

McLaurin Discusses Action of Convention

Declares Some Delegates of Democratic Council Were "Duped and Deceived"—Commissioner Undecided as to Method of Carrying Principles of Warehouse System to People.

John L. McLaurin, State warehouse commissioner, yesterday issued the following statement:

To the Farmers of South Carolina: In consequence of the action of the recent State convention in declining to permit the State warehouse commissioner to enter the Democratic primary this summer in the interest of the warehouse system, I am receiving so many letters from farmers throughout the State asking for an expression from me that it is impossible for me to answer them all, and it is in reply to them that I am making this statement.

Broadly and briefly stated, under our present financial system, the business interests of both town and country are at the mercy of concentrated wealth. It acts as a unit; the people act as individuals.

Until the federal reserve law, money and credit were under the control of a knot of conspirators, who used their power to expand or contract the currency so as to enrich themselves at the expense of the producers. The bank reserves were concentrated in New York and constituted that vast fund of "call money" which fostered a tremendous speculation in products; controlled transportation, locked up credits and made money panics a part of our financial system. It was the fruitful mother of usury, which, through the ages, has enabled the drones to devour the workers.

To liberate the producers, the new currency law must have for its expression the warehouse. If cotton values are stabilized, then cotton gamblers are destroyed.

Cut Out Middleman.

If the federal reserve system recognizes warehouse receipts and decreases 6 per cent. money, then the usurer can no longer play his trade. The central bank now discounts for the member bank at 3 per cent. It only needs a little more legislation to deal directly through the State warehouse and thus cut out the profit of a useless middleman.

If the product of land, cotton, is converted into a fluid asset, why not the land upon which cotton is grown? Then mortgage companies and other professional shysters will find their occupation gone. To find employment for all the hidden hoards of money, it must seek investment in commodity paper, land bonds or industrial enterprises, which will place labor in greater demand. Small banks will be on an equal footing with the big distributing banks. Small business men will have the same banking facilities now enjoyed by the captains of finance.

With the federal reserve banking system, cotton has become a liquid asset, and the last 12 months has proved beyond any reasonable doubt that cotton can be valorized by its use as a collateral as readily as stocks or bonds.

If cotton is valorized by use as a collateral, then immediately crop mortgages assume a new basis of credit and the tenant and share cropper are placed in a more independent position to defy the chattel mortgage robbers.

Hidden Forces.

These are the hidden forces directing opposition to the development of the warehouse system and denying a full and free exposition of its principles before the people.

I know that factional lines were drawn in the State convention to keep me from discussing these questions. I know that men who believe in me and my work voted to cut me out of a legal right and trampled under foot the law of the State.

They were duped and deceived. The unqualified indorsement of the convention proves this, but the diabolical cunning of the selfish interests, who, when Manning would not obey their behests on the mill strike and the anti-compact bill, misled and brought out Cooper and have now double-crossed Cooper and gone back to Manning in consideration of his throttling a presentation of the truth before the people, led them into the trap. There is no man in South Carolina who is swayed less by factionalism than I. All factions per se are fakes and frauds, through which honest men are blinded that the selfish few may thrive. It is time South Carolina passed out of political childhood and took on the sober thoughtfulness that belongs to maturity.

Vicious Attacks.

The vicious and underhanded attacks made upon the State warehouse system and upon me, upon the floor of the convention, emphasizes the necessity, based upon simple justice to the warehouse system and to the people, of taking the system directly before the people, and I shall take my own way, which will later be disclosed, of doing so. I want it distinctly understood that this statement has nothing to do with the factional alignments in this State, nor with the candidacy of any man for governor, but the recent State convention has not been able to abolish the true Democracy which lives in the hearts of the people of South Carolina, and they shall have the opportunity, to which they are entitled as a matter of right and not of mere privilege, of knowing the benefits which the State ware-

house system has been to them and the larger benefit which it can be to them, and the State warehouse system shall have the opportunity, to which it is entitled in the same manner, of meeting before the people of the State such vicious attacks as are constantly being directed against it as exemplified by the State convention.

