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CHAMP CLARK STORIES

Tales Told by Statesmen In Their Idle Moments.

How General John B. Henderson of Missouri Became a Senator—The Only Man That Ever Refused a Seat on Missouri's Supreme Bench—Circumstances That Deprived the Army of a Cavalry Leader—Lawyer's Big Fee For Advice—What Happened to a Doctor.

[Copyright, 1901, by Champ Clark.]
It is questionable if there ever lived on this continent a more ambitious man than General John B. Henderson, formerly of Missouri, now of Washington.

In a large sense Henderson is a typical American. A poor boy, a country school teacher, a country lawyer, state legislator, volunteer soldier, reaching the grade of brigadier; senator of the United States, he has for two generations been pointed out to the boys of Missouri as a successful man who by his own talents and own energies forced himself into the front rank and whose example they would do well to imitate and emulate.

The ambition of most men is confined to one field of human endeavor, their endeavors concentrated on reaching a single goal.

The Road to Greatness.

From the beginning General Henderson seems to have decided that the road to greatness lay through congress.

Before the people he was a most unfortunate candidate. He was defeated for congress by Judge Gilchrist Porter, Colonel Thomas L. Anderson and Major James S. Rollins. The last race became a historic performance and remains to this day a theme for conversation wherever two or three old north-east Missourians are gathered together. Major Rollins won by a scratch, but Henderson's ambition was as untiring as the law of gravitation, and the chances are that he would have gone on running for congress to this day had he not secured a seat among the conscript fathers.

War-time Politics.

To show how he got the latter is the object of this story.

To be intimately acquainted with Governor Robert A. Campbell is to possess a liberal education in Missouri politics. He is one of the most delightful raconteurs now living. His massive head is a rich treasure house of political information. He can give the reasons of the rise and fall of every man of consequence that ever lived in Missouri.

I tell this tale nearly word for word as Governor Campbell told it to me recently. At the beginning of the civil war Henderson, who was a Douglas Democrat, promptly espoused the Union cause and was forthwith made a brigadier. While the convention was reorganizing things in Missouri Trusten Polk and Waldo P. Johnson were expelled from the senate of the United States, and it fell to Governor Hamilton R. Gamble to appoint their successors. Of course General Henderson set his heart on one of these places. He would not have been Henderson had he not wanted it. The ardent Union men, with Bob Campbell at their head, demanded it for Henderson as a matter of right.

The rule then was that one senator should be from St. Louis and the other from the country.

Killing Two Birds.

Governor Gamble had already ap-

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pointed Robert Wilson of Andrew county, in northwest Missouri, to one vacancy. Consequently St. Louis claimed the senatorship which Henderson was banking after. He lived in Pike, 100 miles from the city. To appoint him would violate the geographical precedents. To appoint a St. Louisan would be in line with them. Whether Governor Gamble appointed Willson for the purpose of creating this posture of affairs perhaps nobody will ever know.

However that may be, Governor Gamble had a brother-in-law, Hon. D. Coulter, who filled the geographical condition perfectly, being a prominent St. Louis attorney. By appointment of the legislature Coulter had been a delegate to the famous but futile peace congress, where he was a distinguished figure. Gamble greatly desired that Coulter should be appointed, and of course there was a great pressure for the governor's brother-in-law, as there always is in such cases. Governor Gamble, however, had some delicacy of feeling on the subject and a wholesome respect for the opinions of mankind, coupled with a fear of the deep seated prejudice against nepotism. So he concluded that he could accomplish the appointment of his brother-in-law and at the same time avoid criticism by taking a trip to New York and leaving the task to Lieutenant Governor Willard P. Hall.

Whether there was an understanding between these two statesmen this deponent saith not, because he knoweth not. Anyway, Gamble took the trip, and Coulter was not appointed.

Refused a Judgeship.

At that time Henderson's headquarters were with his brigade at Mexico and Governor Hall's at St. Louis. Lynx eyed Bob Campbell was also in St. Louis, working like a beaver for his friend, General Henderson. He urged the latter's appointment on the grounds of political expediency and as a matter of justice, because Henderson was then in the field fighting for his country. He received a tip, however, that Hall desired to satisfy Henderson and his friends by making him judge of the supreme court, which was not a sufficient sop for "the Pike county cormorants," as Colonel William F. Switzer in a fit of disgust once dubbed the Pike statesmen. So Campbell, who was in constant communication with Henderson, telegraphed that illustrious warrior to hasten to St. Louis, where Campbell met him at the depot. They took neither cab nor carriage nor street car. They walked together to the old Barnum hotel. On the way Campbell told him that he would be offered the supreme judgeship and with clear vision advised him to refuse it. Campbell was right, as the sequel shows.

Spoiled a Cavalryman.

That night a caucus of candidates for all the great offices was held, and it was decided to press Henderson for the senate.

Next morning Governor Hall and General Henderson sat on opposite sides of the same table in the governor's office. The governor from his side handed the general a commission as judge of the supreme court duly signed and attested by the great seal of Missouri. Henderson wrote his declination and handed it across the table to the governor. Henderson returned to Mexico, but Campbell remained. Next day John D. S. Dryden, William V. N. Bay and Barton Bates, a nephew of Governor Gamble, were appointed judges of the supreme court, and Governor Hall handed Campbell Henderson's commission as a senator of the United States. Campbell telegraphed the joyous tidings to his chief and hastened to Mexico with the precious document.

