

THE COUNTY RECORD

KINGSTREE, S. C.

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INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

A Call to the Young Men of the South.

The opportune time has arrived for the young men of the South. They occupy an important position in the future development of that vast territory of inexhaustible riches. It is earnestly hoped they will take right hold of the matter, master its details and assist in advancing the industrial progress of the country. In every section, every district, every county of the Southern States exist advantages for the young man—better chances than anywhere on the face of the globe. During the past few years large numbers of young men surrendered their interests in the South—went into other lands, as they believed then, broader fields for the employment of their talents and capabilities. That movement of the young men, as well as others, has reached a conclusion. No more is the South sending people to aid in trying to build up other sections. We have reached a full realization of the fact that the South possesses superior advantages over all other sections for the utilization of our native talent, as well as that of other sections. We not only have room for all our own people, but several million of desirable immigrants. The young men of the Southern cities and towns are rapidly awakening to their duty and privilege, and are casting about for some avenue through which they can assist in the development of their respective localities. Young men's business leagues are being organized, immigration and improvement societies started and successfully officered by young men, business enterprises are being established by young men, farms opened up by young men, factories located and managed by young men, and generally the young men of the South are actively participating in the various important functions which will bring prosperity and improvement to that section. These young men, with the young men who are preparing to come South from the North, are the future business men of that section. The destiny of the South is being shaped by these people, and the activity manifested and the experience gained by the young men of today forms no minor part in the success of the South. They are disciplining their abilities to take up and fill the places they must necessarily be called upon to occupy.

It is the duty of each and every young man of the South to have his proper position in this matter and unflinchingly take hold of the opportunity, using all honorable means to better his condition. He is entitled to a position in the commercial as well as social avenues of the South, and that position is just what he himself makes it. The stranger, the homeseeker, the tourist is attracted to a section by the activity of the people in placing before them the special advantages of that section, and the young men are capable of engaging in an important line of work in that direction.

The West was largely settled by young men from the East. The South's prosperity will be greatly advanced by the young men of the South. This era of remarkable push and progress on all lines of betterment requires constant and intelligent effort, and our young men are rapidly adjusting themselves to the situation and are to be commended for their enterprise and quick perception of the necessities of the advanced period in which they are living.

The young man of today without capital or influence should realize that there is an store for him, provided he manipulates his career properly, a prominent place in the social, commercial and financial connections of the South.

It is hoped this circular will be of some service in stimulating the young men of the South and encouraging them on to prosperous and contented citizenship; that they will weigh the subject-matter, talk it over with their friends and associates, and act upon these suggestions. There is not a community in the South that does not possess the elements for numerous successes to the young men. Let the young men get together, decide themselves what they can and will do to promote their position and prospects. Let the farmers' son study agricultural situation—learn advanced and modern methods; see what other sections are doing and endeavor to surpass them; study the markets, both domestic and foreign; learn how and when to reach them and when to sell. Let the young men of our cities and towns educate themselves up to the requirements of the day. Let every young man of the South ask himself and answer this question, viz: "What am I going to do to assist in advancing the best interests of the section in which I live, and thereby promote my own personal interests?"

The young men of the country tributary to the Southern Railway are hereby advised that this company is interested in the welfare of its patrons, realizing that the success of the people along its lines means prosperity for the road. A successful people means a contented people; a prosperous community means at the same time a homogeneous community.

The Land and Industrial Department of the Southern Railway is organized expressly for the purpose of helping to advance the best interests of the people along its lines. That includes the young man, and the undersigned will be glad to co-operate with them, as far as is consistent and practical, in building up the country.

We wish the young men of the South success in all their laudable enterprises and undertakings. LAND AND INDUSTRIAL AGENT, SOUTHERN RAILWAY, Washington, D. C.

His Confession.

Mrs. Dowley—John, it is really frightful the way you swear. Before we were married you said you never gave way to profanity at all.

