

## CLAUDE KITCHIN, NEW DEMOCRATIC FLOOR LEADER IN THE HOUSE AND IN HIS HOME.

(By Hon. Thomas L. Reilly in The National Monthly)

Fellow Democrats: It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you through our open forum, the National Monthly, the new Democratic leader of the House of Representatives, Hon. Claude Kitchin, of Scotland Neck, N. C.

That's rather odd when you stop to think it over—the idea of having to introduce a man big enough to be leader, to the party he is going to lead. But it is positively necessary in the case of Claude Kitchin.

Necessary for the reason that if it were left to Mr. Kitchin he never would be introduced. Not that he doesn't like company; not that he doesn't like companionship; not that he is not a good mixer, for he is most companionable and the soda fountain expert who flips your egg phosphate has nothing on him as a mixer.

Claude Kitchin is the most bashful big man in Wahington who is in public life. He doesn't like the spotlight, and there is no good reason for the dislike, for he has the looks that go to make up the star spot-lighter. Tall, erect, black haired, black eyed; in a word a handsome, dashing chap, born to lead if he would only give that inborn leadership a chance.

This introduction, of course, is not intended for his colleagues in the House of Representatives, for they know him and he knows them. He has been in Congress thirteen years. He knows the ropes and the rules, and is one of the first to greet the new member with a real handshake that means a lot to the stranger, and a "Mighty-glad-to-meet-you" that is most reassuring.

### Makes Few Speeches.

During all the years he has been in Congress, Mr. Kitchin has made but few speeches. It has cost the Government very little to print what he has said publicly, but what he has said is worth reading; when you read it you remember it.

Without a doubt, Claude Kitchin is one of the very best public speakers in or out of Congress. As the new Democratic leader, he will have to do a great deal more public talking than he has ever done before, and consequently there are many talk-treats in store for the House and the country.

Mr. Kitchin masters every subject he attempts to talk about. He is a student of the most thorough sort. He collects every bit of information he can get from all sources on any subject in which he is interested. He not only does it himself, but asks his friends to help out with news paper clippings on the proposition, the result being that when he gets ready to put a speech in shape he has a vast supply of facts regarding the matter.

He will remain in his room in the Driscoll Hotel, where he has long lived, for days at a time getting a firm grip on his subject in preparation for use in a speech or to equip himself for Ways and Means Committee work.

### A Hard Student.

During the hearings on the Underwood Tariff Bill, Mr. Kit-



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chin was practically a recluse. After sitting all day with the committee he would often sit up all night, preparing his work for the next day. It is no discredit to Chairman Underwood or the other big brainy men of that committee to say that on a majority of the schedules, Mr. Kitchin was the best posted man of the committee.

He knew his book thoroughly and the man who came before the committee to do any four-flushing or side-stepping generally regretted it.

With the resignation of Burton Harrison, of New York, from the committee to become Governor General of the Philippines, Mr. Kitchin became ranking Democratic member and he will surely be the chairman of the committee when Oscar W. Underwood goes to the Senate next March. With that chairmanship goes the House leadership.

There was some talk for a time after Mr. Underwood decided to enter the Senatorial contest, of a contest for his place as chairman, but it did not last, it being so apparent that Mr. Kitchin was the overwhelming choice of the Democratic members of the House.

The chief compensation for the loss of Oscar W. Underwood as a leader is the gaining of Claude Kitchin. Though of an entirely different type, he will lead as successfully as his illustrious predecessor, and that will be some leading.

By his great ability, by his repose, by his courteous manner, by his devotion to duty, Mr. Underwood has led his party for two Congresses in a remarkably successful manner. You would never expect Mr. Underwood to slap you on the back no matter how enthusiastic the occasion, and you would never think of slapping him. There is always a certain reserve and dignity that makes back-slapping out of the question.

### A Good Mixer.

Yet without the lowering of dignity in the slightest degree, you always feel that it would be entirely natural to slap Claude Kitchin on the back or receive a resounding whack from with an accompanying, "How are you, old gentleman," though you may be younger than Sir Claude himself.

While you at once feel at home in his company, there is not the slightest danger of the familiarity over-stepping itself and breeding contempt.

An intellectual giant, a model of physical manhood, a dashing chivalrous leader, a big-hearted, loyal friend, who will even over-play that friendship for anyone he likes, resourceful, quick witted and eloquent, he is certain to be a great leader with a following attracted to him by a magnetism all-powerful, and with a devotion that will remain unshaken and will never be betrayed.

