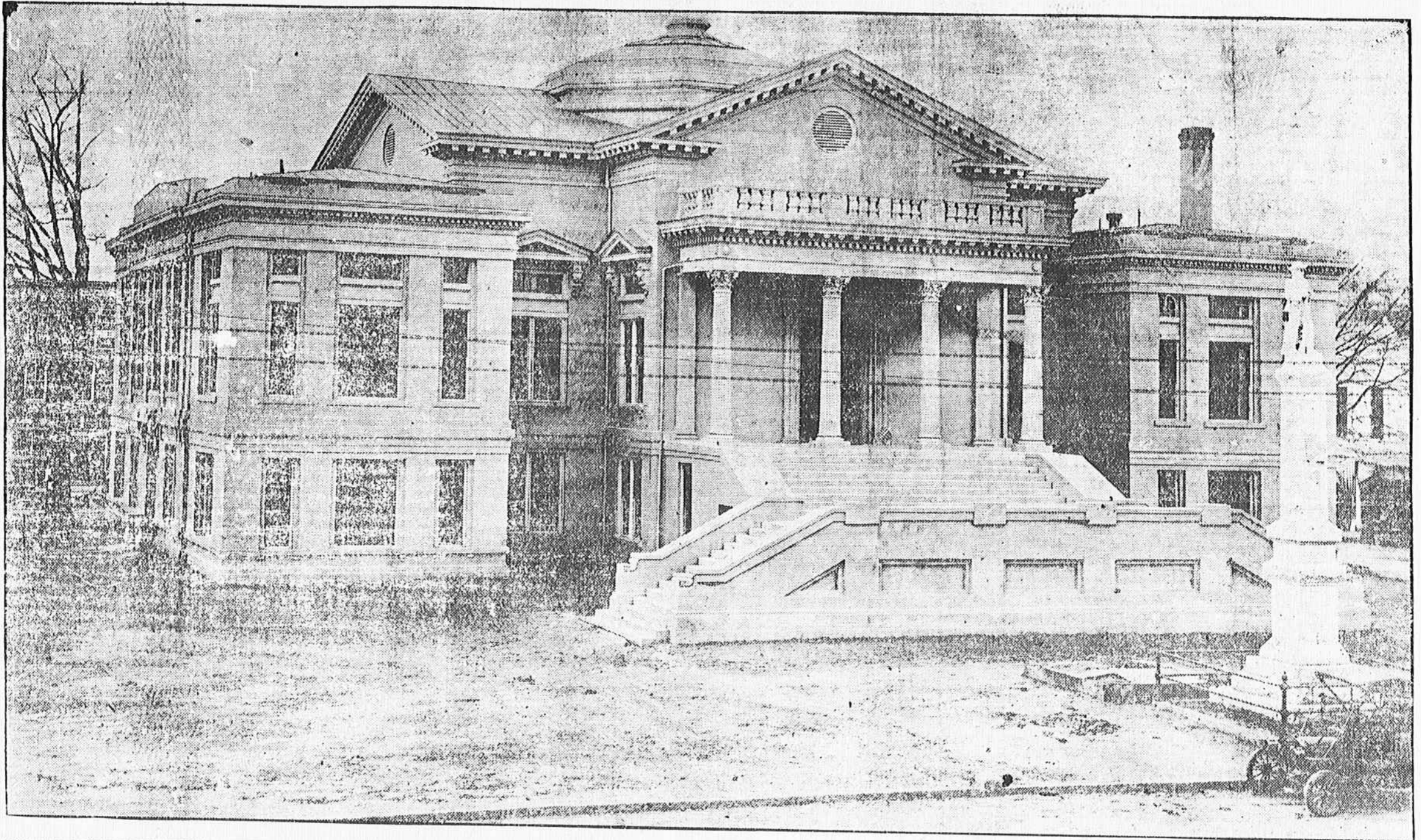


The Laurens Advertiser.

The Banner County of the Palmetto State



Laurens County's Beautiful Courthouse, Located in the Middle of a Well-Laid-Out Square, in the City of Laurens, Around Which the Spic and Span Stores of the Laurens Merchants Are Built.

