

McLAURIN'S RETORT.

How the Senator From Mississippi Answered Indiana's "Grand Young Man."

A special from Washington to the Columbia State says: Most of the press reports of the day's proceedings in the senate when Tillman and Beveridge spoke, one in censure of the president, the other in defense, failed to carry the best feature of the whole affair, being a little retort by Senator McLaurin of Mississippi which caused an uproar at the expense of Indiana's "grand young man" and his party.

Beveridge made the best speech he ever made in the senate and one which made a great impression on the crowd in the galleries which had come to hear Tillman. Since he referred in his speech to Senator McLaurin and some others who had been present at conferences held with Bryan while the Nebraska was here, Senator McLaurin got up to deny that he or any one else he ever heard of intended to ask Mr. Bryan not to be a candidate for the presidency at Mr. Beveridge had charged. While on his feet he read from the Republican platform of 1904 that the Democratic party had been in full power in the government two years since 1860.

"And what did the Democratic party do during those two years to benefit the country?" declared Beveridge, running up and down the aisle and striking a dramatic attitude. Senator McLaurin remained silent in his seat.

"I will give the senator my time if he will answer me just one thing that his party did during those two years," Beveridge sang out again.

"Oh, Mr. President," said McLaurin, "the senator did not give me his time. I can't say anything on that subject I could say it in my own time."

"Ah," declaimed the dramatic Beveridge with ringing voice and histrionic gesture, "but if he would but name just one thing which his party did during those years I will pause now for his reply."

"Well, Mr. President," said McLaurin slowly rising, "if the senator insists and will take my answer I will say that the Democratic party kept the Republicans out of power and out of graft for two years and it ought to have some credit for that."

McLaurin sat down, and the senate chamber, floor and gallery, literally roared. Subsiding at length Beveridge started out dramatically again to say something about President Roosevelt's having done more to prosecute the grafters and so forth, but the crowd broke out again in the most hilarious laughter and applause at the neat way the senator from Mississippi hit the nail on the head.

11,261,163 BALES IN 1907.

Census Report Giving Cotton Crop Figures Issued—Average Gross Weight 501.8 Pounds.

Washington, March 20.—The census report issued today shows that the cotton crop in 1907 aggregated 11,261,163 running bales, counting round as half bales, and including linters, and shows a total of 277,577 active ginneries for 1907. This is against 13,305,265 bales in 1906 and 10,725,092 in 1905. The statistics include 127,616 bales returned as returned as remaining to be ginned after the time of the March canvass. The total number of running bales as given is equivalent to 11,302,872 five hundred pound bales.

The average gross weight of the bales for 1907 is 501.8 pounds. The items for the crop of 1907 are: 10,798,596 square bales, 198,549 round bales, 85,793 sea island bales, linters 276,500 bales.

The number of running bales by States follows:

Alabama, 1,126,028; Arkansas, 760,162; Florida, 57,616; Georgia, 1,891,900; Kansas, 34; Kentucky, 1,205; Louisiana, 676,823; Mississippi, 1,461,207; Missouri, 35,997; New Mexico, 117,000; North Carolina, 618,547; Oklahoma, 864,106; South Carolina, 1,175,375; Tennessee, 274,536; Texas, 2,271,924; Virginia, 9,186.

Kentucky's total includes linters of establishments in Illinois and in Virginia.

In the entire crop quantity of linters included 276,500 bales for 1907; 322,061 for 1906, and 230,497 for 1905; round bales are 198,549 for 1907; 268,219 for 1906, and 279,836 for 1905; sea island bales are 86,793 for 1907; 57,550 for 1906, and 112,539 for 1905.

Average gross weight of the bales for 1907, including linters, as given, is against 510.9 for 1906; that of the round bales is 246.1 pounds for 1907, compared with 245.1 for 1906, and the

sea island 391.6 pounds for 1907, compared with 387.2 for 1906.

COINS OF THE CONFEDERACY.

One Genuine Half Dollar Known to Exist.

