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KETCHUM TURNS ON 'EM

RAILROAD COMMISSIONER NOW DEFENDS WHOLE BOARD IN HOG RATE CASE.

REFUSED TO INJURE 'INDEPENDENT PACKERS'
He Says That Issue Was Between Packing Interests of Iowa and Farmers Rather Than Between Farmers and Railroads, and That Meat Producers' Officers Knew of Commission's Attitude.

Special to Times-Republican.
Des Moines, Feb. 9.—Railroad Commissioner Ketchum has prepared a statement regarding the much discussed hog rate case in which he defends the position of the entire board and replies to the criticisms of Thorne, Wallace and others. He states in effect that the commission was confronted with an issue as between the farmers and the independent packing interests of Iowa rather than between the packers and the railroads and that what the board did was to refuse to take sides against the packing houses of the state. He also shows from the records that there was no secrecy in what the board did and that the meat producers' association knew what had been done.

His statement is as follows:
Ketchum's Statement.
Now that the Des Moines Capital has acknowledged that it was laboring under a misapprehension of the facts when it demanded my resignation as railroad commissioner, I wish to say a few words regarding the misunderstandings of the attitude of the entire board which are sure to follow recent statements of H. C. Wallace and Clifford Thorne of the Corn Belt Meat Producers' Association. The people of Iowa should not be permitted to get away from the fact that the case before the interstate commerce commission was not a single controversy, as between the Meat Producers' Association and the railroads, but, so far as the freight rate on hogs was concerned, was a controversy between the Iowa packers on the one hand and the Iowa hog producers on the other. Between these two great interests, the board of railroad commissioners, if it performed its official duty, should act impartially.

Col. Charles A. Clark, attorney for the packers, has stated the case, from their standpoint, in the Cedar Rapids Republican as follows:
"The Iowa commissioners have simply done their duty by Iowa industries and Iowa interests. They are assailed in editorials and lampooned in cartoons without cause. They are called upon to resign because they have not allowed themselves to be made tools of for the slaughter of Iowa packing house industries. The whole episode is shameful. Let the people of Iowa have the facts and let them judge for themselves."

"The annual hog crop of Iowa is about 19,000,000 animals on the average. The evidence in the above controversy showed that the Iowa packers slaughtered something more than 1,500,000 annually or about 16 per cent of our entire hog crop. The other 84 per cent goes almost solid to Chicago. Every hog raised in Iowa ought to be slaughtered here. It is a home industry in which we produce the raw material, the hog. The packers showed trouble in securing a fraction of the hog for slaughter at home. The rates give a difference against Iowa and in favor of the Chicago markets on hog products as follows: Against Ottumwa packers, 6.41 cents per cwt; against Waterloo, 3 cents; against Mason City, 4 cents; against Cedar Rapids, 4.5 cents; against Marshalltown, 5.7 cents.

"The Iowa commissioners refused to become parties to making these conditions worse against Iowa industries. They have done their duty and deserve praise instead of frenzied and unreasonable blame."
The thing the meat producers sought most was a change in cattle rates, but as soon as it was learned that the railroad commission had intervened in their demand for changes in both cattle and hog rates, the packers from Cedar Rapids, Sioux City, Ottumwa, Des Moines, Marshalltown, and Waterloo protested to the commission that their business would be injured.

Eaton Conferred With Wallace.
In this condition of affairs, Mr. W. L. Eaton, the attorney member of the board, and its legal adviser, had sundry conferences with Mr. H. C. Wallace and Clifford Thorne, representing the Meat Producers' Association, and Attorney General Byers. At a hearing before the interstate commerce commission, held in Chicago on Nov. 1, 1909, Mr. Eaton, of the board of railroad commissioners, was present. One reason for his presence was to urge that the attorney general of Iowa should not insist upon a change in the present hog rates. That Mr. Eaton was in Chicago, and presented this matter to Messrs. Wallace, Thorne and Byers is not disputed, for Mr. Wallace admitted it in his farm paper of Jan. 28, 1910, and Mr. Eaton also refers to it

in his published statement of Jan. 12, in which he says:
"A simple statement of the attitude of all the parties at the time of the understanding which was arrived at in Chicago was that our commission at that time did not wish to assume the attitude of asking for a lowering of the hog rates, because it did not believe they were unreasonable and did not believe the application would be granted."