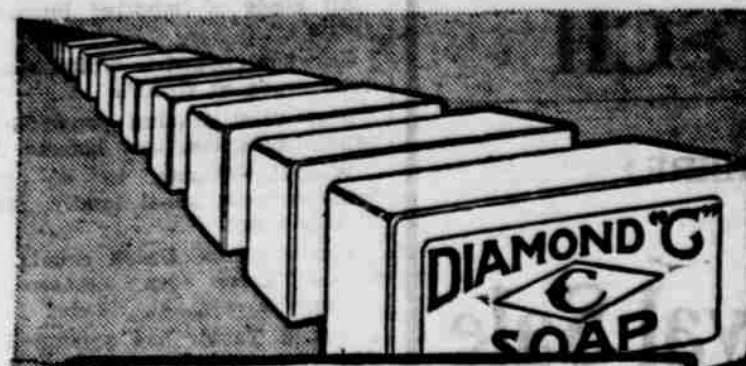
At noon Henderson mounted his war horse and, surrounded by his bodyguard, set out through a winter's storm for Louisiana, 52 miles away, which he reached the same evening in time for late supper, which goes to show what he could have achieved as a cavalryman had he not laid aside the sword of the soldier to don the toga of a senator.

And this is the way in which John B. Henderson happened to be the only man living or dead who ever declined a place on the supreme bench of Missouri and how he happened to slip his feet into Waldo P. Johnson's senatorial shoes.

General Henderson's Fee.

General John B. Henderson has received many whopping big fees, but I question very much if he ever made more money in the same length of time in St. Louis or anywhere else than he did one day in Pike county when quite a young man.

Scientists have of late years perfected the process of instantaneous photography. Long ago General Henderson invented an instantaneous process for making money. Contemporaneously with him there lived in Louisiana a young physician of brilliant parts, Dr. Samuel W. Buckner, brother of the late Judge Buckner. If Dr. Buckner had devoted himself to oratory instead of physic, his fame would have been worldwide. He was the administrator of the estate of a rich uncle-in-law and in his official capacity sued Mr. So-and-so for a large sum. Jury after jury hung, to Buckner's ineffable disgust. One morning he was riding out to see his patients, and Henderson was riding out in search of health possibly or wealth probably. They met at the creek, and while their horses were



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drinking the following dialogue took place:

"Sam," said Henderson, "how did you come out with your lawsuit this time?"

"Jury hung again, dodgast it."

"I'll tell you how to gain that case."

"How?"

"Impeach the defendant."

Their horses having drunk their fill, the young men went their several ways, Buckner pondering Henderson's words in his heart. At the next term of court the case came on for trial. Buckner impeached the defendant and secured his long desired verdict.

Stumped the Doctor.

On the first day of the succeeding January he received this statement by mail:

Dr. Samuel W. Buckner, debtor, to John B. Henderson, to counsel fees..... \$250

It fairly stunned him, for he had a well developed partiality for the almighty dollar himself.

Then many questions propounded to himself in the solitude of his own room bringing no soothing sirup to his perturbed spirit, he bolted for the general's office. The general was there. He usually was when the shekels were to be raked in. Between him and his unwilling client the following colloquy occurred:

"John, what in the name of Aesculapius does this bill mean? I never employed you in my life and don't owe you a continental copper."

"Sam, don't you remember that beautiful May morning when we met by chance in the pebbly bed of Noix creek and had a delightful chat about your case with Mr. So-and-so while our equines slaked their consuming thirst in the limpid waters of that historic stream?"

"Yes."

"And I advised you to impeach the defendant?"

"Yes."

"And you followed my advice?"

"Yes."

"And gained your suit?"

"Yes."

"And you owe me a cool \$250 for suggesting the modus operandi."

"The deuce I do!"

"Yes."

A great light dawned on the doctor, and he came down with the dust promptly, though sorrowfully, but he was extremely careful ever after not to let his palfrey drink in the same stream with General Henderson's thirsty beast.

CHAMP CLARK.

Heat From Cold Water.

Heat from cold water seems fabulous, but it is an established fact. The water is decomposed by electricity into its constituent gases, hydrogen and oxygen. When these gases are reunited, the act of combination causes the evolution of intense heat. The well known limelight is an example of this.

Marriage Rings in Denmark.

The maidens of Denmark never receive a diamond engagement ring. They are always presented with a plain gold band, which is worn on the third finger of the left hand. On the wedding day the bridegroom changes the ring to the right third finger, which is the marriage finger in that country.

Rheumatism.

If you suffer from rheumatism, buy a little flowers of sulphur and sprinkle it well into the feet of a pair of stockings, which you must wear at night. The sulphur is quickly absorbed into the system through the feet, and, as every one knows, sulphur is the remedy for rheumatism.

North Carolina Firemen.

Raleigh, N. C., July 22.—This city is gay with flags and bunting in honor of the members of the North Carolina Firemen's Association, whose annual meeting and tourna-

ment is in progress. The attendance is of record-breaking proportions, nearly every part of the state being represented. The three days' programme provides for an interesting series of races, drills, athletic contests, and other features of interest.

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