I have no weapon save the thought which I can create; no appeal save to conscience and the true interest of my fellow citizen.

The concentrated wealth which opposes every step I take forward gathers for its defense an army of faithful because well paid retainers. They buy the best brain to speak, write and act for them. They have lawyers, politicians and editors constantly at work mounding public sentiment. When the system demonstrates its usefulness, they attack my character and try to destroy confidence in me. No appeal to a sense of justice avails; greed and self-interest outweigh the rights, prosperity and happiness of millions of human beings.

Charges Monopoly.

There is today in this State a close corporation of interests demanding an exclusive monopoly in making, declaring and administering laws. They care not who hold the offices, so they control policies. "Whose bread I eat, his song I sing." Never was there so overwhelming a desire on the part of the people for knowledge. Are they to be denied?

If the State warehouse system has one thing to be specially commended, it is economy and efficiency. Is it dangerous to give the people a lesson in these cardinal virtues?

South Carolina has never had a real business administration.

Taxes have doubled in twenty years. Who dares say efficiency has been bettered?

Political Leeches.

I venture the assertion that about one in 20 primary voters is on the public payroll in some capacity. This State is flooded with political leeches performing a useless work, but bending their energies to keep up a machine which will perpetuate their jobs. Food inspectors, drug inspectors, whiskey constables, special constables, charity experts, labor experts, hookworm and pellagra and tuberculosis experts, hog agents, anti-toxin distributors, mad dog inspectors, white slave agents, demonstration agents, tomato club agents, crop bureau information gatherers upon whose information the prices of our products are forced down, trustees, purity congress delegates, drainage delegates—anything that will create a job—all traveling over the same field, everlastingly drawing salaries and piling up expense accounts to the profit of the political machine and the impoverishment of the ordinary taxpayer. Who pays the freight? Where is it all to end? What man outside of the lunatic asylum does not know that such a loose, diffuse administration of its affairs would bankrupt the United States Steel trust in a few years? The State only survives such a lack of efficiency at the expense of a constant drain upon the taxpayers. We need ordinary business efficiency and plain common sense in public service.

This condition came about because after 1876, every time objection was raised, those in control said, "Hush, you'll split the party." Now, it is "Bless in the wood-pile," and people are whipped into line by a threat of "Blessism." God save the State, if the people can be fooled, and if they allow themselves to be duped into bitter factionalism against their own interests by this incessant cry against "Blessism."

The interests which are fighting the State warehouse system because it cuts off their enormous profits misled the State convention into a factional line-up against the interests of the people whom that convention had been assembled to represent. Manufacturers, exporters and others who are now profiting at the expense of the producer do not want a licensed grader's system under which cotton can be stored and sold on standard grades, and they do not want other laws which will stop the constant drain upon the people of the South which every day enlarges of the already rich. They defeated these measures in the last legislature, and they will defeat them in the next unless the people are on the alert. I have no fear as to the final verdict when these matters are presented to the people fully, and I shall take that course which shall seem to me best to get an exposition of the principles of the State warehouse system clearly before them.

Jno. Lowndes McLaurin.

A. S. JOHNSTONE ELECTED.

Former Anderson Man Assistant Secretary National Charities and Corrections.

Indianapolis, May 18.—At the closing session here last night of the 43rd annual meeting of the National Conference on Charities and Corrections, the resolutions committee recommended that the resolution of Miss Kate Davis of Cleveland, placing the conference on record as favoring the Owens-Keating child labor bill now in congress, be adopted. The delegates approved the resolution, but it was explained that it is not customary for the conference "to adopt resolutions on questions of public policy."

\$8,000 Sale of Seasonable Merchandise

It will pay you to anticipate your wants for months ahead at these low prices!

Considering Today's Market, These Prices are Extremely LOW!

It is noteworthy that under the present condition of the market, with mill prices skyrocketing, with raw materials becoming scarce, with the general advance in the cost of all merchandise, that we are able to offer you such VALUES AS ARE ITEMIZED ON THIS PAGE. Wise buyers WILL BE QUICK TO GET THEIR FULL SHARE of these Values. QUICK ACTION IS DEMANDED ALL ALONG THE LINE! WE WANT QUICK MONEY! WE MUST HAVE QUICK SALES!