Mr. Dowley—And I told the truth. I never was married before.—Cleveland Leader.

Examination of the eyes of public school children in New York City proves that bad lighting and badly arranged lights in the class rooms have weakened the eyes of many.

OLD-TIME CAMP MEETINGS.

A Social and Religious Feature of the Rural South.

NOTHING LIKE IT IN THE NORTH

At Any Time, and Even in the South Its Distinctive Characteristics Have Passed Away.

W. R. Davie in the Charleston (S. C.) Sunday News.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

On Friday morning at daylight, and each day thereafter, the camp was roused by the notes of a "bugle-horn," always provided for such service and lustily blown by an enthusiastic expert, under the direction of the elder himself. The same signal called to morning and evening prayer and to the various services of the day. Morning prayer in the tents at sunrise, breakfast prayer meeting at 10, preaching at 11, dinner at 1, prayer meeting or "love feast" at 3, and preaching again at "early candle lighting," was the order of the day. At the 11 o'clock service on Friday the programme of services and rules prepared for the government of the meeting were generally announced by the presiding elder. By these rules the display of jewelry or golden ornaments, of expensive dress, and of gallantry between the sexes upon the grounds were strongly discouraged, and one zealous elder is remembered, who upon this occasion declared that any unmarried lady who appeared on the grounds, coming to or going from the "stand" under male escort, would be considered either weak-minded, a cripple, or too old to walk without assistance, a declaration which visibly abated the practice.

THE MEETING UNDER WAY.

By Friday night guests from a distance had begun to arrive and the "stand" was comfortably full. The preachers had begun to warm up to their work, and religious interest to increase. Short, earnest sermons and long impassioned exhortations, with the singing of familiar hymns by the entire congregation brought a few timid, halting penitents to the altar "to be prayed for." These were met with words of encouragement and welcome by the ministers, and after fervent prayers consigned to the loving care of relatives and friends. That night the tents were well patronized. From the men's quarters good-natured badinage and stale, but humorous jokes were heard, until suppressed by the authority of some sleepy old brother, while, from the ladies' tent notes of suppressed laughter indicated that they, too, enjoyed this singular break in their exclusive and luxurious lives.

The 11 o'clock sermon on Saturday was delivered by the most "powerful" preacher on the ground, excepting, perhaps, the presiding elder, for whom Sunday was reserved to a great congregation. And such preaching as it was! The two Pierces, Capers, Marvin, McTyree, Granbury and a host of others, learned, devout, and superbly gifted, were all Methodist "circuit riders" in this day, and so to speak, won their spurs in the pulpit or around the altars of country camp meetings. Profound attention and increased interest in the spiritual side of the feat marked this "effort" and the revival was well under way by the opening of the Saturday night service. The grounds were full now—distant neighborhoods and nearby towns had contributed their quota to the swelling multitude. They came in carriages and rockaways, barouches and buggies, in wagons and upon horseback, and not a few of the poorer whites upon foot, some for many weary miles, to join in the religious exercises and pleasures, and to enjoy for awhile at least the rare privilege of being the guests of the rich. Every respectable white was welcome to board and to bed as long as a foot of straw remained unoccupied, and both, like the Gospel, "without asking and without price."

THE SOCIAL FEATURE.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to social functions by the young people. "On hospitable deeds in a," as a said daughter, with chosen friends, sought to make or renew acquaintances, welcome guests and arrange for the proper and comfortable assignment of strangers. Their relations and deportment were such as might be expected from a class whose cardinal points in the moral code were honor and courage among men, virtue and modesty in women—well dressed, educated and refined, deferential and polite, warm-hearted and cordial, yet self-respecting, they drifted in happy throngs about the grounds, a merry, thoughtless crowd, the product of a civilization and Government which can never be repeated upon the earth. Those gallant and handsome youths were yet to form the flower of "Lee's incomparable infantry," to ride with Stuart and Hampton, with Morgan and Forrest, to work the guns with Pelham and McGregor, with Breckinridge and Pegram, to fight with Bragg at Chickamauga and die with Johnston at Shiloh, and these gentle and beautiful maidens were to become "the women of the Confederacy," whose dainty hands as yet unused to braid their own fair tresses and dry their pretty skins, were to spin and weave, eat and make the uniforms of grey, who were doomed to work and watch and pray for four long years of mortal strife and when "all was lost save honor," to welcome to their ruined homes the weary and ragged survivors. And with more than Spartan courage, with smiles and cheer, and hope and love, began anew the battle of life and hope and the rehabilitation of the South. God bless them!

