

The Mount Airy News.

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EX-GOVERNOR BICKETT DIES AT RALEIGH HOME

State's War Governor Passes Peacefully With His Family Near

Raleigh, Dec. 28.—Thomas Walter Bickett, for four years governor of North Carolina, died at his home in this city at 9:15 this morning, about twelve hours after he was stricken by paralysis.

Last night former Governor Bickett prepared supper for Mrs. Bickett, who is confined to her room by illness, ate a light supper, then returned to her room. While sitting by the fire, his head began to ache, whereupon he went to his room to rest for a few minutes.

About five minutes later Mrs. Bickett heard her husband scream that his head was almost killing him. He returned to her room, fell across the bed and lapsed into unconsciousness. Mrs. Bickett telephoned her cousin, Miss Penelope Davis, who, with Dr. Rogers and Rev. W. F. Peale, hurried to the Bickett home. Examination revealed no sign of stroke, but strong restoratives were administered and a slight pulse was developed. However, the former governor never regained consciousness. The entire right side was paralyzed. The end came peacefully this morning. Mrs. Bickett, their one son, William Bickett, relatives and intimate friends were at the bedside.

Immediately after announcement of the former governor's death, as made the flags on all state buildings were placed at half mast and the state offices were closed.

Thomas Walter Bickett was born in Monroe, Union county, on February 28, 1869, the son of T. W. and Mrs. A. Bickett. He was the oldest of four children. His father died when he was 13 years old. After attending the public schools at Monroe, Bickett worked his way through Wake Forest college, where he graduated in the class of 1890. For two years he taught school, then he entered the University of North Carolina to study law, passing the bar in 1893. For a number of years he practiced law in Monroe and Louisburg.

In 1907 Mr. Bickett was elected a member of the state house of representatives. His entry into the legislature signaled the beginning of his political career. In 1908 he was elected attorney general of North Carolina, serving for eight years in that office.

Mr. Bickett in 1916 was elected governor over E. L. Doughtice, of Rocky Mount. He was known as North Carolina's war governor, his patriotic service during the war conflict evoking the admiration of political enemies. He was recognized as one of the ablest public speakers in the state. During the war he visited various sections of the country in the interest of liberty loan drives and other war activities. His speech at Charlotte in 1908, denouncing Ashley Horne for governor, was considered one of the most powerful addresses ever heard in the commonwealth and was an important factor in his rise in the political arena.

In Democratic campaigns the speeches of Mr. Bickett were considered of great value to that party. He was a ready and resourceful debater.

Since retiring as governor last January Mr. Bickett had devoted himself to law practice and he is in his office yesterday. He was associated in the practice of law with Judge James S. Manning, of Ralch, and Gerland S. Ferguson, of Genesboro.

Many friends called at the Bickett home last night and today hundreds of messages of condolence were received by Mrs. Bickett from every section of the state as well as from other states.

Hides Will be on Free List in New Tariff Act

Washington, Dec. 28.—Some manufacturers appearing today before the senate finance committee are given to understand by Acting Chairman McCumber that hides will be on the free list when the permanent tariff bill is reported to the senate.

Charles E. Jones, of Whitman, Mass., representing the National Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' association of the United States, declared that the result of a study on hides would be to place control of the shoe industry into the hands of the big meat packers without benefit being derived by the hide raisers. Senators apparently do not agree with this conclusion.

SERGEANT TELLS STORY OF THE LOST BATTALION

While in Charlotte He Tells of the Hell of Fire Which Men of This Outfit Were Subjected to

"To have been a sergeant in the famous Lost Battalion, of New York, and surrounded by Germans for five days was the experience of Michael Markel, owner and director of the well known Markel's orchestra, which is to play at the Myers Park country club Thursday night," says the Charlotte News.

"Mr. Markel, whose home is in New York, was a personal friend of Major Whittlesey, who commanded the Lost Battalion, and who committed suicide recently. He was side by side with Major Whittlesey in the tragedy which overtook his battalion in France, and his description of the event is graphic. He won a citation for bravery at this time.

