

fore, I believe I know the condition of the people and if I am elected Governor I promise you that I will do everything in my power to improve the financial condition of the State, do everything I can to better every line of business. My success as a business man is before the public and if I am elected Governor I will apply business methods to build up a successful business State government.

Thomas G. McLeod.

My conception of a political campaign as provided under the constitution of the Democratic party is, that in its influence at least, it shall be educational. That these questions are to be discussed in order that any views a candidate may have may be heard by the people. These are not necessarily limited to issues, but all of those things which tend to the development of the country and its citizenship come within the scope of the discussion. I shall take it for granted that this is what is intended, and the speech which I make today shall be along the line of questions which should claim the attention of our people for the better development of our material resources, and for the development and instruction of our citizenship. Naturally, the first question which suggests itself is that of education. We are living in a time when education is indeed a vital question with all of our people. By education I do not mean in its old and antiquated sense, which limited it to a few, but I mean in its broader and modern acceptance which enters into the life and the life work of all to broaden, brighten and enlarge. In the former or earlier days of our history, institutions for higher education were established. There cannot be any question but what they did great and noble work. If we are allowed, in the light of subsequent history, to criticize our predecessors, it would be to say that they failed to establish a proper basic foundation for our educational system, thus, we have had to deal with a top-heavy educational system. I wish it understood that I am in favor of higher education in a liberal, but not extravagant spirit, and the maintenance, of all of our existing institutions of higher learning. The time is past when it is necessary to make an argument to sustain this position. They are important. They are important as great centers from which educational influences come. They are important as places of preparation for teachers and indeed for men in all vocations of life.

Public Schools.

The last ten years has witnessed marvelous development in our public school system. It is with pleasure I state that I was among the first to favor the direct appropriation by the State government to public schools. Not so much for the amount of money they should receive, but for the reason that it would be the entering wedge and recognition on the part of the State that the public schools were the basis of our educational system. The particular measure to which I allude did not pass, but it was the entering wedge followed by the enactment of the high school bill whereby high schools were established all over our State. Consequently also, the State has gone further and now makes direct appropriation whereby the terms of schools too poor to employ teachers are prolonged. Every boy and girl in South Carolina cannot go to college, and the time will never come when this will be the case. Every boy and girl in South Carolina (I mean every white boy and girl) have the right and should have access to the advantages of a high school education. Not only in the movement of education, which has so happily prospered in our State, have boys and girls been educated, but on every side one sees that the spirit of education is abroad in the land. It has seized even those who are unfortunately unlettered and unlearned, and they receive its benefit gladly. The man who goes forth with a message of advanced ideas in any vocation in life now finds ready listeners. Particularly has this influence been felt on the agriculture of our State, and any man now who has advanced ideas, new methods of cultivation, of plowing, of growing crops in any manner, finds ready listeners eager to learn the secret whereby the riches held in store by mother earth are ready to be delivered upon the open sesame of an intelligent touch. There should be no backward movement. At all times I stand for the encouragement and building up

of our public schools to the highest point of efficiency. I believe the time has come when agriculture should be taught in the high schools together with industrial training. While the boy is at home in touch with nature is a good time to be taught at least the elementary principles of the great science of agriculture, thus implanting at an early age such a love of this greatest of vocations which would make him return after finishing college, if so fortunate as to pursue his course to the end, and hence valuable citizenship will be retained. Time does not suffice now, but I propose later on to develop this idea to a greater extent, and I trust that I may be able to offer to the people some valuable suggestions along this line.

Good Roads.

Another great educating influence is that of good roads. The Roman Empire showed its wisdom and foresight in building everywhere magnificent highways which throughout a lapse of centuries have stood the wear and tear of time. In this day of rapid transit the people are ready to demand it. The labor saved, the time saved, the increased pleasure in traveling, and opportunity it offers of bringing together in business and social relations people who live at a distance, indeed makes good roads not the least factors in the educational as well as the material development of a country.