On Mr. Eaton's return to Des Moines from Chicago, he reported the situation as above, and prepared the much criticised resolution of Nov. 3, 1909, in which the attorney general was instructed to limit his request, as representing the board of railroad commissioners, to a reduction of the cattle rates only, which resolution reads "After conference and agreement with interested parties," etc., the interested parties being Messrs. Byers, Wallace and Thorne, in Chicago.
No Secrecy.
The resolution prepared by Mr. Eaton, and passed by the board, was neither secret nor confidential, and so long as I am a member of the board, there will be no secret or confidential resolutions. It was prepared by our legal adviser, passed at an open meeting and spread upon our records as any other action of our commission. It became and was a public record, free to be examined by every citizen of Iowa. Instructions were at once given by the commission to our secretary, Mr. Lewis, to immediately deliver a copy of this resolution to Attorney General Byers, and these instructions Mr. Lewis carried out in person.

The resolution being the result of a conference and agreement in Chicago between Messrs. Eaton, Byers, Wallace and Thorne, Attorney General Byers acting, as Mr. Wallace states, in connection with Mr. Thorne, as attorney for the Meat Producers' Association, the members of the railroad commission had every reason to believe, and did believe, that the meat producers' association knew all about this resolution, and when an attorney for the packers requested a copy of same, he received it without hesitation, just as any other citizen of Iowa is entitled to any public record made by any public tribunal in this state.

Subsequently, and on Dec. 30, 1909, it being represented by our legal member and adviser that the resolution passed Nov. 3 had embarrassed the meat producers' association in its hearing before the interstate commerce commission, that resolution, in accordance with the advice and direction of Mr. Eaton, was rescinded, although it was then understood that the attitude of the commission as to hog rates was unchanged. The commissioners, in good faith, were trying to act impartially as between two great Iowa interests—the packers and the hog producers, and did what they did at the request of the lawyers interested in the meat producers' case.

Nothing To Regret.
There is nothing in this entire trans-

Northern Iowa Items

Fonda.
A change has been made in the Iowa Hotel at this place. Mrs. Swink and daughter, Miss Loreta, quitting the hotel business and moving to the home of Mrs. Swink's son, Frank C. A. Conn and family have taken possession of the house and hereafter will run a hotel and short order restaurant.

Manchester.
The W. H. Ward building at the corner of Main and Franklin streets, for the past number of years the home of the J. H. Allen clothing business, has been rented to W. N. Snodgrass, a prominent Ackley clothier, who will establish a general men's clothing store in the block next month.

Dubuque.
The mystery in the disappearance of Hugh Smith, aged 40, who has been missing since Jan. 4, was cleared Sunday night, when his body, frozen in a creek, was found near Durbin. The county Smith when last seen had a watch and money on his person. Smith was unmarried and had a roving disposition. His home was in New York.

Mason City.
As a result of falling upon a slippery sidewalk, Scott Stillson, a well known horse buyer, sustained a compound fracture of his right leg. The accident happened at 11 o'clock at night at a street corner when Stillson was on his way home after visiting with a friend. The sidewalk was icy at the place, and he fell with the above painful results.

Nora Springs.
A piece of workmanship in the shape of a small clock, four feet in height, made of over 1,000 pieces of wood and dozens of different kinds, has just been completed by K. Aufferth, that sold to a local resident at \$200. Mr. Aufferth is a cripple, but is exceptionally clever in wood, and the clock, which is entirely hand made, is said to be a perfect timekeeper. The finish is most beautiful and is substantial.

Sioux City.
While two men bombarded the only entrance to a room over the saloon of John Leovich, with bricks and frozen globes of earth, to prevent a pole, who lives in the room, from warning the police, a companion broke a glass out of the front door, entering the place, took a gold watch, \$6 in cash and about \$60 worth of liquor. This is only one of a series of robberies of a similar character that have been perpetrated within the last few weeks.

Waterloo.
A rat nest, built too near the register between the ceiling of the lower floor and of the floor of the upstairs, catching on fire was the means of a blaze that threatened the home of Mrs. Charles McKelvie, four miles north, in East Waterloo township. It is thought that the rat nest was in the apartments for the rats was so near the fire that it became ignited and the flames spread between the ceiling and the walls, where it took toward the roof and a large hole was eaten thru the shingles.