"I drove too far ahead on a charge and suddenly found ourselves completely surrounded by German's," explained Mr. Markel. "There were 600 of us in the battalion. As quickly as we could we dug holes in the ground and crawled in up to our shoulders. The dirt from the holes we piled around the tops to protect our heads. Many new recruits who were not quick enough to dig their holes were killed outright.

"As soon as we were in our holes, hell broke loose. On every side of us were Germans raking us with machine guns and rifle fire. We realized we didn't have a chance, but determined to hold out as long as possible. For five days this handful of men held out until German forces at bay. The enemy turned loose every kind of destructive force they had. Liquid fire played about us continually. All kinds of gas, shrapnel, machine guns and artillery turned upon us. Snipers kept their rifles hot pouring lead into us.

"The worst part of it all was the lack of water. Nearby ran a small stream in a ravine. It was practically sure death to reach the stream, but many a poor man attempted it. The Germans only played with each one like a cat plays with a mouse. They would let him get the water and start back—then scores of machine guns would break loose and riddle him. In spite of this, however, several of the men successfully returned with their water.

"For five days we had not a bite of food. Our comrades behind us attempted to drop it to us by aeroplane, but even when they dropped it we could not crawl out of our holes to get it. Everything the enemy had was turned upon us. It is impossible to describe the horror of those long days. Men who were wounded lingered on and died in their holes without medical assistance. Many died from lack of water. We were forced to keep our masks on most of the time, which added terror to the situation.

"Just when we had prepared to die, the French on our left started a big drive and the Americans on the right behind us also charged. To escape being caught in a pocket the Germans retreated rapidly and in a few hours we were rescued. Over 300 of the 600 Americans in the battalion were found to have been killed."

Since returning from France Mr. Markel's orchestra has been known as one of the best orchestras in New York City, and has played in this section on only a few occasions. Before coming to Charlotte Thursday morning, Mr. Markel played for a farewell ball given to Marshal Foch by Miss Cornelia Vanderbilt, which was attended by General Pershing and other notables.

NOTICE

Under and by virtue of the power contained in a certain mortgage deed executed on the 9th day of October 1918, by W. D. Oneal and wife to James A. Robinson, securing a debt of Six Hundred (\$600.00) Dollars and default having been made in the payments secured thereby, I will offer for sale, for cash, to the highest bidder at the Court House door in Surry county on

Saturday, Jan. 25, 1922 at 1 p. m.

a certain tract or parcel of land in Surry county, and in Mount Airy township and described as follows: Beginning on a stake at the Rockford road, C. Norman's line and corner of the old Joe Hill lot, and running East 4 chains and 82 links to a stake; thence North 6 degrees E. 2 chains and 8 links to a stake; thence West 4 chains and 82 links to a stake at said road; thence South 6 degrees West with said road to beginning, containing one acre more or less. Sale made to satisfy principal, interest and cost due on same. E. C. Bivens, Sheriff. Mrs. James A. Robinson, Adm'r.

RELEASE OF DEBS DEEPLY RESENTED

Adjutant North Carolina Legion Sends Protest to Harding

By Cale K. Burgess in News and Observer.

In the release of Eugene V. Debs from Federal imprisonment, the will of the American people has been disregarded by the President of the United States. Sentiment throughout the land is against the pardon of those men who failed our nation during the crisis of war. Veterans of the Great War, speaking through the American Legion and other organizations and through constitutionally organized conventions, have opposed emphatically the granting of freedom to such men as Debs. Recently Hanford McNider, National Commander of the Legion, urged upon President Harding the clean fact that the pardon of Debs would never be tolerated by those men who were fighting to defend our country while such men as Debs were proving traitors to the Nation.

