mayor of his city. Afterwards he was elected a member of the house of representatives in the legislature, and was twice re-elected to the same position and served as Speaker of the House for two terms. Within my recollection he is the only person who has ever served two successive terms as Speaker of that body. From this position he easily became governor of the state, a position which he held for two terms. His administration was distinguished for its business methods, and the watchful care with which he looked after every detail of the multitudinous demands which are made upon the incumbent of this exalted position. He served three terms in the lower house of congress and as an active member of the ways and means committee did much of the work in framing the bill to

which the name of the late president was attached, and which made him famous. In 1894 he was elected United States senator from Iowa, and prior to his death he had been re-elected to the same office for the six years commencing March 4, 1901.

This is the splendid ladder he climbed. His life is another exemplification of a self-made man. It will stand as an inspiration and worthy of emulation by ambitious youth, and even of statesmen of maturer years.

Great wealth and social position are the means by which political positions are sometimes attained. John H. Gear possessed neither of these. He won position and fame by reason of his sound common sense, his frank, open, genial disposition, his remarkable energy, his strength of memory, his power to measure the qualities and traits of character of others, and his manly, straightforward business methods. It will not be claimed for him that he was a great orator. But the time has passed when a man's influence is measured by his powers of oratory. True the sentimental and emotional element still abide with us, and they are sometimes aroused by the charm of eloquence and the magic spell of oratory to such a pitch that reason loses its supremacy and the mind becomes as clay in the hands of the potter. But such influence is ephemeral and lasts only till reason can resume its natural supremacy.

John H. Gear was a man of influence. In his palmy days he was a good speaker; his methods were direct, forcible and logical. As a campaign speaker he carried great weight by reason of his direct methods, the information which his speeches contained and his absolute sincerity.

He was an optimist, always cheerful, genial and companionable. He was loved and honored by his neighbors and by those who knew him best, for his manly and noble traits of character. In public life he was industrious and faithful to every trust, true to every interest of his adopted state which he loved so well. He was a patriot, a faithful friend to the old soldiers, an honest man. His friends were legion; he had no enemies.

In many respects his life was a remarkable one and illustrates anew the honors and achievements which are attainable by the laudably ambitious young man of the great republic under our free and beneficent system of government.

In the days to come, Iowa may produce other men equally gifted and patriotic, but the days will be many ere she produces one more loyal to her interests or more faithful to her people than was John H. Gear.

"Go search the land of living man
Where shall we find his like again?"

Senator Trewin also spoke feelingly and eloquently in favor of the resolution.

On motion of Senator Ball the resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.