It is generally conceded that Claude Kitchin can get more votes for any project in which he takes a deep interest, either for himself or a friend, than any man in Congress, and few will ever know that he is working. That does not mean that he is pussy-footed simply because of his winning personality.

But it was not to say nearly so much about Claude Kitchin as a leader or member of the House that was our purpose. It was to tell something about him as a man, as we who have been fortunate enough to live with him part of the time, have come to know him.

### Gifted in Conversation.

What has been said in relation to Mr. Kitchin's dislike for public speaking does not apply to private talking. He will be readily backed against all comers in a national or international speed and endurance talking match.

A short time ago a letter was addressed as follows: "Champion Talker of the World, Scotland Neck, N. C."

The Scotland Neck postmaster without the slightest hesitation or doubt put the letter in Mr. Kitchin's box.

He is at his best after dinner in the smoking room or on the veranda of the Driscoll, according to the weather. He is a relentless hectorer. Let him get something on a colleague and he makes his life miserable. He is ready to discuss any subject that may come up or be under discussion when he arrives. If one side appears to have the easiest time he will take the other side and matters are quickly evened.

The charm of Claude Kitchin's talking is its purity. He never tells risqué stories, and those who know him never tell them when he is in the party.

He is morally and mentally as clean as he is physically. Even in the most informal company of men, he never says anything that could not be repeated with perfect propriety to a party of ladies.

### Home Life a Model.

It goes without saying that the home life of such a man is a model. Your ideal of the home of a prosperous, educated and refined Southern gentleman is really the Kitchin home. Situated well back from the main street of the town, in a fine grove of lindens and oaks, is the Kitchin residence, with its wide verandas and tall, white Corinthian columns. Among the oaks and lindens are two of the largest and finest holly trees in the South. In a rear of the house you get a glimpse of the broad acres extending to the Roanoke River, on which Mr. Kitchin raises cotton, corn and peanuts, the three staple products of the Tar Heel State. Besides being a real statesman and an able lawyer,

he is some farmer, and some day will give up legislation of law and devote all his time to farming. His brother, Arrington Kitchin, is considered the best farmer in North Carolina and with another brother, former Governor Kitchin, owns several of the most productive plantations in the whole cotton belt.

### Big Man, Big Family.

The fine, big house in which Mr. Kitchin lives is typical of his fine, big family. There are nine children—six girls and the three boys. The eldest daughter, Miss Anna, was married last January to Robert C. Josey, a successful young business man of Scotland Neck, while the youngest child, Stedman, named after Major C. M. Steadman, Representative in Congress, from the Fifth North Carolina District, is just able to walk.

The other girls are Katherine, Gertrude, Ione, Pauline, and Hetta; the other boys are Mills Kitchin, who has recently been admitted to the bar, and Claude Kitchin, Jr., a bright lad of ten.

Over this loyal and devoted household, Mrs. Claude Kitchin, presides with charming grace and true motherly affection. On account of the many and varied responsibilities connected with such a large establishment as must necessarily be maintained, Mrs. Kitchin finds little time to be away from it, though she manages to get to Washington once or twice during the session, and is an established favorite among the ladies of the Congressional set. With Mr. and Mrs. Kitchin lives Professor Mills, Mrs. Kitchin's father, and Mrs. Kitchin's sister, Miss Anna Mills.

Even a brief visit to the hospitable Southern home convinces one that here reigns purest love and as perfect happiness as this world of woe affords.

### One of a Large Family.

It is natural that Claude Kitchin should have a large family, aside from the fact that he is a large man in every sense. He comes from a large family. He is the son of the late Capt. W. H. Kitchin, who at one time represented the same district in Congress that the new Democratic leader now represents. He has eight brothers and two sisters. His brothers are Samael, former Governor W. W. Kitchin, who was for several years a Congressional colleague; Arrington, Paul, Thurman, Leland, Richard and Theodore. His sisters are Mrs. Charles McDowell and Mrs. Archibald McDowell. All live in Scotland Neck, excepting ex-Governor Kitchin who now resides in Raleigh.

Paul Kitchin is a lawyer and takes special delight in opposing Claude in law suits. Thurman is a practicing physician. The other brothers are farmers and good ones (two). All the male Kitchins are graduates of Wake Forest College. They are big, strapping, fine looking fellows. They were all at the wedding of Miss Anna, and it would be a difficult task to find a handsome group of men and beautiful women than the Kitchin boys and girls as they stood together that joyous occasion.

It is quite natural that Claude Kitchin should become a leader of a great party. He comes from a family which has produced leaders.

It is to your benefit to subscribe to THE RECORD.

