

ceive from government. An inheritance tax is the easiest collected and the fairest tax any State can levy. How many large estates have all of us known that were worth from five to ten times the amount they had ever been on the tax books for. Now we come to our most important, and also our most serious problem in taxation, real estate. We have more than 20,000 white tenants, thousands of factory operatives who own no homes and other thousands of wage earners in our cities and towns who live in rented houses.

I take the position that all of these would be a more valuable asset to the State were they home owners. The question is, How can the State aid them? To my mind, the best plan would be for the State to make a loan to any of those who wish to purchase a home, a sum not exceeding \$2,000 on 20 years' time at a low rate of interest, 4 1/2 to 5 per cent; the first three years the interest only to be paid; in the remaining 17 years the debt to be liquidated in equal annual payments. The State would sell coupon bonds against these loans largely outside the State, and this would bring a large amount of capital here for investment. This would greatly benefit all lines of business, banking, manufacturing, merchandising, farming and all other lines would leap forward with new life. Of course the interest of the State would have to be carefully safeguarded. The purchaser must make this his home, or sell to some one who will; in no case shall he place a tenant in charge.

Another plan would be for the State to exempt \$2,000 worth of real estate from taxation for a period of, say, 20 years, provided the owner made his home thereon. This would not be as advantageous to the purchaser because he would be unable to get as low a rate of interest, or so long a time in which to pay. It would not be as advantageous to the State because her revenues would be heavily cut, by exempting not only the new purchases, but also the same amount of all owners who were living on their land.

I would be very glad to go into a discussion of our present unjust assessment of real estate and give my views as to the proper method of assessment, but to make myself clear, would take entirely too much space.

I trust that no one will think that I would expect our taxing department, as at present organized, to carry out these great reforms. This department would have to be reorganized on broad State lines.

I am in favor of the Torrens system of land registration. Our present system makes real estate an undesirable collateral, and the tracing of titles is a heavy tax on the borrower.

I am the candidate of no man or set of men. The views I express are my own, arrived at after careful study and I believe their enactment into law will greatly benefit our people.

Lowndes Browning.

Mendel L. Smith of Camden Stands For:

The following platform is that of M. L. Smith of Camden, speaker of the house and candidate for governor:

To the Democratic voters of South Carolina:

Having become a candidate for the nomination for the office of governor in the approaching Democratic primary, I shall avail myself of the opportunity afforded to present to the people of the State, at this time, my views on some of the questions which may be of some interest in the campaign. I shall conscientiously strive to make my position clear on every issue involved, and present to the people, face to face, and more fully than now, such matters as I believe are essential in their determination of the fitness of one offering for the highest honor and trust within their gift.

Taxation.

No question in human government demands a more careful and constant thought than that of taxation. No one can, or will, deny that it costs more to conduct the affairs of the government now than in former years. If this were not true, it would mean that we were living in an unprogressive condition, and totally without response to that splendid spirit of development which is so manifest in the social, educational and industrial life of our people. The establishment and maintenance of admirably equipped institutions of learning, affording to our boys and girls at home excellent opportunities for adequate literary, professional, military, agricultural and industrial training; the creation of new departments of government, made necessary by progress, of which the department of agriculture and industries is an excellent example; a most pronounced increase in the cost of living with its bearing on the salaries of public officers; a commendable State and county pride, expressed in the construction of convenient and commodious public buildings; a general educational awakening manifest in improved methods of instruction,

more efficient teachers, enlarged facilities, better school buildings and special levies; the urgent demand of good roads, as a necessity in rural and community life, and many other necessary and helpful agencies, contribute to an increased expense in the operation of the government. These matters must be recognized by all, except the blatant demagogue, in considering this question. While I do not advocate any policy which would impair the usefulness of any department of the government, or agency, which I believe essential to the real progress and happiness of the people, I do favor a policy which will demand the most rigid economy and business-like methods in every department.

Property Assessment.

