

[No. 65, A.]

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 9.

Relating to United States Senator Spooner.

John C. Spooner, while a student in our state university, enlisted as a private soldier in the Union army. He was honorably mustered out of service with the rank of major, by brevet.

For two years he was the private secretary of the late Governor Fairchild.

In 1872, he was a member of the assembly from St. Croix county. During the next twelve years he became a good lawyer and enjoyed a very lucrative practice. Railroads and municipalities were his clients.

On the 28th day of January, 1885, at the age of forty-two years and with but very little effort on his part, he was elected to the United States senate. He served one term, when he was succeeded by the Hon. Wm. F. Vilas. He was again elected in 1897 and again in 1903, and is now serving his third term.

During his sixteen years of service for this state as United States senator, he has put all other professional business behind him and has devoted himself exclusively to the duties of the great office, to which the people of this state elected him.

He was thoroughly at home on the floor of the United States senate. He easily stood at the head of the constitutional lawyers in that great forum.

He has taken a leading part in all of the great debates of the last ten years. His plume has always been seen in the hottest part of the fight. He has been honored by the confidence of all three of the presidents under whom he has served. They have sought his counsel and have relied upon his advice.

As a constructive statesman, he had no peer. He fought his opponents in oratorical battle upon the floor of the senate with skill and courage—but when the contest was over, he carried no bitterness in his heart.

By reason of this, he brought discordant factions to mutual conciliation and agreement and thus accomplished good results for the whole republic.

His ideals were high. His practice was in harmony with his ideals.

He has refused cabinet positions and has more than once declined the ermine of the supreme court. He was always loyal to the principles of the republican party.

He loved his work in the senate better than any other work of his life. For that work, he abandoned all else. For this loyal, patient, self-denying service, he is honored and respected by the people of the whole country. Now, at the very height of his justly earned fame, he has resigned this highest of all honors that the state could give to him. We were startled upon receipt of the telegram announcing his resignation. We pause, and we ask—is the love of honor and fame and glory, dying out of men's hearts?

Be it resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring. That we sincerely regret this surprising decision of our honored senator to give up the joy and ambition of his life and return to the practice of his profession.

That we herewith extend to him our hearty appreciation of the faithful service which he has rendered to his country and state.—that we tender to him the earnest wish that he may yet live a long, happy and useful life.

[No. 55. A.]

JOINT RESOLUTION No. 10.

Relating to a uniform standard of classification of grains.

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring. That the congress of the United States be memorialized to enact a bill to provide for fixing a uniform standard of grading and inspecting grain.

Resolved further. That a copy of this resolution, properly certified, be immediately transmitted by the secretary of state to the president of the United States, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and to each of the senators and representatives from this state.