

successful until now his judgment in business matters is highly valued. Of recent years he has given much attention to his farms, where he grows strawberries and small fruits on a large scale.

In 1890 he was appointed a school commissioner, which was his first public office, and while discharging these duties his worth as a public official was plainly stamped. The same energy and aggressive spirit which characterized his business life followed him in his school relations, and the cause of popular education was quickened wherever he went. So high was the appreciation with which he was held by the teachers, that they presented him a handsome watch chain and charm, when he severed his relations with the schools to assume new official duties. In 1893 he was nominated for the State Senate by the Democratic County Convention, and received the largest vote any candidate had been given for twenty years. His value as a Legislator was conceded by every one, for he always had the courage to fight in and out of season for what he believed to be right. Among the bills passed during his first term was one to build a new court house, the provisions of which have been carried out.

Although a busy man, he finds much time to spend with his family, to whom he is much attached. Senator Smith is noted for his domestic tastes.

He is distinctively a public spirited man. No town in his county has had a more phenomenal growth nor gives promise of more steady development than Ridgely, with whose advancement no man has been more closely identified than Senator Smith. Since early manhood he has been a member and also a trustee of the Ridgely M. E. Church. His services in this particular have been no less energetic and marked than in other directions. For several years he has been chorister, and in all movements which promised increased usefulness of the church society, he has been prominent, and was one of the building committee which erected the present handsome church edifice, which is one of the chief adornments of the town.

Anyone who knows him will bear out the assertion that Senator Thomas A. Smith is one of those indispensable characters whose life is an inspiration to those about him, for, aside from any consideration of his energies and push, he possesses those qualities of mind and heart which endear him to his constituents.

He is chairman committee on printing, on committee on corporations, chairman of committee on sanitary condition of State, chairman of committee on library, on committee on Article 3,