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## J. Gordon Gose

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### J. GORDON GOSE

On the occasion of the death of Dean John T. Condon in 1926, Professor Clark Prescott Bissett spoke in Meany Hall and in the course of his tribute said this:

Life, death and time are mysteries; yet here we find ourselves struggling, as all the world has struggled, with problems which vex with relentless questionings. The best we can do—possibly *all* we can do—is to gather up the memories of good men's lives, of brave, splendid deeds, and of achievements that have made the world happier, or freer, or better.

I think that Jack Gose would have agreed with this view of the matter, although his natural modesty was such that I doubt that it would have occurred to him that he was one of those who have made the world happier, or freer, or better.

And yet he was so, beyond a doubt; and memories of him will stay to warm the hearts of all this company until the end of time comes for each of us.

Each of us will have his own remembrances of Jack Gose. Mine are those of a close personal friend and of an intimate associate in the practice of law. These words are addressed to remembrances in the latter connection.

As a lawyer he was pre-eminent—one of the best in the State. His mind was clear and incisive, and he had the rare ability to cut through the collateral matters, avoiding the seductive by-ways that lead nowhere, and arrive at the very heart of a problem. I had the privilege of working closely with him on many legal matters, both in court and in the office, and never ceased to delight in the clarity of his thinking and in the splendid ability he had to make his thoughts known to others. His qualities of courage, intellectual honesty, and unfailing courtesy merited the admiration of all those with whom he came in contact.

I worked with him, too, in the affairs of the Bar Association, and here also he had the profound respect of his fellow lawyers and of the judges. His wisdom and humor and his solid common sense endeared him to everyone and made his counsel much sought after by his brothers at the Bar.

I knew for years that he would be an excellent teacher, and my sadness at losing him as an associate was tempered by the pleasure of knowing that his teaching career would be not only happy for him

but singularly valuable to whole generations of lawyers. And indeed it has been so, as hundreds of fine men can now attest.

He would have made a remarkably fine judge and he was, in fact, approached on several occasions with the suggestion that he accept elevation to the bench. Once indeed we had him almost persuaded to agree to accept a Supreme Court appointment if it were offered to him, but I think that the prospect of having periodically to campaign for election was so distasteful to him that he finally refused.

It is hard to think that he was only forty-one years old when he left the active law practice, for he had already made a mark at the Bar that few men achieve in the course of a long life of practice. So highly was he regarded that, after he left the active practice and joined the Law School faculty, lawyers all over the State continued to retain him for advice and help in solving particularly troublesome questions in such fields as corporations and probate.

His course is run and his life is completed. He leaves behind him in our hearts the happy memory of a brave and kindly man who did indeed make the world happier, freer and better.

JOHN N. RUPP

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