THE CLIMACTERIC.

On Saturday night the camp ground sheltered its greatest number of guests. In well populated districts these frequently numbered from 2,000 to 4,000, in addition to which from 400 to 600 slaves and 500 to 1,000 mules and horses also received food. This was generally the red letter night of the meeting from a spiritual point of view. The altar was full of "mourners," all of the preachers were employed and every resource of revival and every influence at the

command of the Church was brought to bear, that the harvest might be increased. Impassioned eloquence, staccato, pathos, illustration, the influence of song and appeal of relatives and friends, the power of prayer, the effect of example working upon the excited consciences, tears and hopes of the penitents, brought first conviction and then conversion, welcomed by the glad shouts of the ministry and of the zealous brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers of the redeemed. It was a weird scene, and one not to be forgotten. In the pulpit and around the altar the ministers, wrought to the highest pitch of excitement, stood to exhort the congregation to repentance, or knelt in prayer beside the weeping penitents. Relatives and friends joined freely in the prayers for conversion of loved ones, or abandoned themselves to nervous ecstacy, which found vent in incoherent shouts and hysterical tears and sobs. Sometimes these manifestations took another form, and the unfortunate seekers after religion found themselves in imminent danger of going immediately to their reward under the blows of some excited and muscular mother in Israel. The lights upon the pulpit were usually protected by glass lanterns, while in the congregation the flickering home-made candles, from their wooden brackets, "shed their soft radiance—and tallow, o'er headboard and shawl." Nine, 10, 11 and finally 12 o'clock passed unheeded, while the excitement it grew and the audience, from motives of interest, sympathy or curiosity, drew insensibly nearer and nearer to the crowded altar and, swayed with the rhythmic cadence of familiar songs, joined heart and soul in the sacred concert. All were moved, young and old, grave and gay. Those who "came to sooth" remained to pray, and unnumbered thousands of those who have died in the faith and other thousands who yet await the summons, could date their conversion from such scenes as we have attempted to depict. A stolen glance at his watch finally admonished the presiding elder of duties on the morrow, and the service was brought to a close by prayer and benediction. The weary and excited throng sought rest in the friendly shelter of the tents; lights were extinguished, and soon the silence of the night was unbroken save by the occasional bray of a watch mule in protest against unaccustomed quarters, or the howl of a lost and disoriented dog.

Sunday was par excellence.

The 11 o'clock sermon on Sunday was the event of the meeting. This sermon, by the presiding elder or Bishop, if one happened to be present, was looked forward to with eager anticipation and remembered with pleasure and pride by all good churchmen. The entire altar space was given up to the women, except the "amen corner," which was occupied by the oldest and most influential brethren. All the remaining males, and not a few of the women, stood around the sides of the stand under umbrellas, or strolled off to the shelter of the tents or trees, ranged themselves in sager and respectful ranks, the oldest and most pious in front, and enjoyed the exercises fully as much as their white owners.

On this important occasion as many as possible of the ministers were allowed to officiate, one "lining out the hymns," another leading in prayer, others joining in the exhortation, while all participated in the solemn and impressive "communion service" soon to be administered.

THE SUNDAY DINNER.