Any system which permits lands differing as much in value as 100 per cent to be assessed at the same value in different parts of the State, or persons similar in value to be assessed at valuation differing as much as 100 per cent., is radically wrong. Yet, such is the possibility and the operation of our system today. The result is that citizens and property owners, enjoying the same rights and privileges, and entitled to the same protection under the government, are bearing a grossly unequal burden toward its support. The trouble to a large extent, lies in certain provisions of the State constitution, which I shall endeavor to discuss in the campaign, as the space here allowed will not permit it. As a legislator I have favored a policy which provided for the appointment of a commission, so constituted as to insure an intelligent and thorough investigation of the whole subject, with the view of securing such information and data as would constitute the basis for a more reasonable and equitable system. I favor that policy now.

Education.

Overshadowing all questions in which our people should now be concerned is the great question of education. The conditions which justify the interposition and aid of the government in the general education of the people are being splendidly vindicated in the general educational awakening of our people today. While the legislative department of the government has responded with commendable generosity to the financial needs and requirements of an awakened educational activity, there has been some indifference exhibited to the greatest efficiency of this aid, manifested thus far in the absence of any pronounced effort to create or adopt a modern, well sustained and well balanced school plan or system which shall actively embody many of those progressive ideas and policies which have been demonstrated by actual tests and experience to be so helpful in promoting the cause of education. I shall discuss some phases of this on the campaign more fully. I shall now, however, present the following views:

1. As our entire public educational system, consisting of the university, college, for different kinds of training, high school, graded school and common school, should represent a gradation whereby advancement from the lower to the higher standard is more readily and beneficially attained, so should the law relating to such recognize the general cooperative purpose and the part which has been assigned to each in the general plan.

2. I favor a liberal, not extravagant, support of the higher institutions of learning.

3. I favor a policy which shall encourage the work of the high school and especially the establishment and maintenance of a system of country graded schools, which shall promote their extension in our common schools and encourage the building of convenient and sanitary school buildings.

4. I favor a continuance of the 1-mill tax for the benefit of the poor common schools of the State, such tax to be distributed under suitable statutory regulations. This is the only method whereby the marked differences in the resources of the school districts can be equalized and the poor common schools aided.

5. I favor the establishment of textile schools in all those counties where the cotton mill population is sufficient to reasonably warrant the expenditure.

6. I am in favor of what has been properly termed the local option system of compulsory education. Where the question is left to the people of a school district, for example, for determination by petition and election many of the strong arguments against a general compulsory system can not possibly apply. People of a small area are familiar with the number of accommodations and other local conditions which might be valuable in determining a question of compulsion. This system is not only founded upon sound democratic doctrine, but when ever put into operation by the will of the people would become an object lesson, whose good results would excite a desire to follow the example and stimulate the improvements of those local conditions necessary to make it effective.

Good Roads.

There is no agency more vital to the social, educational and industrial advancement of a people than the good road. I would consider any administration especially fortunate and favored if it should be the means of promoting this cause, as no fact could be a more worthy and lasting memorial to its efficiency. In this connection I am in favor of using all available convict labor on the public highways. The splendid effect of such work is no better shown than in the case of Georgia. When the dreadful iniquities of her convict lease system had been mercilessly exposed and swept away by legislative enactment, she was confronted with a very serious problem as to the disposition of her convicts. They were put upon the roads and the results were marvelous. Georgia is today one of the foremost States on road building and maintenance. I hope to present more at length other views connected with this important subject on the stump.

Public Health.

We have reached that period in our progress when I believe there should be a more liberal governmental recognition of medical science, hygiene and sanitary precautions, as helpful agencies in promoting the true object of all government—the real progress and happiness of the people. Nothing more seriously impairs the earning capacity of a citizenship than disease and lowered physical vitality. From July 1, 1909, to May 1, 1914, the State board of health, through laboratory work, has treated 878 people to preventives, has made 16,093 microscopic examinations and has furnished 37,887 doses of typhoid vaccine. The lowest commercial rates for this work would amount to \$62,645.09. Yet, it has only cost the State \$21,825.97, thereby saving not only the sum of \$40,820.02, but the lives of men, women and children, many of whom were financially unable to take such treatment, without one cent of cost to the individual. In addition to this the board has furnished 262,077 vaccine points and treated about 8,000 cases of diphtheria, 40 per cent of whom would have died without it, and 2 per cent in spite of it. This record is its own splendid vindication, and I shall favor not only a most liberal encouragement and support of this work but also of the hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis, which was established by the last legislature.

