

Mrs. Hannah J. Kempfer, Veteran Minnesota Legislator, Dies at 63

Mrs. Hannah J. Kempfer, 63, Erhard, Minn., veteran Minnesota legislator, believed to be the first farm woman in the United States elected to a legislature, died today in a Fergus Falls hospital.

She served nine terms in the house of representatives but because of illness was not a candidate for re-election in 1942.

In August she suffered a fractured hip in a fall on her farm and was taken to the hospital, where complications resulting in death developed.

Mrs. Kempfer was born at sea under the British flag and was reared in an orphanage at Stavanger, Norway.

She was adopted by Ole and Martha Jensen and came to Otter Tail county in 1886, where she attended Fergus Falls high school and Park Region college before teaching rural schools.

She married Charles Kempfer, who survives.

She served as a state representative in all sessions except 1931 from 1923 to 1941.

During her tenure she acted at one time or another as a member of every committee of the house except taxation, with chief emphasis on conservation, which was one of her hobbies.

She was a leader in the house in pressing measures affecting the welfare of women and children, and herself had helped rear 11 children.

Mrs. Kempfer was active in rural



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organizations and was a director of the Otter Tail County Fair association.

Mrs. Kempfer was the only woman chairman of the game and fish committee in legislative history of the state. She was also at various times chairman of the health and the board of control committees.

Funeral services have not been arranged.

Mpls. Star Journal, Sept. 27, '43, p. 1.