

Although he is gone from our midst—his record of achievement will be a continuing challenge—his character will serve to inspire us, and his memory will ever live in our hearts.”

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Fillmore County, Mr. John A. Johnson, who addressed the Senate as follows:

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

You must all know that it is a humble privilege for me to speak in eulogy of our friend, Henry A. Larson. While I occupy his seat now in this Senate and have known him for many years, it is difficult for me to interpret the full import of the significance of his long services to his community and our state. For 22 years he served in this body and left a never-to-be-forgotten impression with those who were his colleagues. The influence of former Senator Larson’s integrity, judgment and stalwart personal character is far reaching.

Henry Albert Larson, son of pioneer Fillmore County settlers, who came to America from Norway, was born June 27th, 1877 in Preston Township, where he attended rural school and grew to manhood. Following graduation from the Lanesboro High School, he attended Indiana Normal College at Valparaiso and University of Minnesota. Meanwhile, he also taught rural school in Fillmore County.

His first public office was Preston Township assessor, and in 1902, he was elected clerk of the Fillmore County District Court. While serving in this office, he studied law and in 1915, passed the bar examination and was admitted to the practice of law in Minnesota. That same year he resigned as clerk of the Court and entered the practice of law in Preston in partnership with the late Senator John W. Hopp.

Following Mr. Hopp’s death Senator Larson practiced alone until 1932, when he took into partnership with him his nephew, Philip B. Gartner. This partnership continued until January 1, 1947, when Senator Larson retired from the active practice of law.

Henry was elected State Senator from Fillmore and Houston counties in 1926, and served continuously, being in his sixth term at the time of his death, March 12, 1948. During the 22 years in the State Senate he was a dependable and conscientious legislator. He was Chairman of the Committee on Banks and Banking as well as holding membership on numerous other committees. He was President Pro Tem of the Senate during the 1939 session. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Commission for the revision of the State Constitution.

Senator Larson was a member of St. Paul's English Lutheran Church at Preston, Preston Lodge No. 36, A.F. & A.M., Preston Chapter No. 32, R. A. M., and Malta Commandery No. 25, Knights Templar.

On September 25, 1906, he was united in marriage to Miss Frances Broderick of Preston. She survives him together with numerous nieces and nephews and one brother, C. A. Larson of Minneapolis and a sister, Mrs. Carl Pederson of Boone, Iowa.

In his community Henry was a trusted counsellor, both in legal and personal affairs, and had for many years been president of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank. A central pivot had slipped out of a whole era in Southern Minnesota when Henry Larson died suddenly at Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 12, 1948. He had gone to Oklahoma with his wife for a winter vacation to visit their niece when the messenger of death came to call him to the eternal mansions above.

In gratitude for the privilege which has been ours in being beneficiaries of the significant contributions of former Senator Larson's life in public and private, we pay him this respect and memorial today. We unite with those of the family and intimate friends who mourn his loss in praying the abiding comfort of God's love.

May I close this eulogy with a quotation from the touching tribute given him by his own nephew and law partner, Philip B. Gartner, in the Fillmore County District Court:

'It is a privilege for me today to pay tribute to the memory of my late uncle and partner, Henry A. Larson. It is the more a privilege because I think he deserves to be remembered.

'We all start out in this life, and most of us have the chance to make something of ourselves if we want to. Many of us do not. Many of us become a liability to society. Some who do, console themselves by thinking that they didn't have the opportunity that someone else had.

'But the fact remains that anyone who wants to can so lead his life that he makes something of himself and is an asset to society. I believe that the story of Mr. Larson's life shows this to be so.

'There was no one backing him when he started out as a young man. He made up his mind what he wanted to do, and he did it. Without the benefit of attendance at a law school, he learned enough law to be admitted to the bar.

'During his whole life, he abided by the law. He treated others with kindness. He was honest. He was good. Now that

his life is over, and we look back on it, we are aware that he was a credit to society. To my mind that is the most that any man can accomplish: to make the world a little better because he was in it."

The President of the Senate then recognized the Senator from Douglas County, Mr. Clifford Lofvegren.

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

We pause now to pay tribute to the memory of a former member of the Senate, the late Dr. Claude L. Cole, who was born on May 30, 1879, in St. Lawrence County in the State of New York. He and his two older brothers were adopted by their uncle, A. B. Cole, of Fergus Falls—a prominent physician. This uncle also served as State Senator of Otter Tail County.

After completing his high school education, Dr. Claude L. Cole studied dentistry, graduating from the College of Dentistry of the University of Minnesota in 1903. Prior to his graduation he served as a volunteer in the Spanish-American War. He began his practice of dentistry in Alexandria after graduation and continued to do so up to the time of his death.

Dr. Cole married Ernestine Raiter, of Alexandria, on January 1, 1906. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. McGee, who lives in St. Paul.

He was interested in civic affairs, and became Mayor of Alexandria, serving two terms from 1935 to 1942. He was elected State Senator in 1942, and was re-elected in 1946.

Dr. Cole was small of stature but large in principle. He possessed a pleasing personality and made friends easily; he was unassuming and unpretentious. He seldom participated in extensive debate and yet his colleagues were never at a loss to understand his interests and deep convictions. He was gifted with a rare sense of humor and a tolerant spirit, factors which ever evidenced his influence and added to his host of friends. His sudden passing was a distinct loss to this body and to his constituency."

The President of the Senate recognized the Senator from Wright County, Mr. Thomas P. Welch.

"Mr. President: Under leave to extend my remarks, I include a memorial address briefly touching upon the life, character, and public service of a sterling pioneer of Minnesota, James C. Kelly, who was a member of the House of Representatives from 1889 to 1891 and a member of the Minnesota Senate from 1891 to 1893, representing the First Legislative District.

He died in his ninetieth year on June 9, 1947, at Houston, Minnesota. Senator Kelly was born at Chatfield, Minnesota, on

October 28, 185
He received his
Township and t
University at C
pation and his c
illustrated by th
with which he v

Director of

President o
years bef

Treasurer a
Insurance

Senator Kelly
cation in Yucata
of Houston, and
Knights of Colu
lic Church at H
serving as a me
mittee and also
that party.

James C. Ke
deceased him in

To this union
tor and Mrs. K
and women.

They are His
of Winona; Do
of Houston; M
Mrs. Fergus W.

It was my gr
as a man who s
good surely spr
he lived and se
his departure.
of a good deed,

Senator Kelly
friends. He wa
his convictions.

'E

I'