That the Confederate government contemplated the issue of a metallic currency is certain, though coins distinctively associated with the Confederacy never appeared in general circulation. Designs for a half dollar and a cent were made, dies cut and a few coins of each denomination struck in various metals. These coins now rank high in the esteem of American collectors.

It was some time after the war—seventeen or eighteen years—that the first evidence of the existence of a Confederate half dollar came to light. In January, 1879, B. P. Taylor, M. D., secretary and treasurer of the Louisiana State board of health, wrote to E. Mason, Jr., a well known Philadelphia numismatist, and informed him that he had a Confederate coin in his possession. A good deal of doubt was at first felt about the coin's genuineness, but investigation revealed the fact that at least four silver fifty cent pieces were struck by the Confederate authorities at the New Orleans mint in 1861.

It seems that when the Confederates seized the United States mint at New Orleans they conceived the idea of an issue of Confederate coins. It is fairly certain, however, that after the mint fell into their hands all available bullion was used in coining regular United States half dollars.

The former officers of the mint were notified when the State of Louisiana turned the establishment over to the Confederate States, and on April 1, 1861, Secretary Memminger, of the Confederate treasury, ordered that designs for a half dollar should be submitted to him. Several designs were offered for his approval, it is said, although the accepted one is the only design on record.

This bore an obverse identical with the regular United States half dollar of 1861, the well known seated figure of the Goddess of Liberty, surrounded by thirteen stars, with the date 1861. The reverse design, on the contrary, was of an entirely original character.

In the center of the field was a shield, which bore seven stars, one for each seceding State. Above the shield was a liberty cap, while surrounding the central design was a wreath composed of sugar cane and cotton. Around the border at the top was the inscription, "Confederate States of America," and underneath was the denomination, "Half Dnl."

These dies were cut by an engraver named A. H. M. Peterson, and the coins were struck by Conrad Schmidt, foreman of the coining room. When the dies came to the counter they were found to be unsuitable for the regular press, so four pieces were struck on the old fashioned screw press.

Dr. Taylor was the chief coiner at the mint in 1861, and in his letters to Mr. Mason he stated that one of the four pieces was sent to the Confederate government, the second to Prof. Biddle, of the university of Louisiana, the third to Dr. E. Ames of New Orleans, while the fourth was kept by himself.

The four pieces were all that were coined from the dies, for owing to scarcity of silver bullion the mint was shut down on April 30, 1861. Only one of these original pieces can now be located, and this, when last offered for sale, brought \$870.

Some time in the '70's the reverse die fell into possession of a firm of coin dealers in New York, who are credited with having struck at least 500 regular United States half dollars of 1861 from the Confederate reverse die after having removed the original United States reverse.

The re-struck coins resemble closely those struck by the Confederate government, only the closest scrutiny developing the difference, and this fact had a tendency to lessen the interest in the genuine and original Confederate half dollar. But even the re-struck Confederate half dollars command a premium of from \$5 to \$6 when well preserved.

That the Confederate government had planned the issue of a cent piece came to light accidentally. Some time between 1865 and 1870 a nickel coin was submitted to a coin dealer in Philadelphia for examination.

It was of about the same size as a United States cent and showed a youthful head of Liberty on the obverse, wearing a liberty cap, around the border being inscribed "Confederate States of America." Below was the date "1861." On the reverse were the words "One Cent" in the center of a wreath emblematic of the products of the Southern States and

composed of small ears of corn and wheat and tiny hogshoads, with a miniature cotton bale in the middle of the wreath.

In tracing the origin of the piece the fact was developed that the dies were cut by a Philadelphia engraver by the name of Lovett, who upon being approached in 1873 concerning the matter admitted, with considerable reluctance, that he had engraved the dies for the coin upon a commission from the Confederate authorities.

He said that the whole work had been conducted with secrecy, owing to the probable unpleasant consequences to himself should the matter come to the attention of the Federal authorities. He had struck twelve pieces in nickel from the dies, two of which had been lost, and these led to the discovery of the contemplated issue. The dies were sent down south, and it is not thought that they were ever used there.

