

Temple of Clarke submitted the following:

MR. SPEAKER—Your committee appointed to draft resolutions of respect to the memory of Hon. Jacob Proudfoot, respectfully submit the following:

WHEREAS, The Hon. Jacob Proudfoot, an honored member of the House of the Sixteenth General Assembly, from Clarke county, has departed this life, full of years and the honors of a well-spent life; therefore be it

Resolved, That while we sympathize with his bereaved family in the loss of the christian patriarch, whose love, counsel and direction were ever toward the right; with the state in the loss of another of those sturdy, God-fearing pioneers, who laid its foundations, deep and strong; and with the community in which he lived with the loss of a man whose hand was always ready to guide and assist in every good work, we yet rejoice in the fact that his life was spared beyond the span ordinarily allotted to man, and that his death, like his life, was a benediction and inspiration to all who believe in an immortality where the progress made in this life will be taken up and perfected.

Resolved, That the life and character of the deceased were such as to command our esteem and love, his public services were such to state, county and community as to command the respect and gratitude of his fellow men, and that he left the world better for having lived in it.

Resolved, That these resolutions be printed in the Journal of the House and that the Chief Clerk be directed to transmit a copy of the same to the bereaved family.

M. L. TEMPLE,
S. T. MESERVEY,
JOSEPH MATTES,

Committee.

In submitting this report Mr. Temple spoke as follows:

MR. SPEAKER—I move the adoption of the resolutions just read.

As the representative of the county which he once represented, and the successor of the deceased in this body, I cannot refrain from saying a few words in this presence in testimony of the many good qualities of heart and mind of the Hon. Jacob Proudfoot.

He was born October 29, 1822, in Harrison county, then the state of Virginia, now West Virginia. In the year 1855, he bade adieu to the state of his nativity, and took up his journey to the then new and boundless west, traveling overland with his family by team from Virginia, arriving in Warren county, Iowa, where he made his home until the 9th of April, 1856, at which time he settled in the little post village of Liberty, in Clarke county, where he lived until his death, except a temporary residence of one year in Indianola, while his sons were attending college at that place.

He was of sturdy Scotch ancestry, his grandfather having come from the Highlands of Scotland to America, in the dark days of the Revolution, to cast his fortunes with the struggling colonists.

Mr. Proudfoot was a profoundly religious man from his youth up having become a member of the Methodist Episcopal church February 10, 1839, and was continually a class leader in the church meetings of that denomination from 1854 until the time of his death.

He was in politics an earnest, consistent republican, accepting the tenets of that party to their full and logical extent, yet, withal, a liberal and charitable man, believing in the broadest liberty of human thought and action consistent with good citizenship. He was not a politician in the sense of the word that might imply that he was a seeker after preferment within the party, but was constant in attendance at the township caucus and the county convention, realizing that the privileges of American citizenship carry with them corresponding duties, and that no man should complain of the character of the ticket nominated unless he himself has participated among the people in shaping the nominations and policies of his party.

He held the office of member of the board of supervisors of Clarke county for several terms, and was noted for his breadth of information, his sterling integrity, his wise economy, and his broad liberality, when liberality was required.

At the general election of 1875 he was elected as representative from Clarke county to the Iowa house, and thus became a member of the Sixteenth General Assembly, I believe the last which held its meetings in the old state house. His career in the general assembly was approved by the people, and the record made by his votes and committee work was one creditable and satisfactory, characterized by a high order of intelligence and strict devotion to duty, the courage of his convictions appearing in every action.

By a singular complication of political conditions he was denied a renomination and consequent second term. But so strong was the approval of the people of his candidacy that the nominee who defeated him in the convention was overwhelmingly defeated at the polls, notwithstanding the earnest support given him by Mr. Proudfoot.

In his private life he was known to be a man of strong convictions upon all great moral and political questions, and one who unhesitatingly gave voice to his convictions whenever duty required. He never compromised or faltered. He was insensible to that fear which makes men dally and trifle upon such subjects; a foe to all that is evil and immoral, prompt and outspoken, teaching by example as well as precept, strong in his convictions upon temperance, upon religious subjects, and upon political issues, so that it is a high tribute to his worth and character that in all his long life he never made an enemy.

From 1856 to the time of his death he lived in the little post village of Liberty, some fifteen miles removed from the county seat, and from railway communications, in a quiet, primitive settlement. But he found ample opportunity in this secluded corner of the world to do the life-work of a Christian gentleman.

