

[No. 109, A.]

## JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 28.

Relating to the death and public services of Edmund J. Berner, a former member of the Wisconsin legislature.

WHEREAS, On May 15, 1917, death released from earthly life Edmund J. Berner, a former member of the Wisconsin assembly.

Mr. Berner was born May 17, 1864, in Freistadt, Ozaukee county, Wisconsin, and resided there for eight years. Since 1872 he lived in the city of Milwaukee, receiving his education in the public schools, being identified actively and continuously in civic, social, industrial and political movements for general progress and the enhancement of the common good.

Mr. Berner departed this life in his fifty-second year. His career of over a half century was distinguished with an honorable record of faithful and unselfish service to the cause that makes for human betterment. Early in life he became conscious of the social wrongs and afflictions that the workers endure in a competitive system of society. Recognizing this social inequality and injustice to the men and women who toil and becoming firm in the belief that socialization of industries would bring economic equality, justice, peace and plenty, he accepted the principles of socialism and was a charter member of the Wisconsin socialist movement and likewise a pioneer in the work that a quarter of a century ago helped lay the foundation on which today is built the Wisconsin organized labor movement.

No eulogy of the departed is necessary. It may well be said, however, that the meritorious aid he gave to every worthy cause was highly appreciated by his fellow workers and by all other citizens in the district he represented. He lived steadfastly in the faith that an injury to one is the concern of all, and was thus a firm believer in labor organizations, having been a member of Cigar Makers' Union No. 25 for more than twenty-eight years, and was honored with being chosen to represent his organization in the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, and in national labor conventions. For twelve years he served his local in the Federated Trades' Council, Milwaukee, in which body he held various executive positions. He had the distinction of being one of the first socialist members in the Wisconsin legislature, being elected assemblyman, ninth district, Milwaukee county, in 1904. In appreciation of his earnest and splendid work to the people in his official position as a legislator, he

was reelected for four consecutive terms—1904—1906—1908, and 1910. He discharged his duties as a public servant with courage and unquestionable integrity. In his eight years of legislative work he made himself invaluable as a representative to the labor and socialist movements of the state, having assisted in framing and enacting much of the progressive labor legislation now on the statutes.

Edmund J. Berner lived an honorable life. He was a socialist by conviction and, though ill health had marred his later years, he labored zealously for its principles, the fulfillment of which he firmly believed would banish hate and strife and inequality, and bring peace, plenty and happiness to all mankind. His whole life was marked with a deep human sympathy for his co-workers, and fellow citizens and he exemplified this not only in words, but in deeds—in his whole life's work. He did not acquire wealth in earthly possessions, but he departed this life rich in having from youth to his declining days ere death called him, devotedly, loyally, and unselfishly served the cause of social righteousness. He remained true to his class; though gone his work and memory liveth. Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That as a mark of respect this legislature records in this manner its appreciation of the services of Edmund J. Berner to the state and to his communities. Be it further

*Resolved*, That a suitable engrossed copy of these resolutions, attested by the signatures of the presiding officers and the chief clerks of the senate and assembly, be transmitted to the family of the deceased.

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[No. 113, A.]

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 29.

Extending congratulations to the Honorable W. A. Campbell.

WHEREAS, our fellow member, William A. Campbell, representing the second assembly district of Milwaukee county, responded to the call for volunteers immediately after the outbreak of the existing emergency, and since said time has been in training at the United States naval training station at Great Lakes, Illinois, and by his conduct and attention to duty in said service has been commissioned by the president of the United States to be an officer in the United States navy;

*Now, therefor, be it resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring*, That this legislature hereby extend its congratulations to Mr. Campbell, and, that in recognition of the honor and responsibility conferred upon him in the military service