These duties and the necessities of affording ample time for the important Sunday dinner, precluded any serious effort to repeat the altar experiences of the preceding night, and at half-past 1 the service closed and all went to dinner. Such a dinner as it was, too. Many a weary hour of picket duty or prison life was whiled away in after years by the "Johnny Rebs" in the tantalizing story of their dinners. The barbecued beef or pork, kid or mutton, was cooked to a turn, and seasoned to suit the gods. The baked turkey, fried chicken was gorgeous. The biscuit and "loaf" bread perfection. The pies and cakes, the cookies and tarts, the preserves and jellies, the pickles and jams, "things of beauty a joy forever." Superb coffee, homemade wine and beer, and the best of spring water, served to wash down the feast, while the older men found time and place for a social glass of something "stronger" just before dinner, and a pipe immediately after. The Sunday morning prayer meeting was peculiarly important as a preparation for the ensuing night services, when the greatest number of conversions were expected, and the greatest number of accessions to the Church. This prayer meeting was devoted exclusively to the penitents of the night before, who had not yet "professed religion." These penitents had meanwhile been in the loving custody of friends, and had taken little part in the social features of the day. Special and fervid prayer was offered for their conversion at the 3 o'clock services and frequently special prayer thereupon after under the guidance of some zealous minister. Divided up into small classes, and accompanied by friends, these were led away from the grounds to some secluded spot in the adjacent forest, where, hidden away from the crowd, and subjected to personal influence, they might "wrestle with the spirit" and strive for the gift of praise.

"ON PROBATION."

The night service on Sunday was but an intensified and enlarged copy of that of Saturday and lasted longer. Every nerve was strained and "the last offer" made to escape the toils of sin and win eternal life. At its close the doors of the church were thrown open and (if a Methodist camp meeting) the converts received as members upon "probation." These converts had the right to join the nearest Methodist church to their residence, and if faithful and still desirous to continue their connection at the end of six months were admitted to full fellowship, or they had the right to join any other religious denomination, so that the Baptist, Presbyterian and other churches shared the harvest of their Methodist brethren.

Many, perhaps the majority, remained true to their conviction, and by their after life proved the genuineness of their conversions, while not a few, like the Irishman, "Joined the Church for six months, but did so well they let him off at three."

CONCLUSION.

The camp meeting usually broke on Monday, the visiting ministers and

distant guests leaving on that day. Services were perhaps conducted by the elder and local pastor during the day, in the hope of gathering in the "aftermath," but the glory had departed from Israel. By Tuesday morn the camp was empty, and that night the screech owls came back to roost in the deserted tents. The great crowd had departed whence it came, many rejoicing in the possession of a new and better life, many to regret lost or neglected opportunities for repentance, and all with the memory of a most delightful occasion and the strains of sacred music ringing in their ears for weeks afterward.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

As to the Funds Arising From Tax Claims.

MUST GO TO THE SINKING FUND.

They Have the Right to All Such Money—It Does Not Go Into the General State Treasury.

An important decision on a question as to what disposition shall legally be made of money arising from property sold for past due tax claims. The Sinking Fund Commission has contended that the money should be turned into them, while the Comptroller General has held that it should go into the general treasury. The Attorney General decides that the money must go to the Sinking Fund.

COLUMBIA, May 26, 1897.
Hon. W. H. Timmerman, Secretary
Commissioner of the Sinking Fund,
Columbia, S. C.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your letter calling my attention to the resolution of the Sinking Fund Commission of May 3, 1897, as follows:

"Upon motion, the Attorney General was requested at his earliest convenience to furnish the opinion whether it would be lawful for any county treasurer or county sheriff or their deputies to collect or receive taxes, or costs and penalties thereon when past due or unpaid for twelve months whether the same be off or on the tax duplicates.

Also, whether such receipts or collection by treasurer or sheriff of any county of tax claims against property when past due and unpaid for twelve months would discharge said property from the State's lien for such taxes, attention being called to 'An act in relation to unpaid tax claims, approved March 26, 1896; also an act to provide an additional remedy for collection,' approved 24th December, 1892.

