

At the time Mr. Coomes was representing Cass County in the lower house, Senator LaFayette Young, then engaged in the publication of a newspaper at Atlantic, Iowa, but now editor of the Des Moines Capital, represented that district in the Iowa State Senate.

In the year of 1905 Mr. Coomes retired from the farm and with his wife took up residence in the city of Atlantic. Two years later Mrs. Coomes died. Some years after the death of his first wife Mr. Coomes was united in marriage to Miss Addie Johnson, a niece of his first wife. She and two sons by the first marriage, Arthur K. of Atlantic, and I. S., state's attorney for Day County, South Dakota, survive him. Mr. Coomes met death in an automobile accident near Storm Lake, Iowa on June 27th, 1921.

The span of Mr. Coomes' life covers a period of development of the middle west and, particularly, of southwestern Iowa, and his patriotic service had much to do with its development. In all of his public work he was a typical American, standing only for progress and good government. As a neighbor, he was helpful, kind and considerate. His home life was excellent, and he had the love and deep affection of his family.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That in the death of Oliver Coomes, the state has lost one of its sturdy pioneers who materially contributed to the upbuilding of his country and state, and the House of Representatives take this occasion to present this tribute to his memory and to express appreciation of his character and public service and to extend to his family most sincere sympathy.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be printed in the journal of the house, and that the chief clerk be directed to forward to the family of the deceased an engrossed copy.

CHAS. W. HUFF,
W. C. CHILDREN,
RAY GARBER,

Committee.

Adopted April 12, 1923.

HON. W. N. GILBERT

MR. SPEAKER—Your committee appointed to prepare resolution commemorating the life, character and public service of W. N. Gilbert, a member of the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh General Assemblies, beg leave to submit the following report:

William Northrup Gilbert was born in New Milford, Conn., March 20, 1850, but when he was only six years old his parents came west to settle on a farm near Ashton, Ill., in 1856. He lived and worked on this farm until he was 22 years old. That farm experience, into which was woven every struggle and achievement that comes to the farmer, gave him for all his remaining years an interest in and a sympathy with farming that made him useful in this farming community as a business man and as a banker.

When Mr. Gilbert was 22 years old he left the farm to go into the general mercantile business in Mt. Morris, Ill., under the firm name of Gilbert & King, continued here for six years until in October, 1878, he

came to State Center with his brother, H. M. Gilbert, to establish a dry goods store under the firm name of Gilbert Bros. For 23 years Mr. Gilbert carried on this business, the last five years alone, for his brother retired from the firm in 1886. In 1901 W. N. Gilbert disposed of his business and then was influential in organizing the banking establishment with which he was identified until his death.

Soon after the organization of this new bank, Mr. Gilbert succeeded to its presidency. It was first known as the Bank of State Center, but later it was organized as the Central State Bank, Mr. Gilbert continuing as its president. Mr. Gilbert's experience as a farmer and then as a merchant gave him a preparation for banking that made his business skill, his understanding and his judgment of rare value to the bank and throughout its history it has served the community the better for that.

Mr. Gilbert's interest in public welfare began with his arrival at State Center. He had a wholesome interest in religion and served as a member of the official board of the Methodist Episcopal church from the very first year of his going to State Center. For fifteen years he served as superintendent of its Sunday School. In every enterprise of the church he was active in one way or another. He was an organizer of the State Center Chautauqua Association and served as its first president, continuing in that position for a number of years. He gave much time to public school affairs, as a member of the board of education at different times and as treasurer. Repeatedly when called on to serve the municipality, he gave himself to the work of a councilman or as a city treasurer. In manifold voluntary activities for public good, he served on committees and board. He gave as freely of his time to public good as he did to his own private interest, and sometimes more. Throughout this record of service he could be found on the side which to him seemed to promise the best for public welfare.

Mr. Gilbert's work in the legislature was marked by a conscientious and sincere effort to apply the rule of the greatest good for the greatest number. He gave most earnest consideration to the larger public measures, and as a result he was frequently consulted and his advice accepted. He took an active part in the consideration of the war measures before the Thirty-seventh General Assembly and his sound judgment was reflected in the enactments along this line in that session of the assembly. He served with honor and distinction to his constituency and with credit to the commonwealth.

On February 6, 1879, Mr. Gilbert was married to Miss Florence Brayton of Mt. Morris, who survives him. To them four sons were born, two of them dying in infancy. The elder son, Harold B., is located at Yakima, Washington, and the younger, Frederick B., a member of the Thirty-ninth and Fortieth General Assemblies from Marshall County, is an attorney at State Center.

When Taps is sounded and the last word said
When he has but a memory become
When Fate for him has clipped life's tangled thread
Releasing him for home.

The Gentleman from Marshall answers "here"
As roll is called upon the farther shore
Accepts the duties of that wider sphere
His petty tasks are o'er.

Now may we pause to drop a silent tear
In memory to him who fell asleep
To earthly cares and duties who this year
Has passed the boundless deep.

Presuming not with fate to interfere
But darkly groping as mankind must grope
Who seek expectant through the veil to peer
And firmly grasp on hope.

That Hope which clears the clouds of pain and doubt
Sustains our courage even down to death
Which may from constant usage ne'er give out
But blossoms forth as Faith.

Where'er men work do Hope and Faith exist
Where'er men grow these mightly forces move
Their union leaves no room for noisome mist
Their fruit is known as Love.

With Hope and Faith and Love we dedicate
This hour to those whom we no more may meet
But Hope through Faith that Love may earn this Fate
Some day their souls to greet.

And shall we Hope and Faith and Love reserve
Until our friends have passed beyond our reach
Or may our sense of loss and longing serve
This wholesome truth to teach?

Hope is the lawful heritage of youth
Withhold not Faith from Manhood's term of strife
And with the snows of age shall come in truth
A love which crowns our life.

E. A. GRIMWOOD,
FRANK C. LAKE,
JOHN T. HANSEN,

Committee.

Adopted April 12, 1923.