

WEATHER
Fair tonight and probably Thursday. Warmer Thursday. Moderate to fresh winds.

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THOMAS WALTER BICKETT DEAD

PASSED AWAY AT 9:15 THIS MORNING

Former Governor of North Carolina Did Not Regain Consciousness Following Stroke on Tuesday Night.

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 28 (By The Associated Press)—Former Governor Bickett died at 9:15 this morning.

Governor Bickett did not regain consciousness after the stroke of paralysis with which he was seized last night.

The body of former Governor Bickett will lie in state in the rotunda of the State Capitol Thursday morning from nine to eleven o'clock. Then funeral services will be held at Christ Episcopal church, Raleigh, at 11:30 o'clock, after which the body will be taken to Governor Bickett's old home, Louisburg, for burial. All State offices are closed today, and all flags are at half mast.

Following is an appreciation of Governor Bickett written by Dr. E. C. Brooks for Carter's Weekly during the Bickett administration:

Thomas Walter Bickett was born in Monroe, Union County, N. C., February 28th, 1869. He was the oldest of four children. But his father died when he was only thirteen years old and much of the responsibility that had rested upon the father was now laid upon the eldest son. Does the weight of responsibility stimulate the desire to become responsible and serviceable? Who can tell? Some force was at work; and young Bickett, completing the work of the Monroe high school, entered Wake Forest College in 1886.

Dr. R. T. Vann, secretary of the State Educational Board of the Baptist Church, was living at Wake Forest at the time, and he says that when the Union County lad entered college there was "nothing in particular to distinguish him from the others. Indeed, it was several months before I knew he was there at all, so quiet was he and so unobtrusive." But Dr. E. W. Paschal, of the Wake Forest College faculty says: "In his Latin and Greek his average was about 95." The records show that he more than maintained this record in these subjects and in English. In mathematics his Freshman record was about equal to his Latin record, but in his last year mathematics drops to 88 while Latin climbs up to 96. In the languages he ranked high but in mathematics and the sciences his place was down the line.

Writing further of his career at Wake Forest Dr. Vann says that in his first year, "I saw no reason to anticipate any unusual career for him," and it was not until his senior year that the community began to focus attention upon the Union County boy. In that year he was one of the victorious debaters in a very spirited contest; and he seems to be remembered by his argument in that debate. After twenty-five years, however, his friends still see in him many of the same characteristics that attracted the attention of teachers and schoolmates while he was a college student—a good command of language, strong, analytical power, an unbounded grace of humor, intense earnestness and a genuine sympathy for all classes of people. A college diploma never contains an estimate of those qualities. But such as it does contain were rolled up and laid away and forgotten until the paragrapher searched them out after a generation.

The young college graduate left the "outgrown shell" of academics in the spring of 1890. He had to enter another world and build anew. His first work, it is said, was that of teacher in Marion. The minutes of the Winston graded school board of September 5, 1890, however, contains the following:

"The application of T. W. Bickett, of Monroe, N. C., was now presented and upon the recommendation of Prof. Blair, Prof. Bickett was elected professor of the seventh grade at a salary of \$200 per year." It would be interesting to know how that salary compares today with that of the



THOMAS W. BICKETT

teacher of the same grade.

"Professor" Bickett taught in Winston until the close of the school year in 1893. His uncle, D. A. Covington, of Monroe, was one of the leading lawyers of the State and under him the young "professor" began the study of law. He completed his course in the University Law School and in the fall of 1893 he dropped the professional title, opened an office in Danbury, N. C., and became T. W. Bickett, Esq., Attorney at Law. He practiced in Stokes and surrounding counties until the spring of 1895 when he moved his office to Louisburg, N. C., and for twenty-two years he has been a citizen of that community.

Dr. Vann's words, "I saw no reason to anticipate any unusual career for him" might be said of the earlier years of his career as a lawyer. Those excepting of course, his intimate friends, who are now trying to recall the successive stages of his growth, since his graduation, skip from 1890 to 1907, when he was elected to the General Assembly from Franklin County—seventeen years of growth, silent growth. His college career was a period of silent growth and then a speech made him famous in academic circles. His career in the General Assembly is not referred to as something unique. But from that plane he stepped into State politics and in the Democratic Convention of 1908 while the captain and kings were deciding the issues, this man of silent growth appeared in the arena and made another speech. He was nominating a man for Governor who could not possibly win. That speech made him a State figure and the most agreeable phase of that memorable convention was that speech.

