

M'LAURIN'S GREENVILLE SPEECH

Delivered on May 22, 1901, to a Large Audience.

THE SENATOR EXPLAINS HIS VOTES

On Party Questions and His Relation to the Administration—Not Seeking Federal Favors.

FARMER'S MOVEMENT.

Fellow-citizens: The political reform of 1890 had for its main object the independence of thought and action on the part of the people in political affairs. It was this that made me a "Reformer."

THE "ALLIANCE."

Fellow-citizens: It affords me great pleasure to address you to-day. I thank you for the honor and the opportunity. I recognize the fact that I am your public servant, and am accountable to the people who elected me for my stewardship.

PRINCIPLES HIGHER THAN PARTY.

Political parties under our form of government are a necessity. They grow out of the political relations established by the government itself.

HOW CAN I BEST SERVE THE INTEREST OF SOUTH CAROLINA?

Believing as I do that there are vital issues which, growing out of changed industrial conditions, are higher and broader than mere party questions, I have, as your Senator, looking beyond the line marked by sectionalism and partisanship, striven to promote the material, political and commercial interests of our common country—for in so doing, I can best serve the interests of the State of South Carolina.

There are two questions that I submit to the people of South Carolina:

First, Am I honest in the views I advocate? Second, Am I mistaken? As to the first, all that I have to say is that my people have shed their blood for South Carolina in every contest in which she has ever been engaged.

allant force, the reserved patriotism of the people.

DEMOCRACY BROADER THAN SECTIONALISM.

Fellow citizens: There is no pretense to the stability of our government than a large minority in the American Congress voting upon broad, vital, non-partisan American questions from purely sectional considerations.

THE MONEY QUESTION.

Beginning with the panic of 1893, there has never been such rapid industrial changes in any country. These changes were in progress, and our war with Spain served as a flash-light to show us what was going on.

Another great change as the result of the panic of 1893, is the rapid development of our export trade.

Our home markets failed us, manufacturers found themselves with immense stocks of goods on hand and nobody to buy them, this forced them to seek markets abroad, and one enterprising firm in Birmingham, Ala., shipped 250 tons of iron to Europe.

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her in which I cannot participate, and no evil of which I must not bear my share. If I wanted to have an easy time, I certainly choose the hard road.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: TO A MAN WHO LOVED SOCIETY AND THAT SORT OF THING, A SEAT IN THE SENATE MAY BE A PRIZE WORTH HAVING.

Fellow-citizens: To a man who loved society and that sort of thing, a seat in the Senate may be a prize worth having, but to me, it is of no value save to further the cause to which I am devoting the rest of my life.

FEDERAL PATRONAGE.

Now, fellow-citizens, I want to say one word on this subject. I do not control, I do not profess to control, I do not wish to control, nor will I become responsible for, the Federal patronage in South Carolina.

AM I MISTAKEN?

I desire now to take up some of my votes and speeches, and address myself to the question, Am I mistaken? When I was placed on the Ways and Means Committee of the House, I began a systematic course of study on the tariff question with reference to its effect upon the people of the South.

acter command. That is not what we mean by "Carpet-bagging" in South Carolina. Some people, however, are so disturbed because the President has appointed a man whom the people of Aliken have elected Mayor of their town twice, and who is a refined and courteous gentleman, that they are preferring charges against him in Washington; this is done for political purposes and I well understand it as a lick at me, not Mr. Chaffee.

THE GENTLEMAN FROM MEXICO.

There is one thing that I have not heard much of a kick, the loan of the government exhibit at Buffalo to Charleston. I believe, however, somebody else claims the credit.

WILL NOT BE DRIVEN.

I have just one or two more things to say on the first question I am discussing. My intimate friends know that it has been my desire to retire from public life. I had determined never again to undertake the canvass of this State, and were it not that I felt that I owned it to the people of South Carolina to discuss these issues and enable them to act intelligently by placing themselves in touch with the best thought of the age, I would not be here today.

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means that the farmers in this country shall be forced to buy in a restricted market and then sell all of their products in competition with the pauper labor of the world. I made this fight for Southern industries while a member of the House, when I had no idea in the world of going into the Senate. You all remember what universal chorus of approval there was. Senators Tillman, Bacon, Clay and others took up the same line in the Senate. The News and Courier, the Columbia State and ninety per cent. of the papers of the South commended my course.

CAMPAIGN OF 1897.

It is unnecessary for me to refer to that bitter fight. You all remember the meeting in Greenville, where I was insulted, bullied and baited like some wild beast, it was a sample of some of the rest. For myself I am willing to "let the dead past bury its dead." I have no ill feeling towards any one on account of it.

COTTON PLANTERS SACRIFICED TO A SENTIMENT.

