

# THE MONITOR

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## DEATH OF T. W. BICKETT.

The death of Ex-Governor Thomas Walter Bickett of North Carolina removes from active service another of the country's most interesting and useful citizens. It was a severe shock to all colored people of that state and a sincere regret to those all over the country who honored him for his stand for justice. A southerner of distinct traditions it is true, but nevertheless a fearless and courageous champion of justice and fair play to our group even though it imperiled his political career. He was a firm believer in the supremacy of the law

and sternly opposed to all forms of mobs. He took many bold stands against would-be lynchers and saved his prisoner. It was he who at Graham, N. C., ordered the soldiers to "Shoot and shoot straight" when a mob had formed to lynch a colored man there, with the result that several of the mob fell. Governor Bickett set a pace which many state executives would do well to follow. May God raise up more Bicketts and Morrises that this savage and barbarous habit will be completely stamped out and that all men everywhere will enjoy the blessings of peace, life and liberty.

## PACKERS' STRIKE AS VIEWED BY A MEMBER OF THE MONITOR STAFF

An Omaha Citizen Discusses Strike from the Standpoint of its Untimeliness and Economic Effect. Believes Selfishness Plays Too Big a Part in the Matter by both Sides

### CONDEMNS THE LAWLESSNESS AND DISORDER

The packers' strike which has gripped the packing industry for over five weeks has furnished many points which require serious study and careful analysis. Both sides have put forth their contentions in the press, and the public has had time to properly digest the whole situation and render its verdict without prejudice or bias. My own deduction, after careful study, is that the strike is inopportune, uneconomical and selfish. It is therefore wrong and deserves reprehension.

The trouble arose from a 10 per cent cut in the wages of the workers put in force by the packers on or about December 5th, which the Association of Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen resented and walked out in protest of same. With them many non-union men also walked out. The cut was protested on the grounds that it was an adroit attempt on the part of the packers to impose a wage on them which would lower their buying power to a level far out of proportion to the price which they had to pay for the products made by the plants; that such a course was unfair, unjust and arbitrary; that it was only a subterfuge to reduce the worker to poverty and increase the already enormous dividends of the packers. They were unitedly opposed to the scheme and consequently walked out in obedience to the command of their accredited leaders.

The packers, on the other hand, contended that the proposed cut was a necessary course to a more economical operation of their business in order that it might bring adequate returns on their investment and at the same time enable them to conform to the universal demand for a general reduction of the cost of meat and meat products; that the effecting of these things in the interest of the general public was of greater concern to them than the continued 10 per cent wage which would benefit those who were working in their plants; that this course was necessary to the continued existence of their business. They claim that the unions were attempting by their course to regulate the policy of the employer, a matter which the packers claimed to be absolutely within their own province. And thus are the lines drawn tightly between the employer and the employee.

I have watched the contentions of both sides with more than a mere spectator's interest. There is virtue in the contentions of both parties as well as there is plainly evil. That organized labor is a good thing in itself, no one can deny. It has been through this means that laboring people have been elevated from virtual servitude to the position where they dare at least ask a living from their toil. But labor must be perfectly organized, employing as a part of its organization the principles of order, justice, unselfishness and fair play to all. The same thing must be true of the employers of labor. I am neither pro-union nor anti-packers. I am desirous of seeing manifested the spirit of fair play on both sides. Where these things have not been employed, be-

that side union or packer, honor and candor compels me to condemn them with all the force I have. In the present strike, I regret very much that these principles have been woefully ignored by both parties and I shall most emphatically condemn them on the grounds that their course has been selfish, radical and uneconomical. It is untimely for the strikers, because it is forced at a time when millions of men are not working and have not been for nearly a year and must accept work wherever and whenever it is given. They and their little ones must have food, clothing and shelter. This means that they must face two alternatives: either remain away from the vacated jobs of the strikers and starve or venture through the "picket fences" and run the risk of violence as strike breakers. Of the two, many have chosen the latter course. They have been called "scabs" and have been the object of almost every conceivable act of violence. But who could blame them for losing no time to argue the point as to whether they are or are not technically acting within their rights to accept jobs left vacant by the strikers simply because they do not hold a union card of membership? Many of those idle have been driven to desperation and crime as a result. This fact alone creates odds against the timeliness of a strike which are too great to be lightly regarded. Strikes are not altogether without good results; but an ill-timed strike is worse than no strike. Strikes should be called only for a definite object and that should be to gain certain advantages to the strikers. But a strike which has for its object apparently nothing but striking is detrimental to the worker. This seems to be the fate of the present strike, when viewed from the standpoint of timeliness.

