

WEST ACTON HONORS COL J. P. CLARE, 80

House Also Pays Tribute to Its Doorkeeper

Special Dispatch to the Globe

WEST ACTON, March 23—Cultivation of youthful ideas and association with those who, regardless of their years, have kept young, are two of the reasons why Col James P. Clare, doorkeeper of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, today celebrated his 80th birthday in excellent health, he told 150 friends who gathered at the Clare home in Windsor av tonight.

The bungalow where Col and Mrs Clare make their home was filled for one of the largest birthday parties ever held in this section. The group took occasion to make the celebration a house-warming, for although the Clares have lived in the house nearly a year, it has never been officially opened in the old New England fashion.

"Don't allow your mind to become fuddled with ancient ideas; progress, not regress in your thoughts and above all choose for your friends those whose minds are still young," declared the Colonel when asked for his formula of long-living. For many years he has not touched tobacco in any form and this is another reason, he says, for his good health.

At the State House where Col Clare has been a member of the Legislative Department for more than 25 years, he is known as a man of surprising vigor and alertness.

Speaker John C. Hull congratulated the Colonel at this afternoon's session of the House and led the applause that followed. The members rose to their feet in tribute. Col Clare, who was occupying his usual seat at the right of the speaker's chair, was visibly touched by the greetings.

He is a veteran of three wars—the only New Englander who served in the Civil War, the Spanish War and the Philippine Insurrection. Entering the ranks as a boy of 15 he was a second lieutenant at the end of the Civil War. After two years as a volunteer in the Philippines he came home and entered the employ of the State.

Mrs Clare, who is 77, also is in excellent health. They have three great-grandchildren, who at present are in the West with their parents and could not attend tonight's party.