

ship, Norway. At the age of twelve, he with other members of the family, emigrated to America, settling on a farm near Rushford, Fillmore County, Minnesota. He lived there until reaching the age of young manhood when he removed to Winona, Minnesota, where he was employed in the clothing business for many years.

Henry Steen took an active interest in all municipal affairs of his home city, Winona. He held many offices of public trust and was an outstanding figure in the Labor Councils of that city for many years.

He was always found on the progressive side in advancing education, the public schools, and economic measures promoting the welfare of Winona.

He was keenly interested in inland waterways and the establishment of a terminal to handle western grain at Winona.

Mr. Steen was a member of the House in the years 1913-1915, the Extra Session of 1916, and 1917 Sessions.

He was a member of the 1927 Session of the Senate from the second district.


His kindly, genial disposition, won for him a warm spot in the hearts of his conferees and his home people. Fortunate, indeed, is he in public life, who can command the respect of both to the extent that Senator Steen did both publicly and privately.

It is men of this type who are outstanding figures in the public weal, men who stabilize the wheel of legislative efforts, in co-ordinating the affairs of man for the betterment of humanity, which should be the end result of all legislation.

I like best to think of Henry Steen as one so aptly portrayed by Sam Walter Foss in his masterpiece, "The House by the Side of the Road," as one "who lived by the side of the road and was a friend to man."

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The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Ramsey, Mr. Orr, who presented and read the following resolution:

*To the Honorable State Senate of the State of Minnesota:* 

Your special Committee, appointed for the purpose of preparing a memorial resolution commemorative of the life and service of the late Honorable Peter H. VanHoven of Ramsey County, who was a former member of the Senate of the State of Minnesota, respectfully submits the following:

Peter H. VanHoven, a member of this body for three terms, died the 11th day of October, 1927, at his home in Saint Paul, age seventy-two.

Senator VanHoven was born in Oost, Eysden, in the Providence of Limburg, Holland, on March 7th, 1855. He was educated in the college of Hassalt, Belgium. While in this college he formed a desire to go to the United States and finally in 1874 his father consented, and gave him a thousand dollars with which to embark. While in New York, certain men obtained all of his money and disappeared, and without funds young VanHoven had to work his way back to Holland on a boat. With-

in a short time he shipped on a cattle boat back again for New York. The West appealed to him and in 1876, Senator VanHoven came to St. Paul where he obtained work in a commission firm, and two years later his father and family came to America and the father and son engaged in the commission, live stock and packing business in St. Paul and Sioux City, which business continued for many years. In 1886 the Senator founded the VanHoven Incorporated plant at New Brighton. In 1902 he was appointed a member of the St. Paul Board of Public Works and in 1909 was made president of that Board. The following year he was elected to the State Senate and was re-elected in 1914 and 1918. During the last few years of his life he devoted all of his time to the real estate, packing house, by-products and insurance business, operated by himself and his son.

Such in brief is the history of the life work of Senator VanHoven.

Of his great services to the State and community in which he lived it is only necessary to say that no man was more public spirited or had the welfare of his City, State and County more at heart than had he.

Senator VanHoven came to his district when it was new and scarcely settled. He was a pioneer, a builder and one of the founders of that district. He was honored and respected by all who knew him and was among the last of the early settlers in that district to solve the great mystery.

*Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved*, by the Senate of the State of Minnesota, that in the death of the Honorable Peter H. VanHoven the State and Nation lost one of its wise counselors, a devoted servitor, and a valued citizen.

That the people of the State whom he served so long and so well will long remember him for his devotion to their interests, with an eye single to their welfare.

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Mr. Orr then delivered the following eulogy:

While I am a member of the Committee on Memorials, I have had no part in the preparation of the several memorials as here presented, not even the one which I read myself. I have served nearly the entire time with all of these men who have finished their work and passed on to their reward. By the memorials here presented we have written indelibly into the record the names of these illustrious members whose spirits have winged their flight to the realm of Peace since our adjournment in 1927. The record of each, as written, is a short one. Alas! too short, for they were good men and true, and words are but helpless messengers to express one's feelings at such a time.

That death loves a shining mark was evidenced when it entered our Chamber to lay its icy hand upon all that was mortal of courteous, genial, lovable William Brooks. He was my seatmate, sitting directly behind me all of the years that we served together in the Senate. There are many interesting incidents that occur during the sessions of the Senate that men comment upon only to those who are near at hand at the time they occur. The close proximity of our seats made me a constant conferee with this lovable character, and I quickly grew to know and respect his splendid worth. The last conversation I had with