Taxation.

Every recognized form of government must be supported by some method of taxation. This tax should never be burdensome. I favor at all times an economical administration of public affairs. I do not see at this time where any radical change in our system of levying and collecting taxes can be made. There is, however, a lack of equality. People owning sometimes the very same class of land in the very same neighborhood are assessed differently. Carrying this further, one county in the State, according to assessment, does not bear the same proportion of the expense of government as another county. This inequality should be removed. The controlling principle of taxation is equality upon all the people, and I am in favor of equalizing the burden of taxes as hereinbefore suggested. The people who now pay taxes in my opinion pay enough. There is no use, and I have no desire to place additional burdens upon them, but there are a class of people who avoid taxes, commonly known as "tax dodgers." These should be brought into the fold and made to bear their just part of the burden.

Liquor Question.

It is unfortunate that this question seems still to be an issue. I do not propose to go into a great extensive argument about it. My own position is the result of conscientious views. I am in favor of local option. The Democratic right of each county to decide whether it shall have legalized sale of liquor or whether it shall have prohibition. I believe the experience, not only of this State, but of others, justifies the statement that prohibition can only be a success where there is sentiment behind it. A sentiment which expresses itself at the ballot box and must maintain itself after liquor has been voted out. Without this sentiment it will be a failure. To abandon local option, under which we are now working, and go to State-wide prohibition, would be a reflection upon the counties that have assumed the responsibilities of its enforcement. Human nature is so constituted that it does not assume responsibilities than can be shifted on some one else. As a matter of fact, I do not believe we have the right to say to others, where the sentiment does not prevail, that they too shall have prohibition because it suits us. It is a great question. One on which honest men can honestly differ. The experience of Alabama shows that in abandoning local option for State-wide prohibition, an error was made which is likely to result in great harm to the cause of prohibition. People should not be misled. It might be good campaign material and a good thing to get into office on, but it will not be in my judgment for the best interest of the State to enact a State-wide prohibition law. I am in favor of maintaining our present status of affairs, and I am opposed to any legislation upon the subject only insofar as it may be necessary of perfect existing laws.

The office of governor is executive and not legislative. If elected to this office it shall be

my duty and policy to enforce all laws now upon the statute books, or which may be hereafter enacted.

Old Soldiers.

It goes without saying that I am in favor of the most liberal appropriation for the maintenance of and support of needy Confederate Soldiers. The most priceless heritage that I have is that my father was one of those who offered his all upon the altar of his country, and for four years faithfully followed the fortunes of the Confederacy. The sacrifices made by the gallant men and heroic women of that period are so tremendous when compared with the small sacrifice we are called upon to make, the payment of a few cents or a few dollars, that it is not necessary to appeal to the manhood or womanhood of this State for the justification of this appropriation. Let us do all in our power for them. Let us do for them all that we can, and thus in some small measure at least, smooth out the rest of the rugged pathway which lies between these old heroes and their grave.

Personal Record.

For ten years I have devoted myself, my time and my talents to the service of the people of South Carolina. I was first elected a member of the House from Sumter county, having served there two years. Upon the establishment of Lee county, I was chosen State Senator. Four years ago the people of South Carolina elected me Lieutenant-Governor, and I have since served in that office. My private and my public record are alike before you. I am willing to stand and be judged by both. If the service which I have rendered was characterized by ability and intelligence and fidelity to duty, I ask of you and at your hands promotion to the highest office within your gift, pledging you that if elected I shall do everything in my power to promote the happiness and prosperity of our State.

John G. Richards.

Mr. Chairman, Laides and Fellow Democrats:

The rules of the Democratic party of this State are such, that when a man becomes a candidate for any position within the gift of the people, he is required to go before the people and discuss the questions at issue and demonstrate his fitness for the position to which he aspires.

