

The people of the State of Minnesota, and especially the people of the District of Duluth have been enriched because of your sojourn with us. So, 'Whiff', this is not 'goodbye' but 'till we meet again'."

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Dakota County, Mr. Gillen.

"Mr. President, Members of the Senate and Honored Guests.

Senator Sam Dennison, a most distinguished member of this body, died on March 24, 1950. His unexpected demise at the age of 80 followed apparent recovery from two operations. Our community of Dakota County was deeply grieved and has continued to feel and more and more appreciate our great loss of leadership.

Senator Dennison was born in Carleton, Ontario, July 7, 1869, and came to the United States in his early youth. He married Miss Grace Mae Clough of Rolling Prairie, Wisconsin, and they made their home for a time in Chicago.

There he was associated with the National Packing Company for six years prior to joining Swift & Company in that city in 1912. He came to South St. Paul for the latter company in June, 1913, and served as credit manager until his retirement on July 31, 1934.

He took an active interest and prominent part in civic, municipal and public affairs, serving as president of the old South St. Paul Commercial Club and for many years was secretary of that organization. When the Civic and Commerce Association supplanted the Commercial Club, he was made an honorary member of the new organization.

Senator Dennison was elected alderman in South St. Paul in 1931. It was his first public office. He served three successive terms as mayor of South St. Paul from 1933 to 1937.

In 1942 Mr. Dennison was elected state senator for the twentieth district and in 1946 he was reelected. He was active in several sessions of the state legislature and served on many important committees.

Senator Dennison had long been an active member of the Clark Memorial Church and served in various offices and on committees and boards of that church.

The family for a number of years past had spent a portion of their summers at the summer home they maintained on McKenzie Lake, near Spooner, Wisconsin.

Besides his wife, who recently joined him in death, and his son and daughter he was survived by four grandchildren.

It has been an unusual honor accorded me this afternoon, to participate in a memorial service honoring Senator Sam Dennison, for I was a guest in his home on many occasions, having been a schoolmate of his son, Stewart.

Our community has lost a leading citizen and the state an unusual Senator; all things will go on, but all things will not be the same."

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Chippewa County, Mr. Child.

"Mr. President, Members of the Senate, and Honored Guests:

The year 1875 dates the birth of the late Senator Edward Hagen of Milan, Minnesota.

He was born of Norwegian immigrant parents in Big Bend township on the farm which has remained in the family for three generations.

As a young man he graduated from the state agricultural college, and for several years taught rural schools in Chippewa County.

Nearly fifty years ago, he took over the parental farm home and tilled the soil in Big Bend township until his health failed.

He quietly passed away in his home on November 5, 1950.

In addition to the multitude of friends and admirers, he leaves to mourn his loss his son Norman, of Milan, and his daughter Mrs. Earl R. Ettesvold of Morris, Minnesota. His wife, Ida preceded him in death by exactly three months, to the day.

Senator Hagen was a devoted husband, a kind, loving father, and an understanding and friendly neighbor. He was affectionately known by everyone as Eddy.

During the depth of the depression, when the farmers in western Minnesota were losing their homesteads and were burning corn instead of fuel in their furnaces, Edward Hagen recognized the need for sound reform in government and fiscal policies. Because his neighbors looked to him for leadership, he was literally catapulted into public life. In 1932 he was elected to the House of Representatives, where he served with honor and distinction for ten years. During his second term he was chairman of the important Committee on Taxes.

In 1942 he was elected to represent the 24th legislative district in the state Senate. He ably represented the people of Chipewewa and Lac qui Parle Counties, and had he lived, he would have completed his second term on January 1, 1951.

Stating that Senator Hagen was an expert in the tax field, one of the leaders of the Senate had this to say about his late colleague:

'Senator Hagen was a liberal in the true meaning of that word. Our service with him dates from the session of 1943 when he came in as the senator from his district. We soon learned that his support and influence could always be counted upon for good and desirable legislation and against the bad and ill-conceived. He was an able and logical debater because he was a keen student of social and economic questions. He was highly respected by all his colleagues for he did not temporize or compromise with expediency and evil, yet withal possessed such a warm personality, such a fine sense of humor that instinctively he was liked and valued as a friend.

'In these days when ostensibly educated men are scripturally illiterate it was a privilege to know and visit with Edward Hagen. He knew his Bible and was no stranger to the classics. He lived the former and used both with telling effect in his work. He knew his agriculture but his culture was broad and fine beyond that.'

Senator Edward Hagen was a reverent man. He believed in God and lived by His law.

The God-fearing people in his home community have just recently completed a beautiful church at Big Bend, and it is partly to the credit of the late Senator Hagen that this edifice became a reality. He was generous with his time and money, and during the last few weeks of his illness, he maintained his interest in the progress that was being made on the new structure. Even at the time when he knew his days were numbered, he participated in the laying of the cornerstone at the site of the new church, in spite of the tremendous drain on his energy.

Minnesota is a better place in which to live because of men like Edward Hagen. As a legislator and a leader his work has touched the lives of many. His memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew him."

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Rice County, Mr. Covert.

"Mr. President, Members of the Senate, family of the deceased, relatives and honored guests:

It is, indeed, a great privilege and honor that has been bestowed upon me by custom and election to prepare and deliver this eulogy of our former Senator and friend, David W. Illsley, of Rice County. I feel that I am not fully qualified to do justice in the preparation and presentation of this memorial to his character, his extra-ordinary fine type of citizenship, his excellent record of personal, public and private service to his friends, his community, state and nation. I shall endeavor, to the very best of my ability to do justice to the memory of this good man; briefly, if I may, as Dave would want it; for as we knew him well, Dave, although a great wit and conversationalist, was, after all, not a man of words, but, of action.

While in the Senate, largely through his cheerfully rugged disposition, as well as his natural ability, he had won the great respect and esteem of the entire membership of that Honorable Body. And, as we scan his long and useful public record, both in and outside of the Senate, we are bound to come to the conclusion that while in the Senate he fully measured up to the standards, principles and traditions so well grounded and firmly established by his famous predecessors, former Senators of Rice County, since the first session of the state legislature, the immortal—Michael Cook, John M. Berry, Levi Nutting, Gordon E. Cole, O. F. Perkins, George W. Batchelder, Thomas Scott Buckham, George W. Wood, A. W. Stockton and Cassius M. Buck, real 'GIANTS IN THE EARTH.'

Much as I could say, touching upon the fine character, the rugged individualism, could not fully measure up to the scholarly and splendid tribute paid to the Senator and Mrs. Illsley by Lucius A. Smith, a former county attorney of Rice County and an intimate friend of the Senator and family, published in the Faribault Daily News under the date of October 15, 1945, with reference to the occasion of the celebration of the Golden Wedding Anniversary. It was a fitting and well deserved tribute, indeed, which I take the liberty to include in these our solemn memorial services, as follows:

October 15, 1945.

Editor,  
Faribault Daily News,  
Faribault, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

The hand of time falls gently upon the young of heart. Mr. and Mrs. Illsley are certainly two of time's favorites. Back in 1935, they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They were young in action and appearance then, and they have not changed since.