

THE FRANKLIN TIMES

A. F. JOHNSON, Editor and Manager

One Year \$1.50
Eight Months 1.00
Six Months .75
Four Months .50

Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

Entered at the Post Office at Louisburg, N. C., as second class matter.

Senator Penrose died the past week.

Raleigh is having quite a sensation in the inquest over the death of Hamilton.

The new fire engine purchased by Louisburg is quite a nice piece of machinery and has possibly already saved its cost many times in the incendiary fires this week.

THOMAS WALTER BICKETT.

The citizens of Louisburg were deeply shocked on Wednesday of last week when the news of the death of Hon. Thomas Walter Bickett, former Governor of North Carolina, and a former citizen of Louisburg, was received from Raleigh, where he breathed his last at his home there.

Governor Bickett will be greatly missed by a large class of North Carolinians whose position in life caused them to seek the counsel and assistance of a friend who could see their troubles and was willing to contribute to their relief.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO SUBMIT TO A VOTE THE QUESTION OF SALARIES OF OFFICERS OF FRANKLIN COUNTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That at the next general election to be held in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Twenty-two there shall be submitted to the voters of Franklin County the question "Shall the Officers of Franklin County continue upon Salaries or shall they be put upon a fee basis?"

Section 2. That if a majority of the votes cast in said election shall be "For Salaries" then the existing provisions of law relating to the compensation of the officers of Franklin County and their deputies shall remain in force and effect.

Section 3. That this Act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

MR. WILSON WINS SUIT.

Mr. A. W. Wilson won the suit of clothes given away by the Service Shop on Christmas eve to the one holding the lucky number. Three drawings were made before the lucky number was claimed.

Thomas Walter Bickett Record of His Service

By FRANK SMYTHURST

Thomas Walter Bickett was born in Monroe, February 23, 1869, the son of Thomas W. and Mary A. Bickett. Having received his early training in the Monroe High School, he began his studies at Wake Forest College in 1886 leaving that institution with an A. B. degree in 1890, and an unusual record as a college leader and debater, popular and able.

For two years thereafter, the future War Governor of North Carolina taught school in Winston-Salem, going to the University of North Carolina from Winston-Salem in 1892 to study law after preparation in the office of his uncle, D. A. Covington. It was in 1893 that he received his license and first began the practice of law in Monroe. But his practice in his home town was short. After six months he removed to Danbury where he practiced for a year, going from there to Louisburg in 1895. In Louisburg he was married to Miss Fannie Yarborough on November 28, 1895 and it was while he was engaged in practicing law there that he began that active participation in State affairs that reached its climax in his election and four years of service as Governor of North Carolina.

In Louisburg, he was scutor member of the firm of Bickett, White & Malone and a prominent figure in the politics of the county and State. In 1907, he represented his county in the lower House of the General Assembly and in 1908 was nominated and elected Attorney General of North Carolina.

His first nomination to State office was in the 1908 Democratic Convention in Charlotte. Governor Bickett, even when known for his rich humor, and his effective oratory made the speech putting in nomination Ashley Horne for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. Horne was defeated but Bickett stepped to the front as one of the outstanding State figures and in the same convention was nominated Attorney General.

Not Sudden Leap

It was not a sudden leap into prominence. His life in Louisiana had been one of steady growth in which he established himself as a reader at the bar, a splendid advocate, a wise counsellor and a resourceful friend. His election as a member of the legislature in 1907, the first time he had allowed his name to be used for public office had been followed by sixty days of distinguished service in which he gathered and fought for measures to regulate lobbying, to give the State an equal number of challenges with the defendant, to allow the drawing of a jury from another county where there would be trouble in getting a jury.

So it was that he carried with him into the office of Attorney General in 1909 a fine legal and legislative experience. It was the beginning of eight years of training for the governorship. Here, he came into close and intimate touch with all State departments. He learned their limitations, understood their needs, interpreted the laws governing them. On all sides, his common sense, breadth of understanding and ready sympathies with any movement for the promotion of the good of the people brought to him a tremendous reaction of friendship, and appreciation.

As Attorney General, he was more than a prosecutor of State cases. Repeatedly, his interpretation of the law was embodied in Supreme Court opinions, and in no case was he wanting in that sound common sense that found its expression in illuminating reference or pointed application.