In obedience to this righteous requirement of our party, I stand before you today. I am here fellow citizens for the greatest office within your gift, that of Governor of South Carolina. I realize fully the great responsibility which I assume, in becoming a candidate for this exalted position. I realize that the great dignity and honor of the position has been magnified even by the character and type of men that you have chosen to fill this position in years gone by.

But I come before you, conscious of a deep and sincere love for our great State in all her varied interests. I come feeling that I am familiar with her needs, and knowing that there is an all wise Providence who not only shapes and controls the destinies of men, but the destinies of States and Nations, I therefore, feel encouraged to ask you for your suffrages and that you elect me chief magistrate of your State.

It is well known to us all that there are three co-ordinate branches of our State Government, separate and distinct the one from the other. There are the Legislative, Judicial and Administrative Departments. I have had twelve years experience in the Legislative Department, and it is upon the record made, and the experience obtained while your servant in that capacity that I am standing today. It is upon my record both public and private that I am asking you to judge me, fellow citizens, and upon this I am willing to stand or fall. I come to you from the proud, the great County of Kershaw, and while I am a stranger to many of you, I come asking your suffrages, strengthened and encouraged by the fact that the people of that County, the County of Kershaw, Chestnut and Kennedy have given me their unanimous endorsement, and join with me in asking the people of South Carolina to elect me Governor.

I come before you fellow citizens with the proud distinction of never having been defeated by the people of my county for any position although I have been in public life for twenty years. For eight years I filled minor offices, but the past twelve years has been spent in your Legis-

lature and it is upon my record there that I expect principally to be judged.

Public office is a public trust, and public men are judged and should be judged by the manner in which they regard this trust. In every county of South Carolina there are gentlemen who have served with me in the Legislature. These men are representative citizens, and are in a position to state to the people of their several counties whether or not I have measured up to the standard of the true South Carolinian, whether or not I have regarded public offices as a public trust, and whether or not I have worked and voted for the promotion of our State's best interest. I am willing to stand or fall upon the answer made to these questions by those who know me, and are familiar with my record.

While I do not like to refer to my own record I feel that the circumstances are such that I may do so with propriety. I therefore desire to call your attention to some of the Legislation with which I have been identified, and some of the bills which I have fostered. I was one of the joint authors of the State wide prohibition bills of 1909 and 1910. I am the author of the law providing funds for the erection of new and commodious school buildings in the rural districts; I am the author of the law providing a new dormitory and model school building at Winthrop, and providing free scholarships for poor girls at that Institution. I am the author of the amendment to the free scholarship law at Clemson, giving preference to boys who will make agriculture their life work. I worked and voted for the creation of the two free scholarships for boys from the cotton mills of the State and for free tuition for all of them. I am one of a committee who drafted and passed the new labor contract law. I introduced and assisted in passing the bill for the reorganization of the National Guard of the State. I am the author of the bill repealing the agricultural lien law, and I am the author of the law erecting a monument to the women of the Confederacy. These, fellow citizens, are some of the measures for which I have stood and is some of the work that I have done for my State and people.

During my twelve years in the Legislature I have served upon some of the most important committees of the House, and I feel that I am familiar with our government in its various Departments, and am prepared to give the people of the State useful and intelligent service. I have served as chairman of several of the most important committees, among them the Ways and Means Committee. This committee recommends appropriations and requires familiarity with the financial conditions of the government.

Fellow citizens, there are many important questions before our people today for consideration and I desire to discuss some of them with you, that you may know my position upon them. In the limited time which we have at our disposal it is impossible for the candidate to discuss these matters fully and with the intelligence that their importance demands. We are given sufficient time, however, to state our position upon them, and enable you to cast your votes intelligently.

Whiskey.

I regret, fellow citizens, that the whiskey question is to be considered at all in this campaign. It has been the disturbing element in our politics for the past twenty years and until the people of the State are sick and tired of it. While its importance cannot be questioned, there are other questions of equal importance and they are many. I propose to state my position briefly upon this question, and then pass on to other and mightier subjects.