Mr. Bickett was not a candidate in that convention for any office. But a contest between long standing candidates for the Attorney Generalship ended by dropping the contestants and nominating T. W. Bickett, Esq., Attorney at Law, Louisburg, N. C. A great speech had made him famous and the private lawyer became the people's attorney.

Eight more years of silent growth, a period in which his public services were recognized as being of value, and then came the beginning of a new era. Most people who watched the last campaign said that he would be nominated, but no one could point to any specific thing that made him greatly superior to any of his rivals. They simply felt that he would win. His growth seems to be so symmetrical that there is no single side to him, and no alliance with any particular interest. Therefore, there was no specific cause why he should win.

In his campaign, however, he set a new standard. He discussed State issues without bitterness and even his political opponents could find no personal abuse in his remarks, nor ridicule in his argument, and the best evidence in his argument, and the best evidence of his fairness was

NO AGREEMENT ON SUBMARINES

Washington, Dec. 28 (By The Associated Press)—Hope of agreement to limit submarine tonnage was declared abandoned at the meeting of the arms conference naval committee today. France's demand for minimum submarine tonnage of 90,000 tons, the delegates declared, closed the door to any agreement. The American compromise proposal was rejected completely by the French.

REFINED SUGAR BREAKS BELOW FIVE CENT LEVEL

New York, Dec. 28 (By The Associated Press)—Refined sugar broke below the five cent level today for the first time in several years.

KILLED STEPFATHER AND BURNED HIS BODY

McRae, Ga., Dec. 28 (By The Associated Press)—Elisha and Dave Bishop, brothers, were arrested here today charged with murder and arson in connection with the burning of the home of their stepfather, W. J. Knight. It is alleged that they murdered him and cremated his body.

SEARCH FOR BANDITS

Kansas City, Dec. 28 (By The Associated Press)—The police are searching for two bandits who looted the express car of the Missouri-Pacific today and shot the messenger.

LIKED HER COOKING LEFT HER A FORTUNE

Philadelphia, Dec. 28 (By The Associated Press)—Because he liked her cooking, Samuel W. Ihling left Mrs. Anna Souder, his housekeeper, \$60,000 and an automobile in his will.

INSURANCE MAN KILLED

New York, Dec. 28 (By The Associated Press)—Three men attacked and killed Charles Hayes, insurance salesman, in East New York today, and made their escape.

NOT GO TO PINEHURST

Washington, Dec. 28 (By The Associated Press)—President Harding will probably abandon his plan to go to Pinehurst, North Carolina, and the cabinet will meet as usual Monday.

Blue Ribbon Factory Robbed By Bandits

Five Motor Trucks Carry Off Whiskey Worth Thirty Thousand Dollars

Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 28 (By The Associated Press)—Five motor trucks loaded with armed men swooped down on the Blue Ribbon Distillery here today, locked up the two guards and escaped with whiskey worth \$30,000.

Women Celebrate Wilson's Birthday

New York, Dec. 28 (By The Associated Press)—Women from all parts of the country are here today to celebrate Woodrow Wilson's birthday and plan to honor the former President through a permanent foundation campaign, for funds, which opens January 15th.

Spend Millions For Toys And Games

New York, Dec. 28 (By The Associated Press)—Over \$100,000,000 was spent by the American people for toys and games during the last year, the National City Bank estimates.

a note of congratulations from his Republican opponent, Hon. F. A. Linney.

On January 11, 1917, he was inaugurated Governor, and on that occasion he delivered the third epoch-making speech of his life. The other two gave no index as to what his subsequent acts would be. In fact, they had nothing to do with his own career. The third one, however, outlined the future direction of the State's progress and what he as Governor would undertake to do. His growth can no longer be silent; it must be made in public, and the public will mark the stages. It was a great speech. Will he be a great Governor? We shall see.

Lively Basketball Game Tonight

A lively game of basketball is scheduled for tonight at the Y. M. C. A. between the high school alumni team of Elizabeth City and the high school alumni team of Edenton.

The game will start promptly at eight o'clock and it is hoped that a good crowd will be there to cheer Elizabeth City stars who have been winners in the past and who expect to break all records tonight.