Development.

This is peculiarly an age of marvelous material activity and progress—a period which is altogether unprecedented. If it is our purpose to carry on the development of our almost unlimited resources, to maintain that place in the great progressive movement of the day which is fully justified by our agricultural and industrial facilities, then we must adopt a policy which is fair, just and encouraging to all legitimate interests and such a policy I heartily favor. Agriculture is the real backbone and mainstay of the State. Whatever tends to advance this great interest and development is for the benefit of all. I am in favor of every policy which stands for the agricultural advancement of this State and which will give to the farmer a beneficial system of marketing and warehousing his crops.

Railroads.

I am in favor of a 2-cent passenger rate in this State, with an exemption in favor of the short line.

I also favor with some modification, which will promote its object, of the bill considered during the last session of the general assembly, known as the "full crew" bill. I have observed recently an instance of two engines pulling a train consisting of more than 70 freight cars, with only three men to handle the train, and I am informed that he practice is common with trains ranging from 50 to 75 cars. It seems to me that this is not only unfair to the employes, but unsafe and dangerous, and should not be permitted by law.

Law Enforcement.

Our government consists of three coordinate departments. It is the duty of the legislative department to make the law, the judicial to declare it and the executive to enforce it. With this division and relation of the parts, the true interests of the people always ultimately suffer where there is a failure on the part of either. With this conception of the office, I shall stand, if elected, for a vigorous enforcement of the law. For the accomplishment of this purpose, I shall avail myself of every agency permitted under the constitution and laws. The course of the lawless element in society, however open and notorious, is not more destructive of the true interests of the government than the prostitution of the executive power and duty which would permit or sympathize with it.

Harmony.

In acknowledging my election to the speakership in January, 1913, I stated, in part, to the house of representatives as follows:

"In our own affairs we should apply to our State what the great and sensible leader of Democracy, surrounded by the tender and charming asso-

ciations of his youth, a few days ago said of the nation when he expressed the hope, in his service as president of the United States, 'the hearts of all men in the United States for the service of a nation that has no region, nor section, nor North, nor South' might be brought together. So let us come from the various sections of our State with mind and heart united in a common cause. Let our councils be free from factional differences, strife and needless and senseless contention. These can only result in that spirit of intolerance which is far below the plane of true statesmanship. Let the watchword of this session be harmony, and an earnest, conscientious cooperative effort for the accomplishment of constructive legislation as far as we see the needs of the State."

It is my earnest hope that this spirit may now prevail, and that we may all unite in conserving the highest good and welfare of our State.

It is my purpose to make a clean, manly, aggressive campaign, and if I am honored by our people as their choice for this great trust I shall use every honorable effort to promote their real good, their real prosperity and happiness.

What R. A. Cooper Advocates.

Synopsis of speech of R. A. Cooper, of Laurens, candidate for governor, delivered today:

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens:

This is the first time in my life to offer my services to the people of South Carolina. I am glad to live in a country where the humble citizen may offer himself for the highest and most important office. The position of governor of a State is more important to the people of the State than any other office. The constitution under which we live makes the governor "the supreme executive authority" of the State. It also provides that "he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed in mercy." He has power "to grant reprieves, commutations and pardons, except in cases of impeachment, in such manner, on such terms, and under such restrictions as he shall deem proper." Also, that the "governor shall, from time to time, give to the general assembly information of the condition of the State, and recommend for its consideration such measures as he shall deem necessary and expedient." In brief, the welfare, the happiness and the material prosperity of the State rest in no small degree, in the hands of the chief executive.

Such being the scope of the duty and authority of a chief magistrate, the selection of one to this high office is a matter of very great importance. If I am not mistaken, it was Thomas Jefferson, the great Democrat, who said that in a republican form of government like ours, the honest voter, when called upon to select one to fill an office, should ask himself three questions:

- 1st. Is he competent?
- 2nd. Is he worthy? and
- 3rd. Will he be faithful?

It is upon these grounds that I would place my candidacy for this great office, the greatest in the gift of the people of my native State. And let me say here and now that I sincerely trust that during the campaign upon which we today enter, it will be the controlling purpose of each and every candidate to be measured by the people of the State upon the basis of his fitness for the public service. I would refuse to accept any office at the hands of my people upon any other ground than my individual qualifications for service in the particular office sought. If it shall be my good fortune to be nominated governor of this State in the approaching primary, it will be my constant desire to render to the people of this State the best service that is in me.

