

[No. 57, S.]

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 40.

Relating to the death of Ex-Governor William R. Taylor.

Ex-Governor William R. Taylor died at the Gisholt Home for the Aged, in the town of Burke, Dane County, Wisconsin, on the 17th day of March, 1909. He was a member of this Senate during the years 1859 and 1860, and of the Assembly in the year 1855. He was Governor of the State for the term commencing January 5th, 1874. He served also in other official positions, as chairman of his town and of the county board, superintendent of schools, on the executive committee of the hospital for the insane at Mendota, president of the Dane County Agricultural Society, and president of the State Agricultural Society.

In all these capacities, and especially as legislator and governor, he rendered distinguished service to the state and well deserved to be known as the pioneer reformer of Wisconsin. After a long and determined struggle, in which he never for a moment faltered or turned back, he succeeded in establishing in the courts the salutary principle that corporations created by the state are subject to the regulation and control of the state. He was largely instrumental in procuring the passage of the so-called Potter Law, fixing rates for transportation by railroad companies within the state, and when passed, promptly approved it, as governor.

When the presidents of the great railroad companies announced in written communications addressed to him as governor that they could not or would not obey that statute, he fearlessly issued his proclamation commanding their obedience, declaring he would use all the power of the state to compel it and admonishing them that "while no one is so weak as to be without the protection of the law, none are so strong as to be above their restraints." After waiting a brief period in the hope that better councils would prevail with the railroad companies, which hope failed of realization, he caused appropriate suits to be commenced and prosecuted them with unusual vigor in both the state and federal courts to a successful conclusion. The adjudications which he thus secured have pointed the way which other states have followed, until the principle of state control of corporations of

its own creation has become firmly established as a part of the public policy of the whole country.

Be it therefore resolved, That this memorial be entered in the proceedings of the Senate and Assembly in recognition of his important service to the state, and as a public acknowledgment of the great benefits accruing to the people through his efforts both as Governor and legislator.

[No. 58, S.]

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 41.

Relating to the question of vagrancy.

WHEREAS, The question of the elimination of the vagrant from our population is one of such importance to the state and to the nation as to require a more substantial and efficient means to control that condition than is now provided by our present system of laws relating to vagrancy. The great loss of life, the spread of crime and disease, the loss by fires and railway wrecks brought about through the carelessness of our wandering population, are but a few of the many evils resulting from the great numbers of vagrants both vicious and unfortunate which infest the state and the nation and

WHEREAS, The present system of dealing with vagrancy tends to scatter the evil into the country beyond the restraint of police protection during the milder seasons of the year, and in the severer seasons the vagrant becomes a burden on the urban population of our people; therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the state board of control be and they are hereby instructed to inquire into the advisability of establishing labor colonies on unimproved lands within this state modelled after the system now in vogue in Holland, Belgium, and other countries of Europe, which system is now being considered by the Legislature of the State of New York, and report the result of their investigation to the Governor in their annual report for the year 1910. Provided, however, that no expense to the state shall be incurred in such investigation.