Before Federal Tribunals

Before the Supreme Court of the United States, he appeared in notable cases, prominent among them being the "Red C. Oil Case" in the summer of 1911 when he made war was characterized as one of the three best speeches heard by that court in twenty years, and the Tennessee-North Carolina Boundary case which was decided in favor of North Carolina. In the case which went to the Supreme Court involving repudiated North Carolina Carpet bag bonds which found their way into the possession of Cuba, Attorney General Bickett prepared a brief which, it is believed, for all time answers the question of the validity of those vitiated obligations. Before he appeared before the United States Court with his argument, the action was withdrawn and the State was given assurances that the attitude of the State would be respected by Cuba.

In addition, he was an able advocate for North Carolina interests in freight rate cases before the Interstate Commerce for shippers and receivers of freight. No less valuable were his services as counsel in the three months hearing before the Justice Freight Rate Commission in 1914 out of which came a settlement highly satisfactory to the people of the State.

It is a notable fact that the State of North Carolina was victorious in every case in which Bickett as attorney general appeared before a federal tribunal.

It was during these eight years he was called upon to speak in virtually every county in the State. Conventions, school rallies, commencements, fraternal gatherings, good roads assemblies—all of them sought him. In fact, some of his political opponents made frequently the admission that he could not be beaten for office, because he had spoken in every school district in North Carolina. Of course, that was exaggeration but his wide acquaintance, his thorough appreciation

of the conditions of life in all parts of North Carolina, and his ready sympathies with the problems of folk everywhere assured his nomination for the Governorship from the day he announced his candidacy.

It was a stiff fight. E. L. Daughtridge was his Democratic opponent in the primary. But Bickett won by a handsome plurality. In the election that followed, he conducted his own kind of campaign, defeating Frank Linney after a canvass of the State that for cleanness and high standard of political appeal had not been assured in the State.

His Statement of Policy

When he took over the reins of State government in 1909, he outlined his personal political attitude to some of his friends in this statement:

"As long as I am Governor of North Carolina, I am going to be Governor. I am not going to look over the fence or through the crack."

"When it is over," he added sometime when friends talked to him about candidacy for other offices. "I'm going back to practice law, to raise roses and tomatoes."

His inaugural address was a pronouncement of a program most of which he saw written into law in his first General Assembly, richly supplemented in later legislative enactments. "I have no genius for destruction," he declared in the opening words of his inaugural. Hundreds of times during his administration the thought crept out in his utterances.

"For four years," he went on laying down the general platform of his administration. "I want capital and labor, learning and art, and the life and letter of the law to be devoted to making every acre and every stream every human and every mechanical unit in the commonwealth be and do its level best."

"The first and dearest work of this administration," he proclaimed, "will be a supreme effort to translate the tenants of the State into landlords. Here and now, in the presence of God and these witnesses, I consecrate myself and all the power and prestige of my office to this endeavor. I shall neither rest nor permit the State to rest until every honest, industrious and frugal man who tills the soil, has a decent chance to own it."

His Own Valuation

Four years later—on Thursday, January 6, 1921, to be exact—when he stood before the joint session of the House and the Senate to deliver his farewell message, he gave an account of his stewardship.

"The sole claim that I make for myself and the woman who has walked and worked by my side," said he, "is that in peace and in war we have diligently endeavored to use our position as a lever to lift the State to higher levels and as a light to lead the people into more excellent ways."

It was then that he placed his own valuation upon the achievements of the administration. It was not revaluation, the earnest endeavor to make the tax books speak the truth, not the strengthening of the public health work, not the extension of education through the six months school, not the inauguration of a Statewide system of highways, not the reform in prison conditions and in the treatment of prisoners, not the improvement of rural living conditions, not the endeavor to maintain just relations between capital and labor, not the promotion of more friendly relations between the races—it was none of these things that he stressed.

"I shall carry with me from the office many sweet and glorious memories, but the one memory that will forever outshine them all is of the eighty thousand sons of Carolina who at their country's call marched forth to fight and die for God and humanity," he declared. "Let me forget, I write it down in his last chapter and certify to all the generations that the one stupendous immortal thing connected with this administration is the part North Carolina played in the World War."

"Everything done in the field of taxation, of education, of agriculture, or mercy to the fallen, of the physical and social regeneration of our people—all of it is but a snowflake upon the river in the gigantic and glorified presence of the eighty thousand men who plunged into the blood red tide of war."

"Of these eighty thousand men, two thousand three hundred and thirty-eight went west—far beyond the sunset's radiant glow. I shall always be grateful to remember that I was sometime their captain and always their comrade in The Great Adventure; and my fervent prayer is that when my summons comes and for me

"The sunset gates unbar I shall see Them Waiting Stand And White against the evening star "The welcome of their beckoning hand"

The title of the State's War Governor was his right and his pride. And well he earned it.