BOYS' SUITS

Large assortment of boys' suits, mostly Norfolks, pretty materials, ages 7 to 18 years:

\$2.50 Suit	\$1.59
2.98 Suit	2.35
3.48 Suit	2.65
3.98 Suit	2.95
4.98 Suit	3.65
5.98 Suit	4.25

COUPON

WHEN PRESENTED AT THIS STORE at ANY TIME, will entitle the holder to 7 spools of this Standard thread for 25c. Good only when Coupon is presented. Cut it out now!

7 Spools J. & P. COATS Cotton Thread 25c For

MEN'S P. B. SUITS
\$6.98 Value for \$6.00

LADIES' P. B. SUITS
\$6.98 Value \$5.98

BOY'S P. B. SUITS
\$1.98 Value \$1.25

Regular 10c Cheviots to go at 8c

1,500 yds. Merrimack calicoes, yd. 43-4c

7 REGULAR SIZE CAKES OF OCTAGON SOAP 25c

25 lbs. Best Granulated Sugar \$1.95
This offer is open only to those who buy as much as one dollars worth of other goods in the store. No exception.

MEN'S PANTS SALE

98c, \$1.48, \$2.48 and up to \$398

100 Pair Men's High Grade Overalls, the "Safety Block" brand, \$1.25 value, \$8,000 Sale price, pair 93c

700 yards A A A heavy Homespun, 36 inches wide, Sale price, yard 8c

BOY'S KHAKI SUITS

Ages 4 to 7, pair 15c
Ages 8 to 15, pair 43c

LADIES SPORT COATS

Beautiful selection in plaids and fancy stripes, regular price, \$5, \$8,000 Sale price \$3.98

EMBROIDERY

5c Embroidery, \$8,000 sale price, yd	3 1/2c
10c Embroidery, medium width, \$8,000 Sale price, yd	8c
15c Embroidery, width 18 ins., \$8,000 Sale price	12c
25c Embroidery, width 25 ins., \$8,000 Sale price	19c

MUSLIN UNDERWEAR

Gowns, Petticoats, Drawers, Corset Covers, in plain and fancy designs, 23c to 98c

Ladies' Walk Over Slippers

Awarded Grand Prize at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915. This line of Shoes and Slippers are too well known in Abbeville and Abbeville county to say more—it's only necessary to quote the very low prices, thus:

\$4.00 Quality, \$8,000 Sale Price	\$3.19
\$3.50 Quality, \$8,000 Sale Price	\$2.79

COUNTERPANE SALE

\$1.00 Values in medium size Counterpanes, Sale price	89c
\$1.50 Value, full size Counterpanes, Sale price	\$1.29
\$2.25 Quality Counterpanes during this sale	\$1.89

BALL COTTON, 8 for 5c

MEN'S STRAW HATS

\$3.00 Quality, Sale price	\$2.29
1.98 Quality, Sale price	1.50
1.48 Quality, Sale price	.98

38-inch wide and narrow striped Muslins, worth 15c, Sale price 11c

36-inch Percales, light colors only, sale price per yard 9c

One lot Dress Gingham, stripes and checks, 10c value, sale price, yd 8c

200 yards 36-inch Pajama checks, Sale price, the yard 9c

SILK UNDERSKIRT SALE

In brown, navy blue, copenhagen blue and green, \$2.48 quality, \$8,000 Sale price \$1.85

CREPE DE CHINE

\$1.50 Quality in Maiz, Pink and white, just received by express) \$8,000 Sale price \$1.19

MEN'S AND BOYS' CAPS

50c Values, in a large assortment of designs, Sale price 42c
98c Values, to go in the \$8,000 Sale at 79c

SUIT CASES

\$1.25 Suit Case, Sale price	.85
1.50 Suit Case, Sale price	.98
3.00 Suit Case, Sale price	2.48
5.00 Suit Case, Sale price	3.89

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