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Beginning Saturday, January 7th, and Continuing for 30 Days of High Class Furniture, Musical Instruments and Housefurnishings

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This sale is put on for the purpose of getting rid of the many articles in my store that were damaged in the recent fire, and to make it popular we have marked all articles down at specially low figures. Now is the time to buy if you expect to need anything offered in the next few years. Come in and see the big reductions anyway. They will prove to you that this is a real Sale.

Whoever heard of Edison Graphophones being sold for less than list price, but this is what we are doing and many other things are going the same way. Come and take a look. We want you to profit.

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A BONA FIDE SALE WHERE YOUR DOLLARS WILL BUY HIGH CLASS GOODS AT BARGAIN PRICES. EVERYTHING ON THIS SALE IS STRICTLY CASH

W. E. WHITE FURNITURE CO., Louisburg, N. C.

Thomas Walter Bickett Record of His Service

By FRANK SMETHURST
His War Record

Governor Bickett's war record, the pride of his administration, is a thing that cannot be written in concrete terms. He was in name and fact the State's war governor. His leadership was unquestioned and his achievements are neither denied nor minimized in the perspective of intervening years.

Coming into the governor's office with the declaration that he was going to establish a record as a silent Governor, the occasion called forth from him the severest demands of public speaking. In the inspiration of it, he made those addresses which will stand high among the war speeches of the nation's best orators. They were not limited to North Carolina. Other States called him. While hundreds of invitations he declined on account of the pressure of his duties in the State, the people of sister States had occasion to measure his worth and to feel the inspiration of his message. The Liberty Loan and War Savings drives, the Red Cross, all the United War Work efforts he backed to the limit of his resources, lifting the people of the State always to a higher level of sacrifice and patriotic service.

But he was not always a man of speech, or mere oratory. His oratory was translated into action and he himself did not hesitate to abandon his office, throw himself upon the scene of some difficult situation, bringing a solution of the problem and usually a degree of peace to warring elements.

Visit to Ashe County
Such was his visit to Ashe county in June 1918. An alarming situation had been reported to the Adjutant General and the Governor by the Draft Board of the county. Deserters from the camp and draft evaders had banded themselves together in the mountains of Ashe, defying the federal officers while the county officials stood by unable or unwilling to meet the situation. There had been a battle on a public road in the night time when an officer sought to arrest a deserter whom he recognized. Reports to the Governor were that these men had fortified themselves in the hills, were making moonshine liquor, and terrorizing the peaceable mountain folk upon whom they depended for subsistence.

Adjutant General Lawrence W. Young was dispatched to Ashe to investigate. He conferred there with the leading men of Jefferson and West Jefferson and went back to Raleigh with the report that only by the use of force—and that too by a sizeable organization of militia or other officials could the evaders be brought to justice. That was the honest conviction of many of the patriotic men of Ashe county. But the governor had counseled peace and before he left

Ashe county for Raleigh, Adjutant General Young had sent envoys out to talk to fathers of some of the evaders, trying by peaceable means to bring them in.

Governor Bickett did not wait. He telegraphed instructions to Jefferson to call a meeting of Ashe county citizens in the court house at Jefferson on Saturday afternoon, June 25, with the announcement that the Governor would speak.

The Governor came. One of the first men he talked to was Green Ham, a deserter from Camp Sevier. Ham came into Jefferson alone upon the promise of immunity which General Young offered him. Young, fearless, intelligent, bemade a profound impression upon the Governor and agreed after a long talk with the Chief Executive to go back into the hills and carry the message of peace to others who had been misled who did not understand the purpose of the war, and who were the victims of vicious propaganda in circulation in the mountains.

To Save and Not Destroy
The Governor spoke at three o'clock in the Ashe county courthouse at Jefferson was filled with silent, brooding men of the mountains—fathers grand fathers, uncles and friends of the deserters in the hills.

"Men of the mountains," said the Governor, "I come to you today to save and not to destroy."

That was his opening remark. Then he talked of Ashe county, of North Carolina, of doing a man's share.

"It's my purpose in kindness and candor to lay before you the everlasting truth about this war and to strip naked in their ugliness the des that have been peddled out to these boys."