In order to defray the expenses of the Edenton team admission of ten and 20 cents will be charged.

Tuesday Night Was Bad On Auto Lights

And Recorder's Court Wednesday Morning Was Filled With Anxious Offenders

The Wednesday morning session of recorder's court here was a record-breaker for cases involving the violation of the laws requiring certain lights on automobiles after night-fall. Of ten persons arrested for such violation, three were found guilty, one was continued for further evidence, and six were acquitted.

Noah Bright, the first offender called before the court, admitted that he did not know how long his rear light had been out of commission, and was required to pay the costs of the case. Mr. Bright was also arrested on a charge of operating his car without the proper license. He testified that he had knocked it off the back of his car when backing out of his yard, and had found the license in the yard the next morning. He was found not guilty on the latter charge.

M. L. Temple, arrested on the way from the W. H. Weatherly & Co. store on Water street Wednesday night, as he was driving in a car belonging to one of Mr. Weatherly's salesmen, was released. Mr. Weatherly testified that the salesman left for Roanoke Island Tuesday without telling anyone that he had left the automobile at the store, and that he himself had Temple take the car home after he discovered that it was there. The car was not properly lighted, but Recorder Spence ruled that court action was not justified by reason of the circumstances surrounding the affair.

Sam Hastings, in court on the same charge, submitted the case, and paid the cost of the hearing.

Ray Toxey, haled before the court on a charge of operating his car with an inadequate rear light, was able to prove that he had a light, though a dim one which did not conform with the law requiring that such a light be plainly visible for a distance of fifty feet. He agreed to have a better light put in, and was found not guilty.

Noah Garrett, Jr., upon a charge of running his automobile with no rear light, testified that he had his lights fixed last Saturday, and that they ought to have been on. He testified that the light had been working properly earlier in the evening and was found not guilty.

Tommie Sanders, arrested because one of his headlights was missing, submitted, and was required to pay the costs of the case.

J. D. Freeman, local jitney driver, up for failure to display a rear light as required by law, testified that it was burning when he brought his wife from the country shortly after nightfall. He had been arrested by Officer Roughton, and Mr. Roughton corroborated his further testimony that the light came back on when he shook it. He was found not guilty. Parker Morgan, up on the same count, entered a plea of not guilty. He told that the rear light was burning when he left home, but was without a witness by whom he declared that he could prove the statement. The case was continued to Thursday morning.

Noah Seymour, arrested by his father, Officer Seymour, for driving his car with a headlight missing, was able to prove that the headlight came on as soon as he tightened the connection, and was released.

"Well, you won't get me in court any time soon," said Robert Jennings jokingly to Officer Seymour Tuesday night. Five minutes later Jennings passed the policeman on Main street with no rear light burning on his car, and was arrested. He told the court that he hadn't pushed his switch far enough over when he turned on his lights, and was able to prove that the light burned all right as soon as he adjusted the switch properly. He was found not guilty.

Will Harding's Gospel Make Convert of Debs?

Administration Tried Unique Experiment And Imposed No Conditions On Socialist Agitator In The Hope That He Would Reciprocate

By DAVID LAWRENCE
(Copyright 1921 by The Advance)

Washington, Dec. 27.—Eugene V. Debs has left behind here a trail of mingled emotions. The administration which set him free is somewhat sadder and wiser this morrow morn.

For both President Harding and Attorney-General Daugherty, who have tried their gospel of "understanding" in trying to convert Debs to a life of peace instead of agitation, are not so sure that they have succeeded. Their disposition is to say no more about the case and to hope that Debs will not abuse the liberty that has been given him by becoming a center for more agitation, a rallying device for radicalism and professional exploitation of the working classes.

The Harding administration tried a unique experiment—one that has been beclouded somewhat in mystery because of the very delicacy of the undertaking. It is a fact that Debs could have had a pardon long ago if he would have agreed to withdraw the views he expressed against this country's entrance into the war. It is a fact that he never would have been convicted if he had not made a fiery speech in the court room before the jury, going even further than ever before in his denunciation of the war and his threats to do all in his power to prevent America's success by discouraging enlistments.