Waterloo.
There is a shortage of coal in Waterloo at the present time, and should the weather conditions change the city would be in far greater peril of a famine than at any time in the past. While local dealers have not been forced to declare themselves unable to furnish coal, it is known that there has been much uneasiness in their ranks and the threatened coal strike has cast a dark shadow over the situation. "The local coal dealers are in no way responsible for the shortage," said one of the members, "as we have at the present time more cases of coal ordered which should have been delivered some weeks ago, and

action which I have occasion to regret or apologize for, unless it may be the second resolution which was passed out of a desire to relieve the meat producers from what was claimed to be a serious embarrassment. The commission has not betrayed the meat producers, as Mr. Wallace claims, but, on the contrary, Mr. Eaton seems to have fully advised both Mr. Wallace and Mr. Thorne, before the passage of the resolution of Nov. 3, of the attitude of the commission, and its reasons therefor. There was no secrecy about the resolution and there was nothing to conceal. The commission has not been derelict as to its statutory duties, as claimed by Mr. Thorne, but is now and always has been ready to intervene in any case before the interstate commerce commission in which the contention made is in good faith, and reasonable, but the Iowa railroad commission is not willing to lend itself at the request of Mr. Thorne, or any other attorney, in a coalition of one Iowa interest against another Iowa interest.

There should be no shifting of blame as between the members of this body. On the proposition of refusing to attack the hog rates in the interest of the meat producers, as a whole, and this is the main proposition in the case. We took what we believed to be necessary steps to properly protect all of the Iowa interests, and not favor one interest as against the other. We would not be a partisan of any one Iowa industry as against another local industry. We believe the Iowa packer should have a chance to buy Iowa hogs, and we said so, and that is right.

I have no hesitation to submit to the fair and impartial judgment of the Iowa people the entire record of the board of railroad commissioners on this subject. Respectfully submitted,
N. S. KETCHUM.

NORTHWESTERN NOT SCARED.

Isn't Worried Over Possibilities of Strike or Coal Famine.
Special to Times-Republican.
Boone, Feb. 9.—Telegraph reports from various parts of the country indicate that many of the railroads are worrying over the coal situation, the possibilities of a strike, and no coal, etc.
The Northwestern company has not so far issued any such orders and the officials are making no effort to get on hand any more coal than ordinarily. In the past, years ago when strikes were in prospect, the company stored large quantities of coal in Clinton, Boone, and Council Bluffs and in other places along the line, but as yet nothing has been done in anticipation of a strike in this part of the country.

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whether it is the fault of the railroads or the mine operators is not known, but rushing horries at some Waterloo dealers are doing all in their power to relieve the situation.

Waterloo.
Will McMullen reported to the police in Waterloo that his wife, Iva Irene Hall, had skipped out from his home near Jamesville, taking with her \$75 in money and his gold watch. They were married in Waterloo two weeks ago after an acquaintance of one hour. Mrs. McMullen came to Waterloo on Friday and he came down on Saturday and rented a home, paying one month's rent in advance. When he went to find his wife he was greatly astonished to find that she had taken her departure for unknown parts. McMullen had advertised for a wife.

Rockwell City.
A story has been going the rounds of the Iowa press stating that the epidemic of mumps, but rushing horries at some seventy-nine cases had been reported, among them many of the business men of the city, and that a temporary hospital had been fitted up to accommodate the factory hands. The story was first in money and has gained the stamp of untruth upon the face of it, but was ingeniously worded in its introduction in such manner as would be calculated to deceive the casual reader. There has been no epidemic of mumps here and the story was wholly untrue.

Cedar Falls.
It seems to be the opinion of those who are in authority and closely connected with the administration that there will be very little municipal improvement in Cedar Falls this year. Several petitions asking for storm and sanitary sewers are now in circulation. There will also probably be some extension of water mains and considerable permanent sidewalk. So far as the matter of paved streets is concerned it now looks as if the city had all in that line that it could get at the present time, but it is considerable some bringing among those living on some of the principal streets to have their streets either asphalted or bricked this season.

Sioux City.
C. F. Lytle's petition for an injunction restraining City Engineer G. F. Skeels from drawing the additional salary granted him by the city engineer's ordinance of March 31, 1908, and an order compelling the city engineer to return the excess money he has drawn since the passage of the ordinance was filed in district court. The petition also asks that Skeels and his employees be compelled to return to the city moneys they are alleged to have received for private work for individuals done during hours they were supposed to be working for the city. The ordinance, which Lytle claims is in violation of the state law governing increase of salaries, raised the city engineer's compensation from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year.

Garrison.
A 2-year-old colt belonging to John Fisher, who resides on the William Grayson farm, a few miles north of town, fell into a supply cistern and drowned in the water. The father thereof, as well as a little excitement in the neighborhood. The cistern is oblong in shape and some ten or twelve feet deep. The colt in some way got onto the board covering and broke thru. Mrs. Fisher was at home alone but saw the animal fall into the well and called some of the neighbors to her assistance. As the animal went down, hind feet first, its head did not get under the water, which was almost deep enough to cover its back. After considerable maneuvering it was rescued from the depths, and is apparently little the worse for its experience.