And he did. In an address of two hours, he told the story of the war and before he was half through the cold, crowd of mountaineers were cheering him wildly. When it was over they shook him by the hand and assured him that the wayward boys would come down from the hills, availing themselves of his offer to ask military authorities in camp to allow them immunity from the charge of desertion.

When he left Ashe county Sunday morning following, it was with the positive assurance that the Ashe county situation was clearing up. It did clear up. Those boys from the mountains came down in batches, surrendered themselves, went to camp and, according to records, made good soldiers.

Final report from the War Department on desertions and draft evasions in North Carolina this year, shows that Ashe county's record stands as one of the cleanest in the State.

Breaks Up Wake Mob
This episode in the administration of Governor Bickett, one of the high lights in his war record and the key

note of a policy he followed on other occasions, was characteristic of the man. It was the same spirit he manifested one night when he was summoned from his bed at the mansion to the Wake County courthouse where a mob had gathered, bent upon breaking into the stronghold and lynching Earl Neville, a negro held there charged with an infamous crime.

When the Governor reached the courthouse, the members of the mob, already having forced back the few policemen available—were pounding on the south door.

"I am the Governor of North Carolina," said the small, stout figure as he advanced down the little alley to the side entrance.

Pistols flashed in the air and he was warned to stop. But he kept talking, at the same time edging slowly up to the knot of men who were grouped about the door. Along side him a policeman moved forward slowly. Again he was warned, with a flash of revolvers.

"I'm not afraid of you. Are you afraid of me?" was his challenge.

There was disconcert in the crowd. The leader shouted that the Governor might come forward if the policemen were kept back. Forward the Governor went. On the steps of the jail he talked face to face to these men about the dignity of the law, the viciousness of mob rule, and the importance of allowing the courts to proceed in orderly fashion. He promised a special term of court, a speedy trial and immunity from arrest should they disperse immediately.

The offer was accepted in a shout of approval. Members of the mob slapped him on the back, fired a volley in the air and rushed for waiting automobiles.

It is not necessary to say that Governor Bickett made good his promise.

His Influence in State
To trace the influence of his four years upon the life of the State it would be necessary to follow the achievements of the various State Departments. His legislative records is a bare skeleton, but for the most part it must suffice.

His ambition to improve the condition of life in the rural sections of the State, to better the lot of the unfortunate in State institutions, to give the prisoners of the State a chance to remake their lives, and to promote the peaceable relations between the races by a more intelligent understanding of the negro's aspirations, and his needs, was never lost.

The State's motion picture service under the direction of the Division of School Extension of the Board of Education, the work of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare with the county welfare the State child welfare operations—all of this was close to his heart. Equally close was a desire to see fair play for the negro with an equal chance for the black man to be happy, to be protected, and to enjoy the benefits of civilization. He discouraged and discouraged all ideas of policies for the negro and preached to the race that the negro's

best friends is the white man.

His Pardon Record
His pardon record shows possibly the largest number of pardons of any Governor in the history of the State. But each case received its careful consideration and to each he put the test of the object of punishment and the duty of the State to the prisoner and to the society.

Early in his administration, he had a survey made of the prison and prison camps of the State, with an eye toward the discovery of men who had been forgotten, who had no friends and no money with which to seek pardon in the ordinary channels.

He found scores of them (forgotten men) and he turned them loose when their cases justified. He was criticized by some. But he never replied to the criticism. He took every occasion to let the prisoners know that before him they needed no paid advocate. He discouraged the appearance of lawyers and sought his course of action from the facts in the case, the conduct of the prisoner and the recommendations of court officials.

He didn't pardon all who applied. Most folks never knew those who were declined. It was Governor Cameron Morrison recently who had occasion to estimate the number of refusals in cases which were coming again before him.

"I never knew that Bickett refused so many pardons," he exclaimed in surprise.

Governor Bickett never came to the point of advocating the abolition of capital punishment. He commuted a number of death sentences during his administration but his commutation was usually to thirty years' imprisonment. He was unalterably opposed to the life sentence.

"When the State takes away a man's liberty, it has no right to take away his hope," he declared repeatedly, holding out to these men, through the classification system of the prison, the method of compensation, and the rewards for good conduct, an opportunity to re-instate themselves eventually in the ranks of decent society which had, for its own protection and their own good, temporarily banished them.