And, in this connection, I want to reiterate what President Wilson thought in regard to this Debs pardon. In his recently published articles, Mr. Tumulty tells us that when the petition for the pardon of Debs was presented to President Wilson, he examined the same carefully and said, "I will never consent to the pardon of this man. Were I to do it, I could never look into the faces of the mothers who sent their sons to the other side. While the flower of American youth were pouring out their blood to vindicate civilization, this man, Debs, was standing behind the lines, sipping, attacking and denouncing them. This man was a traitor to his country, and he will never be pardoned during my administration."

Recently in an address before a large audience in Savannah, Ga., I covered this point, concluding with that statement by our great War President and adding, "All Legionnaires and all true patriots should lift their faces toward the heaven and thank God for the divine idealism and matchless leadership of that immortal President, Woodrow Wilson, and that great audience of men and women applauded and shouting their approval even to the point of a demonstration lasting for several moments. Furthermore, men and women throughout this State, in audiences in forty seven different cities and towns, have, almost without exception, applauded and shouted their approval of the Legion's opposition to granting freedom to such hostile birds as Eugene V. Debs. And, I want to say to you, that last week when I read in the newspapers that Mr. Harding had actually released Debs from the Atlanta prison, I felt so furious that I could not even sit still in my office chair. I paced my office for a few moments and then directed the following telegram to President Warren G. Harding, "In the name of North Carolina Department of the American Legion and on behalf of the World War veterans in this State, I protest most vigorously against the release of Eugene V. Debs. His release by you is a disgrace to this Nation, an insult to every serviceman and blasphemy to our fallen comrades."

I declare to you that the menace to the ideals and the free institutions of this Nation is greater today than it was even in 1917-18; and I appeal to every serviceman and to every true patriot to gird on the armour of courage and civic righteousness and go forth in our State and Nation as real crusaders for freedom and justice. The President of the United States has with bold impunity flaunted into our faces his utter disregard and violation of practically every wish expressed to him by the men who fought for the protection and safety of the Nation. There is something radically wrong somewhere. I am tired and disgusted with the feminine pussy-footing methods that we have heretofore practiced. The time and occasion for open and resolute fighting have arrived; and, as for me and my future tactics, my bat is in the ring. To your tents, oh Israel! The Philistines are upon us!

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy

This is a pleasant, safe and reliable medicine for coughs and colds. It has been in use for many years and is held in high esteem in those households where its good qualities are best known. It is a favorite with mothers of young children, as it contains no opium or other harmful drug. Try it when you have need of such a remedy.

CHAMPION CORN GROWER A CRANK

J. W. Workman, Who Got Grand Sweepstakes, Never Saw Perfect Ear.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 20.—Rich soil of Sangamon county, which in Indian dialect meant "Land of Plenty," and long years of careful seed selection, produced the corn this year which brought to Illinois last week the 1921 grand champion sweepstakes prize of America.

Only a country store, a grain elevator, three farm houses and a muddy road mark the railroad station of Maxwell, 23 miles southwest of Springfield, where the ten ears of yellow corn were raised which won the grand championship.

From the decrepit railroad station westward stretches the land of J. W. Workman, producer of this champion grain, the son and grandson of corn growers. His corn was awarded the championship in Chicago at the International Grain and Hay Show.

Years of careful seed selection, his excellent land, the rotation of corn with alfalfa, or clover pasture, are the three outstanding elements in his success.

Farmers about Workman's home say the honor came of hard work, and his wife adds, "enthusiasm that kept him out of bed at night while all the rest of us slept," poring over his grains with the same rapture that holds a miser.

"I'm a crank," Mr. Workman said. "You can't raise prize corn for 25 years and not be a crank."

Yet for all his corn growing and prize winning he has never seen a perfect ear of corn.

"Never," he said, "have I seen a perfect ear. Not one of the ten ears I sent to Chicago was perfect. All I could do was take the very best I had and hope they would stand up beside the others. In every ear I could see imperfection."