I am a prohibitionist from practice and principle. I believe that the next Legislature should enact a State-wide prohibition law, and if I am elected Governor of the State, I promise to enforce the law without fear or favor and to the very best of my ability. I have always been a prohibitionist but advocated the State dispensary as the method of control best calculated to effectually destroy the old bar system, and prepare our people for state-wide prohibition. I voted for the Brice act giving the right to a county to vote and declare itself as between prohibition and the State dispensary. I have always opposed the county dispensary system, because I believed it to be a relic of the old bar system, and a

far more dangerous system than the State dispensary. I have declared in every public and printed utterance that I have made that when the time was ripe and sentiment was sufficiently strong to enforce prohibition, that I would vote to overthrow the State dispensary and declare for State-wide prohibition. I have kept that promise and wish the overthrow of the State dispensary. I have worked and voted for prohibition both in the Legislature and in my private capacity since. I have been unanimously elected by the prohibitionists of the Legislature at the past three sessions to lead the fight for them, and did so with all the ability and earnestness at my command. I was one of the joint authors of the State-wide law at the sessions of 1909 and 1910, and we succeeded in passing the bill through the House, but the Senate killed it and gave us a compromise bill with reversed local option and is responsible for the conditions existing in this State today. Six counties are selling liquor under that law, and are nullifying the will of the great majority who have declared against the sale. This is undemocratic and is wrong. These six counties are selling at the rate of \$2,000,000 worth of liquors a year while the twenty odd counties only sold \$4,000,000 worth last year. Good democracy is majority rule. An overwhelming majority of our people have declared against the sale of liquor. They have declared that it is inimical to the cause of righteousness to engage in the sale of liquor. If it is wrong to sell liquor in Spartanburg and Union it is wrong to sell liquor in Georgetown and Beaufort. If prohibition is for the best interests of the people of Cherokee and York, it is for the best interests of the citizens of Charleston and Richland. A majority of the people of South Carolina are in favor of a State-wide law, so we should have it. Let us give prohibition a fair trial, and I venture the assertion that our people will never return to the sale of liquor in any manner, shape or form.

Fellow citizens: The whiskey issue is clear cut and unmistakable. Local option as between county dispensaries and prohibition or prohibition for our entire State.

While I am uncompromising in my advocacy of prohibition for South Carolina, if elected Governor I will not veto a local option bill should the Legislature pass it. I think it proper for me to take the position, for this question is an issue before our people, and their voice should be supreme. I believe in the rule of the people, and when they have spoken upon a given question it is treachery upon the part of their representatives not to heed their will as expressed at the ballot box. But I wish to reiterate that I think the next Legislature should pass a State-wide prohibition bill, and I promise if I am your Governor that I will sign the bill, and enforce the law with firmness and to the best of my ability.

Education.

The education of the boys and girls of South Carolina, and the driving out of the illiteracy among our people is one of the most important questions with which we have to deal. My record upon this question is an open book before you. I have always stood, and stand today, for the fullest and freest development of all our educational interests. I advocate equitable and all necessary support for our higher educational institutions. Our colleges are not only giving the literary and industrial training necessary for a well rounded life, but they are training the teachers for our public schools. They are preparing native South Carolinians, both men and women, to fill the important positions in our schools. They are giving us native talent for the training of our boys and girls, and every true South Carolinian expects our colleges to be properly supported. All of our boys and girls cannot enjoy the blessings of a collegiate education. The great majority can only expect such training and advantages as our public schools furnish. Therefore I stand for the fullest and most unstinted support for our common school system, with particular attention to the development of our rural schools and rural education. Our common school system is the vitalizing force that supplies our colleges; common school education is the very foundation upon which our Republican institutions are resting. It is the very strength of our government. The State cannot claim to have paid the great debt it owes