His Industrial Policy

Industrial disputes, several of which called for interference by the State and the use of the militia to keep the peace, figured in the latter part of the Bickett administration. It was on May 20, 1919 that he made the pronouncement that guided him in all such controversies. It was on the occasion of a cotton mill labor difficulty in Charlotte and surrounding territory in which the cotton mill owners had denied their employees the right of union membership, and had refused to recognize the principle of collective bargaining or to deal with their employees collectively.

There was a call for troops. Instead the Governor, while holding troops in readiness, issued a statement in which he upheld the right of labor to organize, maintained the justice of collective bargaining, but at the same

time held that while capital has no right to dictate that all employees must belong to the union.

"The right of labor to organize" said Governor Bickett, "cannot be challenged but I am persuaded that the kind of organization that both capital and labor now maintain can never bring about that confidence and good will between employer and employee that is essential to the success and happiness of both. Labor and capital are in separate camps, viewing each other with suspicion and distrust. Such an attitude spells failure. The only hope for better conditions, for enduring peace is for labor and capital to stand together in a spirit of mutual helpfulness. There must be co-operation and not competition between the men who furnish the capital and the executive ability and the men who furnish the labor."

"No mill owner," he added "has the right to say that a man shall not work because he belongs to a union and no laborer has the right to say that a man shall not work because he does not belong to a labor union."

That strike was settled agreeably to both the employers and employees. Then followed at intervals a series of such disputes in which Governor Bickett took a part, fighting in each case for the recognition of the right of labor to organize and to bargain collectively. He went to High Point, personally, and made his fight, winning for the operatives of cotton mills and furniture factories a contract recognizing in effect their right to work as members of the union, and to bargain collectively. A similar strike in Albemarle was settled without the Governor's presence. One in the Raleigh Mills here was settled with the signing of an agreement proposed by the Governor, similar in text to the High Point document.

At Landis, however, Governor Bickett was called upon in a strike and picketing by employees of the Linn Milling Inc., and the Corriher Mills to stand up for the other side of his program, which assured employers freedom to employ whom they would with out union interference. A personal visit an address to the workers was enough to clear up a situation that promised violence and bloodshed.

Goes Out of Office

With the inauguration of Cameron Morrison, Governor of North Carolina in January, 1921, Governor Bickett stepped out of office, apparently in better health than when he entered it. He received the acclaim of friends as the only Governor of the State of recent administrations at least, to retire from office in fit state of health. He had been careful of it during his stay in the executive mansion, had hunted much in the open, had taken joy in recreation after the severe demands of his office, and had found his chief pleasure in going about the State among his friends.

He formed a law partnership in Raleigh with Attorney General J. S. Manning and Garland S. Ferguson, purchased a handsome comfortable home in Hayes Barton and was beginning to

prosper in a renewed law practice and the reestablishment of life as a private citizen when the stroke came.

He was not a strong sectarian but was a man of abiding religious conviction, a member of the Episcopal church, and a member of the Masonic fraternity.

The foregoing touches some of the high spots, some of the achievements of Governor Bickett as a public official. It takes no account of those intimate glimpses of the man which his friends caught as he went about the business of promoting the welfare of the State. It takes no account of the intensely human, genial disposition of the man, of that splendid comradeship which existed between Governor Bickett and Mrs. Bickett of that beautiful home life which included in its circle the only son William.

It leaves much unrecorded. It relates much in a sketchy inadequate sort of way. But his place in State annals is not dependent upon this imperfect sketch nor upon any record yet to be written. It may be read in the statute books of the State, while the institutions for the misguided and unfortunate, the strengthened hands of public health workers and educators are eloquent with the evidences of his influence. There was hardly a phase of State life he did not touch and the sum total of this influence will accord him just place in the long line of distinguished North Carolinians.

No Worms in a Healthy Child
All children troubled with Worms have an unhealthy color, which indicates poor blood, and as a rule, there is more or less stomach disturbance. GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC gives regularly for two or three weeks will enrich the blood, improve the digestion, and act as a General Strengthening Tonic to the whole system. Nature will then throw off or dispel the worms, and the child will be in perfect health. Pleasant to take. 60c per bottle.

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