

ALEXANDER MOFFIT.

Mr. SPEAKER—Your committee appointed to prepare resolutions to commemorate the life and public service of the Honorable Alexander Moffit, late of Cedar County, Iowa, submits the following:

Alexander Moffit, pioneer citizen and lawmaker, passed away at his home near Mechanicsville, in Cedar County, November 20, 1897.

His life story is an epitome of the hardships, the poverty and the achievements of those brave souls who conquered the trans-Mississippi wilderness, built churches, established schools, founded colleges, and laid the foundations, let us hope, of a commonwealth which shall endure in their spirit while the world lasts.

Mr. Moffit died exactly seventy-seven years from the day when as a lad of twelve he first set foot on the soil of the county in which he henceforth made his home until the day of his death. He was born April 24, 1828, in the County of Tyrone, Ireland, and was the youngest of ten children, all of whom emigrated to America. The family started on the long voyage which finally brought them and their meagre possessions to Philadelphia. From Philadelphia they made their way to Pittsburg by wagon and canal boat, thence down the Ohio to the Mississippi, and up the Mississippi to Muscatine, where they arrived on the 18th day of November, 1840, seven months and eighteen days after setting sail from Ireland, and two days later they arrived in Cedar County, which was to be their future home.

Cabins were few and far apart; schools were all but a minus quantity, and were maintained by subscription and attended only three or four months in the winter. The school which the subject of our sketch attended was something like eight miles from his home. The arrival and departure of mails was at irregular intervals. Land could be had in abundance at a dollar and twenty-five cents an acre; and but few people had sufficient money to buy any amount of it even at that price; most transactions were by barter and exchange.

In April, 1852, Alexander Moffit, with two companions, outfitted a wagon drawn by six yoke of oxen, and crossed the plains to California, being impelled thither by the gold excitement. He returned two years later. It took six months to make the trip.

Mr. Moffit was married September 21, 1859, to Miss Martha Petete. To this union eleven children were born, three of whom died in infancy; and eight of whom are now living, five boys and three girls. The mother passed away September 1, 1914. The oldest son is Col. John T. Moffit of Tipton, long prominent in the Iowa National Guard; a member of the State Senate in the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth General Assemblies; and now a judge of the District Court in the Eighteenth Judicial District.

Mr. Moffit spent his entire life upon the farm; he was diligent in his business and successful to a degree; he long owned one of the largest and best equipped stock farms in eastern Iowa. Mr. Moffit always took an interest in public affairs; he was a republican in politics; held various township and school offices; was a member of the board of supervisors, and a member of the Sixteenth General Assembly.

Mr. Moffit had, it seems to us, an ideal life. He was a part and parcel of the upbuilding of a great state; he came as a boy on foot to what was

then a wilderness; he did well the things that every American citizen ought to do if the heritage bequeathed to us is to be kept inviolate; he was a friend and patron of education, his children being given every advantage; he was always interested in young people and rejoiced to see them win out in life's battles and helped many a one over rough and difficult places. Mr. Moffit stood for all that is best and noblest and most satisfying in human life.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, That the House of Representatives takes this occasion to present this tribute to the memory of a faithful public servant, and to express appreciation of his character and public service;

And the Clerk of the House is hereby directed to enter these resolutions upon the journal of the House and forward a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

J. E. LARSON,
C. F. CLARK,
H. W. FLENNIKEN.

GEORGE L. DOBSON.

MR. SPEAKER—Your committee appointed to prepare resolutions commemorating the life of public service of the Hon. Geo. L. Dobson, a member of this House of Representatives in the Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty-third General Assembly and submit the following report:

Geo. L. Dobson, the subject of this memorial, was born in Westmoreland County, England, September 24, 1851. In March, 1864, he came to the United States with his parents, John and Jane (Rudd) Dobson, who in April, 1869, removed to Iowa. After six years devoted to agricultural pursuits in Webster County, Iowa, Geo. L. Dobson moved to Sac City, Iowa, where he was married October 9, 1876, to Sidney A. Watt. Later he established his home in Iowa City, where he took up the study of law in the State University, and was graduated in 1878. He practiced law in Newell, Buena Vista County, Iowa. He was mayor of that city for five years. He served on the school board for nine years. He served three years as a member of the State Legislature in the Twenty-first, twenty-second and Twenty-third General Assemblies, and resigned his position to become registrar of the government land office at Beaver, Oklahoma. Since 1892 he has been a resident of Des Moines, and was for four years vice-president of the Des Moines Life Insurance Company. The Republican party made its candidate for secretary of state for the state of Iowa, which position he filled from 1896 until 1900. He then turned his attention to farming, and managing his other properties until appointed in 1905 as American consul to Hang-Chau, China, by President Roosevelt, but one year later ill health forced him to return to America. In the fall of 1908 he was elected county treasurer of Polk County, which office he filled with eminent success. He was a member of the Grace Episcopal Church at Des Moines. He was the father of five children: Millard Craig, who died in infancy in Sac County, Iowa;