The answer to the first inquiry is found in the act of 1896, entitled 'An Act in relation to unpaid tax claims.' (See acts of 1896, page 355.) By that act it is provided: That hereafter the county auditors and treasurers shall annually and fully have a final settlement as to tax executions issued by said treasurers within twelve months after the expiration of the time allowed by law for the payment of taxes in any year.

Section 2. That all unpaid tax executions with the sheriff's returns endorsed thereon shall be by the county treasurer filed and permanently kept as a record in his office. And that all such tax executions and other tax claims against property, whether on or off the tax duplicates, when past due and unpaid for twelve months, shall become assets in charge of the commissioners of the sinking fund.

Section 3. That for the purposes of realizing and collecting money from said assets, the Secretary of State, as agent of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, against lands and buildings and fixtures thereon, shall have the rights, powers and remedies for ascertaining the amount due thereon and collecting the same as provided in an act entitled 'An Act to provide an additional remedy for the collection of taxes, costs and penalties upon lands past due and unpaid for eight months, approved December 24th, 1892, and for the purpose of collecting and realizing from said assets against personal property the Secretary of State, as agent aforesaid, shall have the rights, remedies, powers and processes possessed by the county treasurer and comptroller general for collecting taxes under 'An Act entitled an act in relation to forfeited lands, delinquent land and collection of taxes,' approved December 24th, 1887.

From this it is clear that the tax claims when past due and unpaid for twelve months, whether on or off the tax duplicates, become assets of the State in charge of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. It is, therefore, the duty of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, through the Secretary of State, as their agent, to collect such assets and it would be unlawful for any treasurer or sheriff to collect any moneys in pursuance thereof.

In response to your second inquiry, I would say that the question can only arise when some officer commits an unlawful act. The presumption is that officers will discharge their duty as provided by law and until the contrary arises the question you submit is merely speculative. However, I should say that if an officer unlawfully collects money from a taxpayer, whatever proceeding is to be taken should be taken against the officer and not the taxpayer, who innocently pays the money.

Very respectfully yours,
WILLIAM A. BARRETT,
Attorney General.

Constable Harmon has been arrested in Columbia, charged with falsifying his certificate for mileage as a witness at the United States Court in Charleston.

In Cherokee county there are seven men to be tried for murder.

Emptied into the River.

According to his will, the ashes of Adolph Romain, of Cincinnati, O., who died in Germany, were emptied into the Mississippi river at St. Louis, Mo.

The Alton turfman who killed himself because "horses were so slow" verified the common experience. The only fast horses those who did not bet on

JOHN LOWNDES M'LAURIN.

Sketch of the Life of the New Senator From the 6th District.

ASHINING LIGHT IN CONGRESS.

A Very Broad Man in Politics—Not Thought of as Being a Member of Either Faction.

John Lowndes McLaurin was born in Marlboro county, May 9th, 1860. His father's name was Philip B. McLaurin. He was a lawyer of marked ability, but died at an early age, leaving the subject of this sketch, Thomas and Margaret. Thomas died when about 12



JOHN L. M'LAURIN.

years old and Margaret is now living in Marlboro county as Mrs. Crossland. His mother was a daughter of Col. T. C. Weatherly, who was prominent in public life before the war. He was sheriff of his county and represented it in the General Assembly for many years. Whatever of political ability and taste that Mr. McLaurin has is from this side of the house, all of the Weatherlys being successful politicians. Mr. McLaurin's father while he was in politics was elected at the very early age of 23 to the General Assembly. He was just old enough to be eligible. On this side of the house there was marked intellectuality and culture; while they were in politics, they did not care as much for them as for matters of an intellectual character. Mr. McLaurin's father was a fine speaker.