He never acquired any great amount of property, because he was not

ambitious. And, yet, he was a good, comfortable liver. He gave to his family all the comforts of a pleasant American home, without ostentation, extravagance, or parsimony. Dying at the age of 78 years, in his death he illustrated the sublime lesson of his life.

His end was one of the most beautiful of any with which I have been acquainted in many years. It evokes from one the declaration, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like His." On the day that saw his passing away from time to eternity, he went to the field in the morning, and performed a half-day's toil with the vigor of the strong man. He returned to his home for luncheon a little after 12 o'clock and remarked to his aged wife that he believed he would rest that afternoon. After luncheon he went down to the village postoffice, and received his mail, including the newspapers, of which he always was a liberal patron. He spent the summer afternoon sitting in the shade of the awning of the village grocery store, reading from the papers to his friends and neighbors who surrounded him, and at nearly 6 o'clock of that summer evening returned to his home, remarking, after supper, that he felt a strange sensation, not of pain and sickness, but of something indescribable and unusual. His son and daughter-in-law came over to his residence in the later evening, and he retired to his bed about 9 o'clock, after having sat in the evening twilight and chatted pleasantly with his family. About 10 o'clock some of the family visited the bedroom of the venerable patriarch, and found that the angel of death was bearing away his spirit to the other side of the dark river which divides time from eternity, his inanimate clay bearing upon its countenance a sweet smile, which beamed like a halo from that rugged, honest face after death had done its last work.

It was my privilege to attend the funeral, held at that little country church, where all the neighbors from all the country round came to bear its last sad tribute of respect to an honored and an upright man, whose life in the world had made the world brighter and purer.

I never saw more unaffected and deeper grief than was depicted upon the faces of those who had known him for nearly the last half century. There is little to be said of the life passed in the quiet, unambitious manner in which his life was passed. One of England's most loved poets has said more than I can say at this, or any other time:

" Let not ambition mock their useful toil,
Their homely joys and destiny obscure;
Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile,
The short and simple annals of the poor.

" The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
Await alike the inevitable hour,
The paths of glory led but to the grave.

" Nor you, ye proud, impute to these the fault,
If memory o'er their tomb no trophies raise,
Where through the long drawn aisle and fretted vault,
The pealing anthem swells the notes of praise.

“Can storied urn or animated bust,
 Back to its mansion call the fleeting breath;
 Can honor's voice provoke the silent dust,
 Or flattery soothe the dull, cold ear of earth.”

'Tis not the man who most moves the crowd with silver voice, nor he who stirs the passions of men, who most impresses himself upon the life of the world. The state or nation can be no greater, and no better, than the average of the individuals who compose it, and he who lives to bring that average up to the level of good, practical citizenship, and the maintenance of an humble post in life with truth and fidelity, does more for state and nation, for mankind and God, than they who strive for goals that can never be by human effort reached.

With this little tribute to this grand, strong, honorable, God-fearing man, who was content well to fill an humble place in life's economy, Mr. Speaker, I trust the motion will prevail.

The resolutions were adopted unanimously by a rising vote.

SPECIAL ORDER.

The House here took up for consideration special order No. 2, which was set for 10:30, House file No. 110, a bill for an act prohibiting any common carrier within the state from issuing, giving or offering to give any free pass, ticket, mileage or frank, or permitting the same to be used on or over its lines by certain officers and persons, and prohibiting such officers and persons from soliciting, receiving or using the same, and providing penalties for the violation thereof.

Hughes of Iowa, seconded by Larrabee of Fayette, moved that the report of the committee be adopted, and demanded the roll call on the adoption of the report of the committee.

On the question, Shall the committee report be adopted?

The yeas were:

Messrs. Anderson, Bailey, Barkley, Black, Blakemore, Calderwood, Campbell, Carden, Carter, Cassel, Christianson, Clarke, Colclo, Cowles, Cummings, Davenport, Dodds, Dunham, Edwards, Eiker, English, Fields, Furry, Gilchrist, Graff, Greene, Hasselquist, Hawk, Head, Hilsinger, Hughes, Hurn, Jones, Keagy, Kendall, Kerr, Kling, Kolthoff, Koontz, Langan of Clinton, Larrabee, Lyman, McClurkin, McNie, Mattes, Meservey, Nichols, Robinson, Secor, Springer, Stratton, Sweeley, Teachout, Temple, Utterback, Walden, Warren, Whiting, Wilson of Buena Vista, Wilson of Washington, Mr. Speaker—61.