I do not suppose that there is a candidate before the people of South Carolina today who will not readily concede that the most important question before the people of the State, and the one which will continue to be of most importance, is that of providing facilities for the education of our boys and girls. We should bear in mind that a great majority of the children of this State will receive only such education as is provided by their local schools. Such being the case, it is, and ought to be the policy of the State to raise the standard of these schools until they provide the very best that can be had. It is a sad commentary on our State today, but it is nevertheless true, so I am informed, that we can not accommodate in our schools the white children of the State who ought to be in school. I believe that the State should at once take the necessary steps to provide ample facilities for the education of our white children, and then we will be in the position, if necessary, to enact and enforce a compulsory school attendance law. It is the duty of a State to provide its children equal opportunities, and it is the right of every child to have an equal chance, with every other.

Another matter which should have the earnest and painstaking attention of our legislative department is our present system of taxation. It is

impossible on this occasion to go fully into a discussion of this matter, but as the campaign progresses, I hope to elaborate my views in this regard. It seems to me that some plan can and should be devised by which we can, approximately at least, secure a more just and equal assessment of our property for taxation. Every honest man is willing to bear his pro rata share of the burdens of government. He ought not to expect less, and he should not be required to do more.

I do not suppose there is a man in this audience who does not fully realize that another one of the most important matters which should engage our attention at this time is that of improving our public highways. Certainly nothing can be of more material benefit to our farming population. The farmer's transportation tax is, and has been for a long time, one of his chief difficulties. The furnishing of good roads will not only enhance the value of farm property and add to the comfort and conveniences of farm life, but will increase the prosperity of the State in all lines. It is useless, however, to advocate the furnishing of better highways, and at the same time vote a reduction in taxes, because, my friends, it is going to cost money to have improved highways.

The fundamental basis of our material prosperity is, and will continue to be, our agricultural resources. South Carolina is, and must remain an agricultural State. I would not discourage our manufacturing industries, nor would I minimize their importance, but when all has been said, our agricultural industries remain of prime importance. What we need today in our State is that more of our white people who must look to the farm for a support and for a home, should be owners of their farms. I trust that the national government will, with as little delay as possible, enact a rural credit law, and that the State will take the necessary steps to encourage our people to become owners of the farms on which they must live. In this connection, I think that Clemson College which has been, and is doing so much for our State, should establish and operate demonstration farm schools in every county in the State, because there can be no real development and substantial improvement in the condition of our farms until their owners have acquired the information necessary to take advantage of the many economies in preparation of soil, use of fertilizers, etc. Clemson College is a great institution and is doing a great work, but in my humble judgment its benefits can be further extended as suggested.

Another matter which should engage our most careful attention is that of the public health. We probably do not need any additional legislation in regard to this matter, but proper facilities should be provided and adequate steps taken, to stamp out as nearly as possible, contagious and infectious diseases which, year by year, are claiming their victims in our State. I believe that the medical fraternity have about reached the point where typhoid fever and many other dangerous diseases can be practically eradicated, certainly prevented. I have confidence enough in the medical profession of South Carolina to trust it to co-operate effectively with the State for the elimination and prevention of diseases if the proper facilities are provided.

In conclusion, I refer again to the chief functions of the chief magistrate of the State. The constitution says "he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed in mercy." It is not contemplated that the governor will be a tyrant. It is not contemplated that he will enter upon the discharge of his duties with a spirit of vindictiveness, but that he will see that the laws are faithfully executed in mercy. We should bear in mind that the freedom and liberty of a people increase in proportion as the laws are faithfully and impartially executed. There is nothing that means more in the happiness and prosperity of a State than that the laws shall provide and furnish adequate protection to its citizens. If elected governor, I shall have no enemies to punish, and no friends to favor in this regard. I should feel it my duty not alone to prevent race track gambling in Charleston, or blind tigers in Columbia, but also to see that all the laws are impartially executed from the mountains to the sea. Whether I personally approved of every law on our statute book, so long as it remained a law, I would feel and would know it to be my sworn duty to see that it is enforced; and to this end, I would use every power vested in me. Do not misunderstand me in this matter. I realize that the purpose of the law is to restrain the hand of every man uplifted for another's injury, and also, to reform and reclaim those who have fallen into ways of evil, and wrong doing. I would, therefore, attach due importance to that provision of the constitution which says that the laws should be executed "in mercy."