His father died from illness contracted from exposure in the army in 1864. In 1867 his mother married Mr. William S. Mowry, of Charleston, S. C. Mr. Mowry was a very wealthy gentleman and the family lived for several years in Marlboro county and then moved in 1873 to Englewood, N. J., where Mr. Mowry has since that time been a very successful member of the cotton and stock exchange. Mr. and Mrs. Mowry, and five half brothers and sisters are now living at this place. All Mr. McLaurin's half brothers are in business in New York city.

In those early days the school system of South Carolina was so defective that "Johnnie and Tommie" were sent up to the Bethel Military academy near Warrenton, Va. Tommie died while attending the school and John, the new Senator of today, was then taken on to Englewood and sent to school there until he was 15 years of age. He was then sent to Swartmore College near Philadelphia. A Quaker school didn't suit ardent South Carolina temperament and after two years Colonel Weatherly, John's grandfather, concluded that a military school and a disciplinarian like Col. John P. Thomas were needed to properly train and hold in check the promising young Carolinian. He remained under Col. Thomas in his school at Charlotte, N. C., until he graduated in 1880. John was noted more as a baseball and boxer than as a student, though his natural quickness and aptness enabled him to stand well in his classes. He then went to the University of Virginia and took the law course and in 1882 went to Bennettsville and began the practice of law.

Although Mr. McLaurin up to this time had given very little attention to the realities of life and his future prospects, having been a wayward youth at college insofar as respect for rules and so on were concerned, when he began the practice of law he decided to turn over a new leaf and make a name for himself in his profession. He hung on his shingle. Soon an opportunity came along in the shape of cases brought against thirty-two road brands—known since as the Hebron road cases. It was a kind of a fend in the county. The prosecution employed all the leading attorneys in the county, including the present assistant attorney general of South Carolina, ex-Judge Townsend. Mr. McLaurin was alone for the defense and many had advised the accused to plead guilty. After five days of legal fighting, Mr. McLaurin won in every case by appeals to the jury, the law and evidence and prejudice of the people being against him. Judge Townsend was attracted to the bright young lawyer and offered to take him into partnership. This co-partnership was formed in 1888 and continued until Mr. McLaurin's election to congress, the firm being recognized as one of the strongest in that section of the State.

On the 19th of February, 1888, Mr. McLaurin married Miss Nora Breeden, of Bennettsville, S. C., the daughter of Mr. T. J. Breeden, and a niece of his law partner, Judge Townsend. They have six children, four girls and two boys. The marriage has been a most happy and congenial one and Mr. McLaurin attributes his success in law and politics to the influence of his life partner. His friends will tell all that he has never taken an important step in his life without consulting his wife, and he has even discussed his law cases with her.

Under the former regime in South Carolina, Mr. McLaurin from almost the time that he began the practice of law rebelled against the existing political conditions. In 1888 he made in his county a fight such as Tillman led in the State in 1890. He was defeated only by the greatest effort and by the combi-

nation of all the opposing forces. In 1890 he was elected to the legislature. The General Assembly was composed almost entirely of new men and contained Senator Irby, ex-Governor Evans, Justice Gary, Judge Gary and many other men who have since become prominent in State and national affairs. In a very few days Mr. McLaurin made a speech that developed the fact that he was one of the coming factors in South Carolina politics. At the second term of the legislature Attorney General Pope was elected associate justice of the State Supreme Court and Ernest Gary, Congressman Wilson, D. A. Townsend and Mr. McLaurin were candidates for attorney general to succeed Justice Pope. McLaurin had an easy victory, being elected on the third ballot. He plunged at once into the sea of litigation. The Coosaw case was pending, involving a large sum and the bank and railroad tax cases that have since become so noted finally ending in the Supreme Court of the United States. All of these cases were of the utmost importance to the State. His record as attorney general was good.