For months the Harding administration has been besieged on every hand to release Debs. First it was the radical group who believed that Debs was wrongly imprisoned and of course had a right to be set free. Then there developed a sentimental movement based mostly on arguments of sympathy for the advanced age of the socialist leader. Liberals who themselves didn't agree with Debs' extreme philosophy joined in the petition for his release. Attorney General Daugherty tried several months ago by a personal talk with Debs in Washington to convince the socialist leader of the error of his views but he failed. The administration was regretful that it could not then have brought Debs to its own viewpoint and have announced his release. Finally, the sentimentality of the Christmas season gave the final impetus to the movement for the release of Debs and the administration yielded.

But in deciding to give Debs his liberty, the President and the Attorney General knew from experience with radicals that it would be a mistake to impose conditions on Debs—to threaten him or use coercion in trying to enforce silence. The answer of the radical is that he will never yield to coercion and that every man has liberty of action and of thought. There is a conflict of statement as to whether Debs came to Washington voluntarily or involuntarily but the fact is he was given transportation to the national capital and arrangements were made in advance to give him an audience at both the White House and at the Department of Justice.

Mr. Harding had never seen Debs. He had been told for months of the wonderful personality of the aged socialist. He really wanted to meet him and talk with him. The President wondered how a man of such remarkable personality could hold such subversive views. The interview was a pleasant one. Mr. Harding had nothing to say afterwards. The socialist leader made no promises as to his future attitude. The administration merely expressed its hopes that he would not lend himself to exploitation commercially or otherwise. It remains to be seen whether Debs will turn to the life of agitation on which he has subsisted for a generation or whether he will reciprocate the kindness of the administration by keeping quiet. It involves a delicate point. If Debs had been formally requested to remain al-

Drank 25 Or 30 Bottles Of Pineapple Flavoring

That on Saturday he drank between four and five dollars worth of pineapple flavoring, or between 25 and 30 fifteen-cent bottles, which he bought from Mrs. Mary Mettrey, who runs a small fruit store on Poin-dexter street, was the testimony of Charlie Crank, witness in a case in recorder's court here Wednesday morning in which the Mettrey woman was charged with selling for beverage purposes mixtures containing alcohol and various narcotic drugs prohibited by law. Crank declared that he imbibed four or five bottles of the stuff in the store, and said that he went back for more every time he got hold of a dollar, usually purchasing half a dozen bottles at the time.

Levy Crank, next on the stand, testified that he had been buying strawberry and pineapple extracts, paregoric and Bateman's Drops from Mrs. Mettrey for beverage purposes for more than a year. He said, however, that he had purchased none from her in the last few weeks. Officer Anderson told the court that he had warned the Mettreys that they must not sell alcoholic and narcotic preparations to people who were apparently likely to drink them. Trannie Crank, who runs a shoe repair shop next to the Mettrey store, testified that he had seen more than a hundred bottles lying in the vacant space between the two establishments, but that he could not state whence they had come.

Pete Mettrey, now employed in the Mettrey store, admitted that he sold perhaps as many as a dozen bottles of pineapple flavoring to Charlie Crank last Saturday, and on the basis of the evidence Trial Justice Spence fined the Mettrey woman ten dollars and costs.

Team Thanks Donators

The Elizabeth City football team desires to thank the merchants and others of this city who generously donated toward the transportation and other expenses of the Monday afternoon football game here with Washington.

IMPORTANT MEETING TONIGHT

There will be an important meeting of the officers and teachers of Blackwell Memorial Sunday school tonight at 7:30 in the Sunday school auditorium. All are asked to be present.

lent, if he had been told his release had been granted on condition that he stop further agitation, the probabilities are that all the emotions of the socialist leader would have risen up and a proud refusal would have resulted. But the administration does not put its hopes on that ground. It has not imposed any conditions. It feels that it has absolutely yielded to the movement for the release of Debs on sentimental grounds—it has not receded from the viewpoint expressed by the Federal courts in ordering his imprisonment. Indeed, the President and the Attorney General feel that they have risked public criticism but have done a human thing. Will Debs, retaining his views too, do a human thing for the administration which gave him his liberty? Will he restrain himself and cease preaching doctrines which his critics say would mean the overthrow of the Government by physical force?

The administration's attitude today was to let the matter rest and to ask the country to witness whether it pays to be gracious to a man who believes in undermining the existing social and economic order which, for the time being at least, is the view of the majority.