This is not the place to explain what the retention of the home market means when a manufacturer seeks a foreign outlet. I will refer, however, to the duty on raw cotton, which I advocated at the time. Cotton, corn and wheat are our great exports. Now I want to ask you a question, why is it that a duty of twenty-five cents per bushel is put on wheat, and fifteen cents per bushel on corn, while nothing is put upon cotton? The three stand exactly upon the same basis. It is this, Northern wheat against Egyptian cotton and wheat against Northern corn and wheat against Northern cotton.

EXPANSION.

I will not undertake to demonstrate the wisdom of expansion, but will content myself by simply saying that we are a nation of expansionists. We have expanded during the last one hundred years on this continent from eight hundred thousand to four million square miles. Expansion is the bed-rock of Democracy. Thomas Jefferson, the first expansion President, added 1,122,000 square miles to our area. The annexation of Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada were by Democratic Administrations. Andrew Jackson would today be denounced as an Imperialist by the very same people who call "Jackson day dinner" and worship at his shrine. "Old Hickory" said on this subject, "I have thought with the ancient Roman, that it is right never to cede any territory within the boundary of a republic, but always to add to it."

campaign, confined to my bed at one time for seven weeks. These terrible campaigns of ours in the heat of summer, making speeches day after day, sitting for four or five hours your clothes wet with perspiration, in the sun, and one-half the day without dinner, there are but few men who have gone through with it and no doubt but that it shortens the days of the gallant Earl.

THE TREATY WITH SPAIN.

While I was in this mental condition, the war came on and I had to give these new questions a new heart, body and soul. All I wanted was peace and to get alone. The cruel taunts and hurts of "Republican and traitor" hurt then, while I can laugh at them now. I made up my mind not to create any further issues, but tamely to follow the lead of Jones, Tillman, Pettigrew and Co., and then quietly retire at the end of my term. My intimate friends know that I concluded to defeat the treaty, I did not see what great harm could come to the country from forcing the Republicans to call an extra session. It would only postpone matters by one month. At the request of some of the Democratic leaders, I made a speech, not against the treaty but against Imperialism, which speech was at the time, and with the light before me, my opinion. I had not drawn the distinction between Expansion and Imperialism, and I fully intended to vote against the ratification of the treaty, I was so tired of being abused and accused of disloyalty to my party. At that time, however, I contended in private that the rejection of the treaty was unwise even from a party standpoint. I had then, as I have now, very little confidence in the political sagacity of Senator James K. Jones, and I believed that Senator Gorman was at heart an Expansionist, because he voted for the acquisition of the Hawaiian Islands, and I suspected him of an ambition after Bryan advised the ratification of the treaty to defeat it and thus supplant him in the leadership. Not that I objected to this, for Gorman is a conservative man, and might have been elected President the last time, could he have commanded the nomination. However, on Sunday afternoon, the day before the treaty was to be voted upon, the news was flashed over the wires that our troops had been first freed from the tyranny of Spanish oppression. This presented an entirely new situation, and before I had finished reading the "extra" the correspondents of the New York Sun and I think of the World, called at my house before I had consulted with any human being, and I expressed this opinion, as the files of the newspapers will show. One month of delay might mean serious consequences to the people of the United States. It must be remembered that Spain had the sympathy of entire Europe, and after the battle of Manila nothing but the tact of Dewey and the attitude of England prevented us from being forced into a war which we were totally unprepared to defeat the treaty meant that we were still at war with Spain, and that our soldiers were intruders in the Philippine Islands. To ratify the treaty meant not a state of war, but a mere insurrection and deprived other nations of an excuse for interference. It seems to me any way, that no matter what the situation or causes may be, that the only position for a man to take when we are engaged in a foreign war is to stand by his own country, right or wrong. Let me review the situation a moment. In the first place, I had not, as long as it could be avoided, been in favor of the war, and had but little sympathy with the inflammatory addresses made in Congress, which embarrassed the President in his humane efforts to avert the war. I could not but look with distrust upon those men who forced the war on by frantic appeals, and then, the very moment that hostilities were begun, criticized every movement made to bring the war to a speedy and successful end. It was a small and petty part for Senators to play. Aguinaldo had many warm sympathizers in Congress, who compared him to "George Washington" and his half-brother, John Bull and Bunker Hill. Some of them, they felt at the capture of Aguinaldo, and the cessation of hostilities. It is a charge that I do not wish to ratify the treaty and stopped the war. I am proud of the fact, and I am proud that I had the strength to do my duty and cast the vote. I fear I would not have had the courage to do it, had I not felt that it was absolutely necessary for realizing the far-reaching effect of the fearful responsibility. I cast my vote accordingly. I have never seen the day when I regretted it, and my children will remember it after I am dead, with pleasure and pride, as the most glorious act of my life.

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