His Legislative Record

But aside from his war activities, his influence upon legislation during the four years of his administration was tremendous. During this time, as he stated in his farewell message, he had recommended forty-eight specific measures to the General Assembly and forty of the forty-eight were enacted into law.

His first legislature saw sixteen of the outstanding recommendations of his inaugural written upon the statute books. The sixteen included an act re-submitting the Constitutional amendment calling for a six months public school term; an act submitting constitutional amendment exempting from taxation notes and mortgages given for the purchase price of a home; the crop

lien act designed to give the small farmer a chance "to break out of jail"; an act providing for the teaching of agriculture in every rural public school; an act to encourage installation of running water, electric lights and telephone in country homes and communities by furnishing expert advice free of cost; an act to make the school house the social center and to provide wholesome entertainment in country school houses; an act providing for medical inspection of all school children, attending public schools; an act forbidding the sale or advertisement for sale of medicines purporting to cure incurable diseases; an act providing for the improvement of highways by the expenditure of the automobile tax for this purpose; an act providing for absentee voting; an act providing for the appointment of state tax commission; an act consolidating the management of the three hospitals for the insane; an act limiting chain gang sentence to five years; an act authorizing the construction of sanitary quarters for convicts on the state farm; and the Turner for prison clarification and compensation for prisoners which was in entire harmony with the Governor's recommendation.

Second Legislature His second legislative experience in 1919 was no less fruitful or measures designed for the upbuilding of the State. Among the notable pieces of legislation which he endorsed and which became law were:

Ratification of the Federal prohibition amendment; the adoption of the budget system; the revaluation act; the establishment of machinery for a six months' school term; provision for operation upon incurable lunatics and imbeciles in State institutions and physical examination of school children; the establishment of sanitary privies; the provision for co-operating with the Federal government for the suppression of vice and the prevention of diseases incident to vice; the establishment of State warehouses; the establishment of a unified State and county system of social welfare work and the creation of juvenile courts; and the requirement for county maintenance of roads constructed by bond issue.

The special session of 1920, called by Governor Bickett to put the final touches on the State's tax system under revaluation and to act on the surface amendment to the United States constitution, stood by the Governor's pledge in the first but in the second it would not follow him in his change of heart toward suffrage as a thing inevitable. However, it did re-submit an income tax amendment to the State constitution, made a start toward the segregation of State and local taxation in accord with his inaugural pronouncement, provided machinery for the increase of teachers' salary in accordance with a new classification, authorized the appointment of a commission to prepare a workmen's compensation act, and authorized another commis-

WE THANK YOU

For the liberal patronage of our many friends and customers for the past twelve months, which serves to assure us of the fact that we have been the means of saving you many dollars on your purchases. We will enlarge our efforts in the coming year to be of even a greater service to the people of Franklin County.

C. C. HUDSON CO.

LOUISBURG.

(WIDE-AWAKE MERCHANT)

NORTH CAROLINA

To My Friends and Customers

This is wishing you a Happy and Prosperous Year for 1922, and don't forget I am at the same place doing the best I can. So come to see me when in need of anything in my line.

Yours truly,

J. W. PERRY

NASH STREET

LOUISBURG, N. C.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

When you run an ad in THE TIMES we know that you want a good ad, nicely displayed. That is the only kind of an ad we want to give you, but it takes a little time to set good ads—so get out of that habit of waiting until the last day before even thinking about your ad.

THE FRANKLIN TIMES should be in your home. If you are not a subscriber, be one. Send in your subscription and help us to boost for a better community.

FORECLOSURE SALE OF LAND By virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed of trust dated Feb. 13, 1919, and recorded in

the Registry of Franklin County in Book 224, page 193, made by R. G. Person and wife to Wm. H. Ruffin, Trustee, default having been made in the payment of the debt thereby secured, and demand for foreclosure having been made by the holder of said debt upon said trustee, the undersigned will, on

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 1922, at about the hour of noon, at the Court House door in Louisburg, N. C., offer for sale at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash, the lands conveyed in said deed of trust and there described as follows: A one-third undivided interest, subject to the dower of Mrs. A. Person, in the lands of the late Wm. A. Person, more particularly defined as follows: Bounded on the North by the lands of Gillis Ayscue and Geo. and Wm. Ball, on the East by the lands of Ben Harris and Wm. T. and Matthew M. Person, formerly the Sam J. Person tract, on the South by the Carr lands and on the West by the "Branch Tract" formerly owned by J. M. Allen now Camp Lumber Co., containing by estimations 738 acres, more or less. This Jan. 6, 1922.

WM. H. RUFFIN, Trustee.