J. B. A. Mullally.

To the Chairman of the Meeting, State Campaign Speaking, Sumter, S. C.

Dear Sir: I am one of the candi-

dates for governor and had fully expected to be in Sumter tomorrow, the 17th, to speak to my fellow citizens. An accident to my right foot that happened on my way to Keowee church last Sunday providentially prevents my attendance. It is a grievous disappointment but God knows best.

May I request you to read this letter and the enclosed printed draft or outline of my platform to the audience instead of my speech and to hand the copies to the leading Blesses men of the various sections of your county and country, giving one here and one there where they will be read and kept and shown from and by voter to voter.

I am a man of limited means, a poor man so far as this world's goods and money is concerned and I have spent hundreds of dollars, nearly my all, to print the literature that I shall later hand to every voter in this State and I have no other means of reaching the real people, the people that prayerfully think and vote accordingly—the people that will elect as their governor John Bailey Adger Mullally of Anderson and as their United States senator, Coleman Livingston Blease of Newberry, South Carolina.

Sincerely,

John Bailey Adger Mullally.

P. S. I find that I could not come at any rate for the most solid anti-Bleas anti-Mullally lawyer in Anderson defeated by my efforts in the last campaign has just had me served with a premature notice to appear before Judge French in a settlement. The notice was ostentatiously served in the public square. The best counsel in the city say that it should properly have been served if at all for the 24th or after. They can beat Cole Bleas or "Honest John" Mullally by shyster tactics. The people of Sumter shall hear me. Fair play, ain't dead yet. The estate in question has been paid over so far as the female heirs are concerned and all this is a matter of record.

My pamphlet will tell the whole story.

Mullally Stands with Bleas.

I am now a candidate at the earnest solicitation of many good men for governor of the Palmetto State.

I am for the election of the judges of that State by the people and not for their selection by the "Statesmen" of the legislature. I am for Home Rule in cities and in other localities and boundaries where interests are identical and local, and wherever the choice of the city or section does not work an injustice or a nuisance per se to other localities, or the State in general. I am against the merger of the cotton mills and other industries.

I believe—I know that "the merger" is but another name for "the trust"—and that that means that the State shall clothe by legislative enactment the banded corporate interests with the power unlimited; 1st. To regulate the price of the raw material—to force the producer, the farmer, to take just such a price for his cotton for instance as the allied corporations, the trust, the merger, shall dictate and fix; 2d. to give the said merger the power to pay labor just what it pleases; 3d. to enable the merger to charge the consumer—you and I, every body—just what it pleases, protected by the iniquitous tariff, for the finished product—the cloth—the thread—the spindle's out-put. I see unrest and strikes and labor troubles, and the countless ills that have followed the legalization of the trusts or mergers in every other State. I see the cost of the necessities of life, already too high, going higher.

I believe in equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

I am a Democrat. I believe in a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. I believe with Thomas Jefferson and Coleman Livingston Bleas that the people are capable to govern themselves. I believe that there is as much of patriotism and virtue behind the homespun and the gingham as there is behind the broadcloth and the silks. I believe that that day of the people that supports this country in time of peace and dies for it, in time of war ought to have its share in the prosperity of the country and its part in its government. I believe that the consumer, and the real producer, and the laborer in field, in factory, in office, in store, in school, in laboratory, in shop, and in home, should receive for himself and his self the same measure of protection and prosperity accorded the favored few.

I endorse every word of Governor Bleas when he says in his Walterboro speech, on Saturday, April 11, 1914:

"Allow me to announce the principles that should be the platform of the candidates this summer:

1st. An honest administration of all laws, fairly and impartially to all citizens alike.

2nd. Enforcing all laws upon all subjects, and obedience to the constitution of the United States and constitution of South Carolina.

3d. Keeping forever separate the legislative, judicial and executive departments of the government, each