ATTACKED BY MANIAC

MRS. JESSE WHITE OF PLYMOUTH COUNTY HAS TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE.

NEARLY CHOKED TO DEATH BY RAVING MADMAN

Relatives Reach Scene in Time to Save Woman's Life — Lunatic Asked Her For Drink of Water Then Seized Her By Throat — Tears Things Up in County Jail.

LeMars, Feb. 9.—Seized by the throat and nearly choked to death by a madman was the thrilling experience undergone by Mrs. Jesse White, living on the Majeres farm in Westfield township near Akron. Had it not been for the fact that her father, husband and brothers were near the house when the assault was made she would probably have met death at the hands of the raging maniac. Along in the afternoon as Mrs. White, who lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Majeres, was engaged in household duties, and her mother also, a man knocked at the door of the house and when she opened it asked for a drink of water. Mrs. White handed him a dipper full of water, which the man took with avidity, apparently being very thirsty. Instead of drinking the water he tossed the dipper in the air and grabbing Mrs. White by the throat threw her on the floor of the kitchen.

The screams of the women attracted Mr. Majeres, who was working in the yard near the house. He ran to the house and dealt her assailant several blows which made him let loose his hold on the woman and the other men on the farm came in and assisted in overpowering the man, who was evidently crazy. They tied him up with harness straps and telephoned to Akron and Constable Vargason and Marshal Anderson came over and took charge of the man and brought him to LeMars, where the board of commissioners on insanity took action on the case. The man while in jail was extremely violent and demonstrated the fact that a padded cell is needed for violent lunatics in the county jail.

Nearly Wrecks the Jail.
He tore the steam pipes from their place and let a flood of water and steam flow in the cell and brandishing a piece of broken pipe started to make an onslaught on Marshal Anderson and a visitor to the jail. Anderson, who is not a giant in size but has the sand and pluck of a Nelson, floored the man after a rough and tumble and finally succeeded in calming the mad man.

While in the cell the maniac tore off his clothing and raged around the cell beating his hands, feet and head against the bars. Marshal Anderson finally persuaded him to put on his clothes. The man had violent spells at intervals during the day.

Man's Identity Unknown.
Where the man came from is a mystery at present. Nothing could be learned from him as he refused to speak, only mumbling and articulating sounds like a wild beast. He is a man of medium height, weighs about 140 pounds, with sandy mustache, and light complexion and might be any age from 30 to 40. He had \$105 and a nickel in money, the money was in two twenties, four tens and the rest in fives. It gave the appearance of having been folded for a long time. A note book in the man's pocket showed where he had kept track of his work such as shocking and husking and annotations were made showing amounts paid him. Only one name appears in the book which indicates that he worked for a man named either Price or Pierce, but no dates are found in connection.

COMMITTS CRIME TO SEE FATHER.
Youth Returning From Navy Arrested for Forging Check.
Special to Times-Republican.

Iowa City, Feb. 9.—Hungering for the sight of his father's face, George L. Wise, aged 17, a returned member of the United States navy, forged the name of John M. Bowman to a check for \$78.25, yesterday and presented it to the Iowa City State Bank, hoping to raise funds for travel.

He was promptly arrested, charged with forgery and attempting to utter forged paper. He confessed, stating that he took the blank check from the Bowman home and signed his friend's name.

"I wanted to see my father," said Wise yesterday. "He is an old soldier from Jacksonville. I hadn't seen him in nine years and was anxious to once more see his dear old face."

Railroad Bridge Burned.
Special to Times-Republican.
Stour Rapids, Feb. 9.—In some unknown manner the M. & St. L. bridge across Willow Creek was partially destroyed by fire Monday. The supposition is that the bridge was set on fire by a freight train going north at 10:40 a. m. About one hundred feet was burned from the center. A force of men was put to work at once to repair it but at the best it will be three or four days before traffic can be resumed.

Summer Courses at Okoboji.
Special to Times-Republican.
Iowa City, Feb. 9.—Dr. Thomas H. Macbride, director of the Lakeside laboratory maintained by alumni of the University of Iowa at Lake Okoboji has issued the second annual announcement of the summer's courses. Two terms are included, one from June 20 to Aug. 1, and the other from Aug. 1 to Aug. 15.

The faculty will be composed of the following professors and instructors: Thomas H. Macbride, Samuel Calvin, Bohumil Shimek and R. B. Wylie, all of the University of Iowa, Harry Waldo Norris, of Grinnell, A. O. Thomas, University of Iowa, N. D. Knapp, Iowa, Margaret Buckley, Grinnell.

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