

MEMORIAL SERVICES

The President of the Senate recognized the Senator from Fillmore County, Mr. Larson, H. A., who offered the following tribute to the deceased members of the Senate in behalf of the Memorial Committee:

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

"We have responded to a call of the Senate to devote a short time in memory of one who died while a member of this body and of two others, who were former members, and who died during the interim since our last session. This is a fitting and proper ceremony. It is the final farewell to those with whom we have been closely associated and who have answered the last roll call to join the democracy of the dead, where the eloquent become silent, where the previous question has been moved and debate is closed. It remains for us to spread upon our records such brief extracts of their lives and achievements, which we desire to be preserved for future ages, and to that end your Committee on Memorials respectfully submits the following:

"Herman Schmechel was born in Pomern, Germany, April 11, 1857. He came to America and Renville County, Minnesota, in 1881. He worked on various farms for meager wages until 1884 when he acquired a small piece of land to which he added from time to time until his farms consisted of 745 acres, well improved with necessary buildings and equipment. It was the monument to a courageous, persevering, plain, hard working man, who acquired by his own labor and preserved it by frugality and thrift.

"He held many positions of responsibility and trust not only as a public officer but in business affairs. He never shirked. Every duty imposed on him was honestly, efficiently and faithfully performed.

"He was elected to the State Senate in 1918 and served twenty years, and it was as senator that we knew him. He did not have the advantages of schooling, which is supposed to trim, cut and polish. He was a diamond in the rough but nevertheless a jewel. He came from a foreign land at an age when it might have been difficult for one to transplant himself, but not so with him. He was quick to see the opportunities in his adopted country and promptly set to work to avail himself of them. He submerged himself in the melting pot of nationalities and emerged as an outstanding American citizen, a credit to himself, and honor to his adopted country, and set an example of loyalty, devotion and service well worthy of others to emulate.

"He was a man of rare judgment and firm convictions, never a rubber stamp. He won the favor and appreciation of his colleagues and enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all, and it was with genuine sadness and regret to learn that such ruggedness of mind and body had yielded to the inevitable ravages of age.

"He died June 1, 1942, and is survived by his widow, three sons and one daughter. Seven senators and former senators did him the honor to attend his funeral."

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"Laforest E. Potter, representing the 14th Legislative District consisting of Brown and Redwood Counties, in the State Senate from 1915 to 1919, was born at Green Lake, Wisconsin, August 10, 1858.