Of his 430 acres in the Maxwell farm, only 53 were in corn this year. They yielded 76 bushels an acre, all yellow dent. That was picked over at first by Mr. Workman and his son, Rome Workman, who, his mother says, "is almost as bad as his pa about corn." That yield offered several bushels of "show corn." Then by the midnight oil Mr. Workman with his keen eye for imperfections eliminated all but fifty ears, which were sent to the international show.

In the regional contest with Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and southern parts of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, he won first for yellow corn; then took the highest regional prize for any kind of corn from the holder of the best white corn, which was from Missouri. Then he entered the sweepstakes. His best ten ears won.

"I have seen him down on all fours," one neighbor said, "picking his seed, grain by grain, culling out that which he felt below his standard. He would spread a big tarpaulin, pour the grain upon it, and then get down with it."

"Corn should not be planted for more than five years in succession in the same land," Mr. Workman said. His custom is to raise corn in a parcel of land four or five years, and then to plant it in alfalfa and clover and make it pasture land for ten or twelve years, renewing the land.

"Best corn never comes the first year," Mr. Workman declared. "Corn that won the championship came from ground that was in its second year of corn."

Sixty-Fifth Birthday Celebrated by Wilson

Washington, Dec. 28.—Former President Wilson was today deluged with telegrams from all over the world on the occasion of the celebration of his 65th birthday at his home here. It was said tonight that the telegrams were of a congratulatory nature on the improvement of his health and that the volume probably exceeded any like number of greeting ever received by Mr. Wilson. In the afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Wilson went for an automobile ride and in the evening had as guests for dinner Miss Margaret Wilson and several other members of the family.

Several of the more intimate friends of Mr. Wilson called at his home on S. street during the day to extend greetings in person. It was said that the former president was in excellent spirits and keenly enjoyed the messages of good will received from friends throughout the world.

HUGHES FACES BREAK WITH U. S. SENATORS

Plan Alliance With Democrats to Oust Secretary of State, It Is Said

Washington, Dec. 28.—An open feud between Secretary of State Hughes and a number of Republican Senators is in the making. Angered by what they called Hughes' "duplicitous" in agreeing to an interpretation of the four power Pacific pact which would include the Japanese mainland under the treaty's guaranty of territorial integrity, a number of Senators are talking of a direct attack on the secretary.

If they could force Hughes' resignation from the Cabinet, some say, members would not be unhappy. In order not to appear to be fomenting rebellion within Republican party ranks they are depending for the present upon close allies among the Democrats to voice the demand for Hughes' expulsion.

While the general tone of comment on Hughes' work in connection with the arms conference has been laudatory in the extreme, the anti-Hughes conspirators in the Senate declare public opinion is not so universally admiring of Hughes as might appear.

The attack on Hughes will be based upon the charge that he deliberately involved the United States in an "entangling alliance" in the face of the popular verdict against the league of nations covenant a little more than a year ago. His critics will recall to the country the fact that they viewed with alarm Hughes' inclusion in the Cabinet. Some of the irreconcilable Republicans have been waiting ever since Hughes took office for him to do something justifying their censure. His friendliness toward the league convinced them, they said, that he would sooner or later try to involve the United States in that league or something else just as bad.

The four-power treaty is at least as bad, from the standpoint of American traditions, the irreconcilables say. They declare Hughes deliberately tied his country up to a pact that means protection for Japan with no corresponding obligation on Japan to protect the United States.

While the irreconcilables, knowing Hughes' strong position in President Harding's esteem, do not actually hope to force Hughes out of the cabinet, they do hope to force him and perhaps Harding to go to the country in defense of the four-power pact.

Divorce for Daughter of J. D. Rockefeller

Chicago, Dec. 28.—Mrs. Edith R. McCormick, daughter of John D. Rockefeller, Sr., millionaire oil king, was granted a divorce from Harold L. McCormick, president of the International Harvester company, in Superior court today.

No provision for alimony was included in the divorce decree, which was signed in court by Judge Charles A. McDonald, after Mrs. McCormick had filed suit for divorce on charges of desertion against Mr. McCormick, who admitted the charges.