There does not seem to be any organized, coherent plan in the workers. Wise leadership is lacking. A wise leader knows when strikes are timely and beneficial or inopportune and detrimental. A timely retreat is far better than an untimely advance. Nothing short of a miracle could bring success to the workers in this strike and for this very reason I call it inopportune and a tactical blunder on the part of the laborers.

It is uneconomical because it will be the means of higher priced meat. When any industry which has to supply the community with the staples of living is unable by reason of a strike to furnish a normal supply to the market the price of that product goes up. Who pays the bill? Unemployment reduces the buying power of the community in general and the unemployed in particular. For these reasons I believe the strike to be uneconomical.

There is also a very obvious tinge of selfishness in the matter. The unions arrogate to themselves the prerogative to a monopoly of the labor in the plants as well as the regulation of the policy relating to labor in the plants. And because they have attempted to enforce this policy upon

those who are not members of the union, by resorting to physical violence, I call it selfish and radical. No cause which is tainted with these evils can hope to gain public sympathy. The selfishness lies in the fact that the unions are contending for closed shop as opposed to open shop. The latter would open the shops too all plants to union men only, while the latter would open the shops too all whom the employer pleased to hire. Any attempt to wrest from them this right is wrong and socialistic.

Nor are the acts of the packers in this matter convincing of sincerity nor deserving of commendation. It will not be very easy to convince the most conservative that the price the consumer has to pay on the market for meat is not ample to accomplish the proposed readjustment. I firmly believe that the packers by "pruning" their own salaries could more easily and rapidly bring about the "economies" desired. I believe that the cut in the already too meager wages of the men is unjust, in that it is inadequate to furnish reasonable subsistence to the working man. But, not being a bolshevist, I cannot subscribe to bolshevism. Consequently I cannot in reason get around the concession to the packers or any other class of employers the absolute right to give such wages and inaugurate such policy as they see advisable to operate their business. I cannot concede to the unions the right to dictate the policy and regulate working conditions in the plants no more than I could concede the right of an employer to force the employe to accept these conditions. The former would be subscribing to bolshevism, while the latter would be supporting peonage. Reason, justice and fair play would condemn both systems.

Let the unions and the packers employ for their guide the spirit of fairness, justice and order and above all unselfishness and they will have the united support of the entire public.



## Stories of Great Scouts

By Elmo Scott Watson  
 © Western Newspaper Union.

### MAJOR SAM McCULLOUGH'S LEAP FOR LIFE

Fort Henry was a little stockade built for the protection of the settlers of West Virginia against the British and Indians during the War of the Revolution. It stood on the Ohio river near the present site of Wheeling. In the summer of 1777 when it was besieged by a strong force of savages, Maj. Sam McCullough, a noted border leader, left Fort Pitt at the head of 40 men to raise the siege.

Coming in sight of the fort, McCullough's men made a dash for the gates and passed through them in safety, although the Indians made a desperate effort to cut them off. Major McCullough held back to cover the retreat of his men until they were safely within its walls and delayed so long that the redivisions succeeded in getting between him and the fort.

Setting spurs to his horse, the ranger leader dashed for a hill back of the fort. At its top he met another band of Indians and at the same time a third group approached him from another direction. The Indians were now on three sides of him. On the other was a high precipice projecting over Wheeling creek, 300 feet below. The ranger was cornered.

The Indians raised a yell of triumph as they closed in on him. But when they saw McCullough turn his horse toward the cliff, they stopped in amazement.

Urging his horse to a dead run, the scout dashed toward the precipice. At the brink of the chasm he drove home the spurs and as his mount flew into the air braced himself in the saddle. The first leap was a clear drop of 50 feet, but both horse and rider were unharmed as they landed on the steep bank. Then slipping and sliding for 250 feet more, they came to the creek bottom.

As the Indians rushed to the edge of the precipice expecting to see the crushed forms of horse and man far below, they were astonished at the sight of the major, still upright in the saddle, plunging into the creek and riding up the other side to safety. Within a few hours he was back at Fort Pitt, organizing a larger expedition to march to Fort Henry.

Five years later as Major McCullough and his brother were riding along a road near Van Metre's fort, unsuspecting danger, they rode directly into an Indian ambush. This time McCullough's horsemanship could do him no good. A dozen Indian rifle shots rang out and Sam McCullough fell dead.



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## Boy Lassoos Truck; Dragged to Death

New York.—Playing cowboy, John Bullera, ten, threw his lariat around a post on the edge of a heavy truck that was proceeding along pier No. 37. Holding to the rope, he was dragged several feet, his head striking the pavement, before the driver could stop his truck. The lad was dead when an ambulance arrived.

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