Years afterward the dies were again sent back to Philadelphia and a firm of coin dealers gained possession of them and made arrangements to strike a limited number of pieces in different metals. They planned to coin seven in gold, twelve in silver and 500 in copper, but in striking the coins in the last named metal the collar of the dies burst upon making the fifty-fifth impression and the work was abandoned.

The total number of Confederate cents now known to be in existence is seven in gold, ten in nickel, the other two of the original twelve having disappeared; twelve in silver and fifty-five in copper. The gold specimens are valued at \$100 each, those in silver and nickel at about \$25 and the copper cents at from \$10 upward.

The dies were detailed and later were bought by a well known Chicago collector, Jackson Brenner, who also has a specimen of each coin in the four different metals.—News and Courier.

Cured of Hair Hunting.

One of the overtone stories of this session of congress, was told in the cloak room by Senator Nathan B. Scott of West Virginia, whose dramatic mode of narration made the tale doubly impressive.

It seems that a judge of his acquaintance had a very charming wife, but she was over neat and was forever brushing microscopic dust from his clothes; still all went well until she started on the "hair hunt." After that she never sat beside her husband for five minutes but she perceived a hair of some sort on his clothing, and hastened to remove it, be it hair of dog, cat or human being.

About this time there came to the town a long-haired lady, possibly one of the Sutherland Sisters, who sat in state at one of the principal hotels, daily exhibiting her seven feet of black hair to an admiring audience. The judge was present at one of these exhibitions, watched his opportunity and secured a hair.

He and his wife were regular attendants at church, and at the Sunday morning services he suffered most from his wife's hair-finding proclivities. Just as he composed his mind to listen to the reading—the sermon—or even the prayers—he would feel a sudden pluck at some part of his clothing—a hair was discovered—and so on all through the service. The judge feared that some time he would be heard to say a naughty word in church.

On the Sunday after his brief visit to the long-haired lady his last preparation for worship was singular. A corner of his handkerchief was carefully arranged to peep from his coat pocket, and showing upon the white background, dangled an end of black hair.

With marvelous patience he endured the scrutiny of the good lady beside him; her eyes soon reached his pocket, but a chance to secure the hair without attracting attention did not arrive until the sermon began, when the judge crossed his arms and was evidently absorbed in the eloquent utterances from the pulpit. A cautious work brought away a foot of black hair, another yard, another foot. There was a little surprise that the end was not reached—a third foot came to light, then a pause to be sure the "hair" was unnoticed. A fourth yard, still no end to that hair. The good lady was exasperated and yank five was energetic—still no end. The thing was like a night-mare; a damp chill came over her, but she was a courageous and determined American woman—yank number six—desperation—talk about nightmares—it was a joke to this! One more yard and seven feet of hair was on the seat between her and the judge. It could not be left there for the sexton to marvel over, so it was hastily thrust under the heavy cover of her hymnbook, while she mopped the perspiration from her face and fixed her eyes in rapt attention on the face of the minister, devoutly hoping that the "hair hunt" had been unobserved by the congregation.

Quietly the judge's hand slipped down to the hymnbook—a moment and the hair was in his pocket; no matter if it boke now. The sermon ended, the irate lady grasped the book with relentless grip, holding on for dear life as she walked home, connecting scathing sentences to be uttered in the privacy of home—no word of the judge's pleasant conversation was heard.

"William, what did you have in your coat pocket this morning?" The judge looked at her with a questioning and innocent gaze. "You had this," she went on steadily, opening up the cover of the hymnbook. There was the flyleaf with the name neatly written on it—nothing more, absolutely nothing more. She turned pale and stared blankly at her husband.

"You could not have lost a speck of dust from that book coming home, Mary," he gravely assured her. "I saw the extraordinary way you gripped it. What did you think was inside?"

"Think!" she said indignantly. "I know I had a hair there—yards long," and she told the story.

The judge surveyed her "more in sorrow than in anger."

"My dear, you have imagined the whole thing; this hair hunting is becoming a positive mania with you," and he proceeded with a speech as eloquent as any ever addressed to the listeners in a crowded court.