There is a Charm About the Name of Laurens That Means Much to Those Who Know the Important Part Laurens County, and Laurens County Men and Women, Have Played in the Making of South Carolina the Grand Old State That It Is—And Because of the Honorable Traditions That Laurens Has As Its Heritage, As Well As the Unlimited Opportunities Offered Manufacturers, Business Men and Farmers From Other Sections of the Country Who May Be Looking for a New and Better Place in Which to Live and Make a Living, I Take an Especial Pride in Writing the Story of Laurens County's Advantages and Possibilities.

By J. Archie Willis

There are two words in our language that never fail to strike a responsive chord in every man's heart. One of those words is "Home."

I have written the stories of the advantages and possibilities of hundreds of southern cities and towns, and The Sunday Atlanta Journal has carried those stories of progress and development, of opportunity for those who are seeking new places in which to live and do business, to every section of Dixie.

Today I come to write of the community that I fondly lay claim to as being home—my home, the place where I was born and reared, and the place above all others, that I like to go back to. I have no priority rights to that particular feeling about Laurens county, South Carolina, for every other man in the world feels, or should feel, the same way about the particular locality in which he was born and reared.

Laurens county is located in the northwestern part of the Palmetto state. One of the most fertile regions of the entire Piedmont section of the southeast, Laurens is one of the state's most prosperous counties.

I have several times had people remark to me that, "Every section you write about seems to be the best in the country." And that is true, in large measure. It is true for two reasons. First, when The Atlanta Journal decides to feature a particular city, town or county, it does so for the reason that that particular community has, or The Journal believes it has, peculiar advantages and opportunities to offer the homeseeker, and, second, when I go to write the story of a section's possibilities I look for possibilities—its good points.

There was a time when one of the country's foremost editors felt called upon to exclaim, "Young man, go west!" That time has passed. Less than a month ago one of the country's best known publications, published in the north, carried as its first feature

article a story that cried out to all America, "Young man, go south!"

The south, and particularly the southeast, is a section of untold opportunities today, and every community of Dixie is on the verge of an unprecedented prosperity. Since that is true, can you wonder that every city, every town and every rural community about which these community articles are written is pictured as being the best?

You may visit a section of south Georgia tomorrow and know, from what you see there, that you have found the promised land. And I'll tell you before you go that you will find it just about that way in south Georgia. But then on the next day go to north Georgia, to one of the Carolinas, to Alabama or to Mississippi, or any one of the other communities that I might suggest to you throughout the southeast, and everywhere you will be surprised at the progress and development, the opportunities for doing the things that men count worth doing, you will see on every hand.

The south has come into its own, and The Atlanta Journal's slogan of "Know the south and let the south know you," is, I very strongly believe, materially aiding those who are seeking new fields to find the particular localities in which they may best succeed in the particular undertakings to which they have set themselves.

THE CITY OF LAURENS

Laurens, the county seat of Laurens county, is located very near the center of the county. It is a city of approximately 6,000 people, and aside from being an excellent business place, the center of one of the richest agricultural districts in the state. It is a charming place in which to live and rear a family.

This county originally formed a part of the old Ninety-six District, but was lopped off and organized as a county in 1775. It was named in honor of that famous South Carolina patriot, Henry Laurens.



Governor Robert A. Cooper, Laurens County Man, Who Is South Carolina's Chief Executive.

A RAILROAD CENTER

Laurens is somewhat of a railroad center. The Charleston and Western Carolina railroad, from Spartanburg to Augusta, passes through Laurens. The city is the northern terminus of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens railroad, which forms an important link in the Charleston and Western Carolina line from Greenville, via Laurens, to Charleston.

Good roads radiate in every direction from the county seat, and there is not a locality in the county that cannot be reached by automobile over roads that are easily traveled. The people of the county are not satisfied with their roads, however, and a movement is on foot now, and has every chance of success, to build the best roads in Laurens county that it is possible to build.

AN INDUSTRIAL CENTER

Laurens is an industrial center of no mean importance. In fact, there are fifteen different industrial plants in the city, that employ 2,500 people, and whose combined weekly pay roll amounts to ten thousand dollars—more than a half-million dollars a year. Two and a half million dollars are invested in the city's industrial plants.

Among the industries that Lau-

rens now has are cotton mills, a glass factory, box and crate works, foundry, laundry, creamery, several modern gineries, cotton oil mills, planing and lumber mills, hydro-electric plant and quite a few others of less importance.

MORE INDUSTRIES WANTED

Laurens wants more industries, wants large and small ones, and the citizens of both the city and surrounding county are willing and ready to co-operate in any manner that they may be able to co-operate in the building of more and more industrial plants in Laurens.

