

this county and in Virginia, and has been eminently successful. As a result of his energy, activity and business capacity, Colonel Smith is to-day a wealthy man, though in the prime of life. The firm, of which he is a member, has been of great service, largely through his instrumentality, to the laboring people of Snow Hill and Worcester county, giving employment to a large number of laborers and other employees. Nor has he overlooked the interests of the farmers, for it was through his influence that the large canning factory of which he is owner, was located in Snow Hill.

In 1887, he helped to organize the First National Bank of Snow Hill, and was elected its president, a position he still holds.

Though so actively engaged in business pursuits, he has yet had time to indulge a natural fondness for politics. For many years he has been prominent and influential in the politics of his county and State, and during these years, no man has served his friends in politics more faithfully and unselfishly than he. He has been many times a delegate to State and Congressional conventions. In the State convention of 1887, he was an earnest supporter of Governor Jackson, and did more, perhaps, than any other man in bringing about that gentleman's nomination. In 1880 he was a delegate to the Congressional convention which met in Salisbury and aided in securing the nomination of Mr. Covington, after a hard fought battle. At the next convention, in 1882, he again was one of Mr. Covington's delegates, and that gentleman was again nominated for Congress—and again in 1884, Col. Smith with others, represented Mr. Covington in the Cambridge Convention, and did all in his power to bring about his nomination, but owing to the feeling prevailing in that district against a third term, his efforts were unavailing. Finding it impossible to bring about Mr. Covington's nomination for a third term, the Worcester delegation, with Col. Smith as their leader, made a fight for Charles H. Gibson, and secured the latter's nomination.

In the winter of 1884, during the contest over the United States Senatorship in the Legislature, Col. Smith was a warm advocate and supporter of the late Senator Wilson, and aided largely in bringing about the latter's election.

In 1889, at the earnest solicitation of Senator Wilson, Col. Smith—though often begged to accept official positions before—consented for the first time to become a candidate for public office. He was unanimously nominated for State Senator by the Democratic County Convention, and was afterwards elected to that office by a large majority. In the contest of the Legislature of 1890 over the United States Senatorship, Col. Smith was the acknowledged leader of Senator Wilson's forces, and his efforts, as everyone knows, were crowned with victory.