While no announcement of any settlement was made in court, an agreement has been reached between Mr. and Mrs. McCormick on the division of property, according to Clarence Darrow one of counsel for Mr. McCormick.

Mrs. McCormick is the only daughter of John D. Rockefeller. She returned to this country a few weeks ago, after spending eight years in Switzerland. Upon her return she took up her residence in the McCormick town house, while Mr. McCormick moved to his estate at Lake Forest. Although they are jointly the backers and main principal contributors to the Chicago opera association, and attend almost nightly, Mrs. McCormick has occupied a box on one side of the house and Mr. McCormick and his daughter, Muriel, on the other.

Debs is Resting After Welcome

Terre Haute, Ind., Dec. 29.—Eugene V. Debs, Socialist leader, paroled several days ago from federal prison, was resting here today, following a rousing home-coming celebration tendered him here last night by thousands of his followers and home people.

Relatives announced that for the next few days Mr. Debs probably would remain in the seclusion of his home. Persons in the big crowd which formed about the Debs home were decked with red hats, carrying brands of fire and large placards in flaming red colors.

105 WAREHOUSES IN BURLEY POOL

Thirty-two Floors in Central District Signed to Association

Lexington, Ky., Dec. 27.—As in the other warehouse districts of Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana, the Central Kentucky District Friday signed up almost every warehouse in the territory, and in Lexington every warehouse but one which could legally be turned over to the Burley Tobacco Growers Association was turned over for the immediate possession and use of the association.

The association now is in possession of 105 receiving plants in the Burley District.

In the case of the sole Lexington warehouseman prevented from signing by certain legal complications involving one of his warehouses he signed up the other and, with the other loyal warehousemen, will do his best for the success of the association. Altogether 32 houses were taken over here Friday.

Directors of the association, in session at the offices at 620 South Broadway, instructed Warehouse Manager Ralph M. Barker to proceed with the arrangement for taking over the warehouse of the Burley District, approved what had already been done in that respect by Manager Barker, and authorized him to complete the transfer of the various properties to the association, as provided by the terms of the contracts with the warehousemen.

President James C. Stone announced that tobacco would be received on the warehouse floors, in baskets, as heretofore, and the growers would be paid the advance upon their crops on delivery and grading of their tobacco, the checks for the advance being payable at their local banks.

The directors also adopted a resolution forbidding any officer or employee from dealing in any way in the certificates of delivery given the growers when their crops are delivered to the warehouses and providing for the dismissal from the service of the association of any employee violating the terms of the resolution.

Aaron Sapiro, California lawyer, in charge of the legal preliminaries incident to the transfer, assured the loyal warehousemen that they would be protected from the sharp practices of outside warehouse owners who might attempt to induce growers in the pool to sell their crops over the floors of these outside warehousemen and quoted a recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States that in such cases the association might obtain an injunction and sue the offenders for damages.

Has Co-operative Marketing Increased California's Prosperity?

Progressive Farmer: An official bulletin has just come from the United States Census Bureau which incidentally sheds a lot of light on co-operative marketing.

Some scoffers have said that they doubted whether California growers under co-operative marketing had enjoyed much more prosperity than other farmers. Well, the United States Government through its Census Bureau has just issued a statement naming the fifty richest agricultural counties in the United States—the fifty counties where farmers are making most money.

Were any of these fifty richest farming counties in California? The very first or richest one of all was one of the California co-operative marketing counties.

So was the second richest. The fourth, seventh and eighth richest were also California co-operative marketing counties.

In other words, of the eight richest farming counties in America, five were from California co-operative marketing counties. And of the entire list of the fifty richest American counties, thirteen were from California.

No wonder the California Bankers' Association at its recent meeting, recognizing how greatly co-operation has increased the farmers' bank deposits, officially declared through its agricultural committee.

"Co-operative marketing of farm products of all kinds is undoubtedly the ideal method. Banks can well afford to encourage any organization created for this purpose. Any banker who is against co-operative marketing is opposing one of the major factors of agriculture."