

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

---

[No. 82, A.]

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20.

On the death of Ex-Governor Salomon.

On Wednesday, April 21, 1909, at Frankfort on the Main, Germany, there died a man who enjoyed a unique distinction, for it may not be generally known that Wisconsin, with a German-American population larger than that of any other state, through the caprice of politics and probably for no other reason, has had but one citizen of German birth or descent as its chief executive,—the man whose death has just been noted, Hon. Edward Salomon. In view of this fact, and the recognized high standing, solid and substantial character and good citizenship of the element that constitutes the major portion of our population, the event is thus of more than passing interest.

When, early in 1862, a few months after his inauguration, Governor Harvey met with a sad and untimely death by drowning while caring for Wisconsin's wounded soldiers at the battle of Shiloh, the burden of the cares of state was placed on the shoulders of a young man then but little over thirty years of age, the lieutenant governor elected with Governor Harvey, Mr. Salomon. It was a tremendous responsibility for one so young and unused to political life to assume for this was the only office he ever held. But he proved equal to the occasion. Bravely and nobly he performed his duties, and his patriotism was never questioned. He guided the ship of state through the surging waves and storm-tossed billows of the early years of the rebellion with a firm and steady hand, and had the satisfaction of seeing Wisconsin respond with its full quota, and more, of troops to suppress secession. His fearless and uncompromising stand to uphold the Union of course incurred for him the enmity of that class in every state, but to Wisconsin's credit, small in the Badger state, who secretly favored the confederacy, and it is said Governor Salomon's life was threatened by them. But he was

not afraid to do his duty and stood unflinchingly at his post, even as his two brothers, who had enlisted in the army, risked their lives at the front. During the Indian uprising in Minnesota, he organized the state militia and quieted the general alarm in this state.

Governor Salomon was a native of Prussia, receiving his early education there. He finished a course at the University of Berlin at the age of eighteen and then emigrated to America, settling in Manitowoc, where he taught school for a time. He then took up the profession of law, practicing in Milwaukee fourteen years, until elected lieutenant governor. He was a man of learning and scholarly attainments, cultured and highly esteemed, though of retiring nature; very fond of music, which art he did much to foster.

While his life was thus crowned with usefulness and success in a large measure, yet it also, like the lives of many men called to high station, contained its pathos, sorrows and disappointments. Sitting alone in his modest home in the suburbs of Frankfort, an octogenarian, almost totally blind, he was found last summer on the occasion of a visit from his former private secretary, Judge Wallber of Milwaukee. "My end is near, I feel it!" Governor Salomon pathetically exclaimed. "Still often and often my mind reverts to my dear old Wisconsin where so many bright and happy hours were mine, and yet where such bitter disappointments in politics fell to my lot."

The disappointments he voiced show that Governor Salomon possessed a tender heart and a very sensitive nature, but his other thought is a pleasant one to linger on. His "dear old Wisconsin!" Although he had returned to the fatherland to spend his remaining days with relatives, his last thoughts were of the state that had been his home so many years, that had honored him, and that in turn he had served faithfully and well, and that sentiment, so deep and sincere, crosses the wide ocean and touches our hearts and causes us to cherish for the departed war governor abiding reverence and affection.

*Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring,* That these resolutions be spread upon the records and an engrossed copy hereof be sent to the nearest relative of the deceased.