During the campaign of 1892 Governor Tillman was opposed by ex-Governor John C. Sheppard. The main fight upon Tillman was made by Col. Youmans, who was a candidate for Secretary of State. He was a very eloquent, fluent and forcible speaker. There were personal differences between Youmans and Tillman, and Tillman refused to debate or recognize him in the campaign at all, which threw the fight, so far as Youmans was concerned, upon McLaurin. Rarely has such a debate ever taken place in any campaign in this State. It was of such a character as to excite the keenest public interest, yet the two men came out of it the best of friends, personally. The result created such a wave of public favor for Mr. McLaurin that when Mr. Stackhouse died in June, 1892, nothing could prevent the people of McLaurin's district from electing him to Congress in November following.

He was seated when the Fifty-second Congress convened in 1892, in the month of December. Mr. McLaurin's fine utterances upon the floor drew great attention to him all over the country. It was his remarkable eulogy on his deceased predecessor. It was unusual and drew many comments from the press. He went back to give a sketch of the history of slavery in the South, showing its influence in the formation of the character of the men of his State. Then he proceeded to connect it with this new Reform movement with which Mr. Stackhouse had had so much to do in launching. He came to Congress about the time that Baily, Bryan, Sibley and others of equal note made their entrance upon the congressional stage and immediately began to attract attention to himself as a debater. His first fight was on the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. His speech was one of the very first attacks upon Grover Cleveland's policy. It was sarcastic and pungent and claimed widespread attention both at home and in the country at large. Then, during the panic of 1893, when because of the scarcity of money the banks had to form a clearing house association and issue certificates in order to move the cotton crop, Mr. McLaurin was the very first man in either branch of Congress to see the point and propose a remedy. He got some of the certificates and went before the banking and currency committee with a proposition to issue \$125,000,000 of United States notes, which were to be deposited with the banks to take the place of these certificates. He showed that the law prohibited the retirement of these notes below \$946,000,000 and that as a matter of fact they had been retired far below this amount. He made a strong fight against the imposition of the 10 per cent. tax that the treasury department proposed to place upon these certificates. This speech was very extensively printed in the papers of the West and South.

Mr. McLaurin also took a prominent part in the debates to repeal the 10 per cent tax on State banks. He made a number of other speeches on the financial question, all of which have attracted attention. In the organization of the Fifty-fourth Congress, Speaker Reed placed Mr. McLaurin upon the Ways and Means Committee. Since that time he has devoted himself to the study of the tariff question. In a speech delivered on March 23d last he attracted the attention of the whole country with his speech upon the Dingley bill. He boldly proclaimed the doctrine that if a policy of protection was to obtain that the South should have her share; that all or nothing should be protected. He offered an amendment in the committee room asking for a duty of 2-1/2 cents upon all cotton imported into the United States. He was vigorously attacked on the floor from all quarters, but met every assault with that tact and coolness and fully sustained his reputation as a debater. Then there was his last speech advertising Columbia and the South in a way as to attract the notice of the entire country. Mr. McLaurin has been elected thrice in his district.

One of his admirers says of him: "He is a very broad man in politics. During a factional fight there was no man that fought harder, but as soon as the battle ended he took the position that he was a representative of the whole people, and that he did not have the right to hold a Democrat responsible or question his right to vote against him in the primary election. He was the first reform leader to come out openly and boldly in favor of peace and unity. At one time it seemed certain that the leaders of his own faction would defeat him, but when they would get a man out and McLaurin would go on the stump, the first speech would dissipate all opposition. Mr. McLaurin's friends and many of his enemies, politically, also consider that he has done as much if not more towards the breaking down of factional lines in this State as any other man. In fact, Mr. McLaurin is not thought of as being a member of either faction."

Lewiston, Me., Journal: So long as gentlemen would neither lie nor steal nor boycott nor tyrannize as individuals will consent to put their money into enterprises managed so as to adopt methods of business which characterized Jack Cade and the pirates of the Spanish main, and which yet characterize the highwayman's art, these esteemed gentlemen must not be amazed if people continue to identify trusts with robbery and the manipulators thereof with enemies of financial order and industrial fair play.