Senator Scott says that today, if the judge should walk out fairly possessed with a thousand hairs, it is doubtful if his wife would remove even one.

Post Cards as Educators.

American Stationer.

Teachers ought to call the attention of teachers to the educational value of post cards. What other illustration is so ubiquitous? What other means of securing a reasonably accurate idea of distant peoples and countries at so small an expense can be found? Surely nothing ever produced equals the post card for the qualities most required in the educational development of children and others.

Teachers can use the post card in schools, particularly in connection with geography, physical and political, and also in studying history. It might be that other uses would suggest themselves from time to time, but these subjects can be taught with unusual accuracy with post cards.

The writer's collection has frequently gone to school for the illustrative value of the cards it contains. Teachers have found it useful numerous times in describing some particular section of the country or some particular industry. If this is true in one instance it might be made equally true in others. It only remains for the teachers to take advantage of this new opportunity to obtain accurate and illuminating illustrations for practically everything at a small cost.

The retailer who presents this to teachers in his immediate vicinity is doing them a genuine service and at the same time is using a good method of increasing his own trade. The educational value of the post card is not half appreciated as yet and the development of that particular branch of the industry will bring those enterprising dealers who first develop the business in this direction in their communities a good trade and one that will be continuous. Every new card will have more or less value in the instruction of the pupils and teachers will watch for new ones as eagerly as the most hardened collector.

Post cards used in school in connection with the newspaper, the card being used to illustrate the articles in the paper, will prove a combination which will be effective and will give the retailer more business in this particular line than he ever had before.

Gunned, who, as many Americans know, had a keen sense of fun, was once overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of a young music-mad English girl who had been presented to him.

"Oh, I am lost for words to express my admiration for the great composer of Faust," she said. "Inspired musician, genius, mighty master, what shall I call you?"

Gunned interrupted her by patting her gently on the head.

"Throw your arms round my neck," he gently advised. "And call me your little rabbit."—Youths Companion.

TRY THE "RIBBON WINNER."

Best pencil perforated tablet on the market, for 5c. Broadus & Ruff.

Agricultural Implements

Now is the time to secure your extra help, and since manual labor is so uncertain we are forced to employ the most effectual implements in the successful cultivation of the soil.

"Sunny South,"

The latest production of the Great Moline Plow Co. It scatters fertilizers, drops corn and drills cotton seed, all steel, guaranteed a perfect machine. Price \$17.50.

The "K. F." Guano Distributor

is the best on the market, has taken the prize wherever shown in competition, carries 75 to 100 lbs. fertilizer in hopper, is on perfect balance, easily controlled, scatters fertilizer all over the row and covers as it goes, also a fine substitute for a double foot to cover corn. Price \$8.50.

Universal Distributor.

This machine has been very popular, can be used as side dresser while cultivating. Price \$5.50.

Oliver Plows.

These are really the best plows of the kind made. Mr. James Oliver being the first to invent a steel beam plow, and has been first in the making of such plows ever since.

No. 10.—2-horse Turn Plow \$6.50.

No. O. Z.—2-horse Middle Breaker \$7.50.

No. A. C. 2.—1-horse Turn Plow \$5.00, to close out.

A Cotton and Corn Stalk Cutter that does the work. Price \$17.50.

If you want Paint of any kind let us figure with you.

Craig Supply Co.,

Prosperity, S. C.

The First Cough of the Season,

Even though not severe, has a tendency to irritate the sensitive membranes of the throat and delicate bronchial tubes. Coughs then come easy all winter, every time you take the slightest cold. Cure the first cough before it has a chance to set up an inflammation in the delicate capillary air tubes of the lungs. The best remedy is QUICK RELIEF COUGH SYRUP. It at once gets right at the seat of trouble and removes the cause. It is free from Morphine and is as safe for a child as for an adult. 25 cents at

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GUESS!

All guesses must be made by Wednesday, at 12 o'clock, March 18th. I will light the candle at that time. Don't fail to see my bargain counter.

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