Laurens business men feel that they have many inducements to offer the newcomers, and listed among the city's inducements I noted are ample railroad facilities, plenty of sidetrack frontage, cheap electric current, pure water, a plentiful supply of labor, and never any strikes or other labor troubles. In addition to the advantages mentioned, the citizens of the city will lend every co-operation they can lend to any now and legitimate enterprise of real worth to the community.

FIVE BANKS IN THE CITY OF LAURENS

There are three national and two state banks in the city of Laurens, the national banks having a combined capital of two hundred thousand dollars and the state banks a combined capital of a hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

These banks have played an important part in the development of the city during the past ten years, and they will, very probably, play an even more important part in its development during the next few years.

In this connection, I want to specially mention a young banker in Laurens, W. G. Lancaster, known all over Laurens county as "Billy" Lancaster, of the Enterprise National bank. "Billy" Lancaster has been with the Enterprise bank for several years, and he has not only endeared himself to the business men and farmers of the city and county, by his uniform courtesy, but he has won the confidence and admiration of literally thousands of the county's best men. One of these days "Billy" Lancaster is going to have his own bank—merely a prediction of my own—and when he does, the other banks in Laurens are going to have to shake off the hat remaining vestige of time-worn methods in order to keep "Billy" Lancaster's bank from getting all the business of Laurens.

A LIVE CITY GOVERNMENT

Laurens has very wisely chosen its city government, and the officials of Laurens are giving the city an administration that is calculated to make the community go forward.

C. M. Babb is the mayor of the

city, and there doesn't seem to be very many people in the business section of the city, with the exception of the professional politicians, who know just exactly how long Mr. Babb has been mayor "At least five terms," is the way most of them express it. And Mr. Babb has been mayor for a good long time. The fact that he is, at each succeeding election, returned to office seems to be sufficient evidence that a majority of the people of Laurens appreciate his value as Laurens' mayor.

The city council is made up of five of the finest and most progressive young business men that

owned system, too. Four hundred residence subscribers and two hundred business places are subscribers to the exchange's service. A rate of two dollars and seventy-five cents for business houses is away below what we pay for telephone service in Atlanta, or that most other cities that I know anything about are paying for service now.

Laurens has two mighty good weekly newspapers, the Herald, edited by E. W. Culbertson, and the Advertiser, edited by Allison Lee. The Advertiser is published on Wednesdays and the Herald on Fridays. The insurance rate in the city of Laurens is \$2 for business property and ninety-five cents for residence property.

Laurens has two schools in its school system, with twenty teachers employed and approximately seven hundred pupils enrolled.

The city has a waterworks system, with twelve miles of mains. It has a good sewerage system, with five miles of mains, and it has a motor-equipped paid fire department, with five firemen on the job at all times.

The city has three hotels, but the principal one is the Laurens hotel, and this house is a mighty popular one with the general traveling public. Operated along the most approved lines, the Laurens hotel is a place at which the guest may confidently expect a stay.

THE LAURENS HOTEL

The Laurens hotel stands on the sight where the old Ben Della hotel of by-gone days stood. It is on the west side of the public square, directly facing the county courthouse, and A. S. Perry, its genial proprietor, is rapidly making of it an even more popular place than it is today.

Forty-five rooms, twenty of them with private baths, handsome lobby, well furnished parlors, writing rooms, etc., and the attractive table that one meets when he goes into the dining room are all combining to make of the Laurens hotel one of the best known in the upper section of the state.

Mr. Perry is very desirous of extending an invitation to the big tourist travel that comes via Laurens from Charleston and the lower part of the state, on its way to the mountains, sea, and other resorts. The hotel is on both the Piedmont and the Blue Ridge routes, and the fact that it is on both of these routes will stop and spend a few days in Laurens this summer and summer when they know that Laurens has the excellent hotel that it has.



Senator Nat B. Dial, Laurens County Man, Who Has Succeeded the Late Senator Tillman as United States Senator from South Carolina.

could possibly have been selected. They are Albert Dial, R. F. Jones, E. D. Easterby, S. B. Sexton and J. W. Hollams. These gentlemen, are all leading lights in the business life of the city and they are men who believe in doing things really worth while.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THE CITY OF LAURENS

Laurens has one of the best telephone systems in the state, and this is an independently-