## MARK FINCH.



We are presenting this week a picture of Mr. Mark Finch, who secured the third Prize in the Corn Club Contest. Mark made 12-1-2 bbls. and 14 pounds, and was awarded third choice of pigs. These pigs were purchased by the Board of Education, and were nice, registered stock. The Board acted wisely in donating stock, rather than money, for it encourages the raising of the best stock and thereby increased the wealth of the community. In addition it places an incentive for effort in that direction. We need stock Clubs, and neighborhood co-operation along this line. We congratulate Mark upon his prize and wish him unbounded success this year.

### MR AND MRS. W. C. BURROUGHS ENTERTAIN.

On Friday evening, last, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Burroughs delightfully entertained in their hospitable home a number of friends at a card party. Rook was played. Those present and taking part in the games were, Misses Beulah and Ada Reavis, Lucy Frazier, Willie Bennett, Myrtle Pinnell, Mr and Mrs. E. H. Pinnell and Messrs. Staten Dryden, Vernon Mabry, James Duke, Robert and Frank Pinnell, and Henry Montgomery.

After several interesting and exciting games which were enjoyed by everyone, delicious cake, pickle and fruit was served.

Mr. and Mrs. Burroughs are charming host and hostess and always give those who have the pleasure of visiting in their home a good time.

### WHY SHOULD THE SPIRIT OF MORTALS BE PROUD.

Oh! why should the spirit of mortals be proud, when a good friend is asked to stop at his neighbor's and see a new and up-to-date pig pen, of which the owner was proud, and then have that good friend go off and write for the public Press an article laudatory of his neighbor's pen, but use these words: "If you want to see and up-to-date pig pen visit the HOME of Mr.—". The editor took the liberty to amend by striking out the word HOME and substituting the word "farm", and saved our scribe's BACON: we believe the subject of pigs was being discussed. At any rate that particular pen, located where our scribe, in all innocence and with the best motives placed it—that pen would have been mightier than the sword, had we not come to the rescue of our valued contributor and penned the pig pen in a different situation, and our scribe has been pensive ever since.

## PRAISE WHERE PRAISE IS DUE.

We take pleasure in commending Messrs. Allen and Bell for their successful efforts to get entertainment for Warrenton folks who go to the Town Hall. The class of entertainment, with now and then an exception, has been above the average for a town of this size. In fact, Warrenton gets a better class of entertainments than other towns of our size, and to Messrs. Bell and Allen the credit is due. For instance: "The Shepherd of the Hills" played here last Friday night. This show was above the average and was acted to perfection, and the scenery was splendid. To establish a reputation for having only clean, good shows is the most successful advertising the Management could have, and may we be permitted to say that THE RECORD comes next. The management has several more good shows in store for Warrentonians, so watch THE RECORD for particulars.

### THE GIRL AND THE TRAMP.

To see Fred Byers is to laugh, and in his new vehicle, "The Girl and the Tramp," as produced last night at the Brandeis Theatre, gives him plenty of opportunity to create that pirthful sensation without drawing too much on his own personality. The audience which filled the theatre enjoyed the entire evening of fun, and when the curtain finally descended on the finish, everyone seemed glad to have been there to witness Mr. Byers' undoubted success in the role of Happy Jack, the tramp, who, with the assistance of the adopted girl, Flo Randall, rescues the home and happiness from the clutches of the scoundrel, Philip Redman.

Special mention might be made of each member of the excellent cast brought together to portray the different characters of this production.

From the time Happy Jack makes his appearance in the yard of the Merton home, singing "Any Old Place I Hang My Hat is Home Sweet Home to Me", to his declaration in the last act that he intends to be more than a casual acquaintance to Flo Randall and to the Merton family, there is a continual flow of bright speeches and amusing situations, and therewas not a dull moment during the whole evening's performance.—"Omaha Bee."

Would the explosion of a real automobile interest you? If you saw a man stealing an automobile, what would you do? Miss Flo Randall, the girl in "The Girl and the Tramp", sees a man stealing her automobile. She pluckily covers him with a gun and calls for help. Happy Jack a tramp, comes to her rescue. A quarrel results between Happy Jack and Phillip Redman. The tramp is knocked down—Redman jumps into the automobile, pulls the crank and the automobile explodes. This all takes place in full view of the audience.

Aside from carrying a strong dramatic company, Mr. Byers has surrounded himself with three excellent singers, and they are carried as extra vaudeville between the acts. They also have the dancing Dianias who will dance all the latest society dances, including the Argentine, Texas Tommy and the Maxixe.

Don't fail to see this at the Warrenton Opera House, Friday Feb 19th. Popular prices 50,35 and 25