

Lake Charles Commercial.

VOL. 1.

LAKE CHARLES, CALCASIEU PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1881.

No. 6.

LAKE CHARLES COMMERCIAL,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY
JOHN McCORMICK.

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Liberal discount to those who advertise by the year.

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LAKE CHARLES, LA.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 1881.

Agents for the Commercial:
Jno. H. Poe, Bagdad.
J. W. Harrison, West Lake Charles.
C. Mayo, Opelousas.

Subscribers who fail to receive their paper, will please notify us of the fact.

Judge S. D. Read is having a new dwelling house built.

If you want some good bottled beer, call on Wm. C. Fricke.

Governor Louis A. Wiltz is reported as being quite seriously ill, at his residence, in New Orleans.

The schooners Mary Lynch and Lottie Mayo, are at Schindler & Valverde's ship-ways, to undergo general repairs.

Thanks to Messrs. G. M. Gossett, E. A. Perkins, W. D. Jenkins and Jno. H. Poe, for subscriptions to the COMMERCIAL.

H. D. Nix shipped a car-load (60,000) of shingles this week, to C. T. Perkins, Vermilionville, and has plenty more of the same sort left.

Read the advertisement of C. H. Bruce, in another column. Mr. Bruce is prepared to do all work in his line in a satisfactory manner. Give him a call.

There are now seven prisoners in the Parish Jail awaiting their trial at the next District Court, six colored and one white. The population of the parish is about 11,000 white and 2,000 colored.

Beaumont, Texas, is now an incorporated town. An election for town officers was held on the 10th inst., when John C. Craig, was elected Mayor, and John Keith, J. Blanchet, L. P. Ogden, A. J. Gilder and F. E. Adams, aldermen.

Grave apprehensions were entertained during the past week concerning the President's condition. Another operation had to be performed, which proved successful, and the patient has since been continually improving.

Special attention is called to the addition made to the advertisement of E. Kaiser & Co. They are closing out their summer stock at reduced prices, in order to make room for their large stock of fall and winter goods. Call at once, and secure good bargains.

See H. D. Nix's advertisement in another column. Go to Nix, if you are naked, he can clothe you; if hungry, he can and will feed you; if dry, he can wet you, and if you are going West, on Horace Greeley's advice, or coming East, on your own better judgment, he will cross you over the river.

We invite particular attention to the advertisement headed "For Sale and Rent." The Haskell House is one of the best known hotels in the State. There is a mint of money in it for a man who understands his business.

The Store house offered for sale, is as good a location as there is in town, a new building, and in every way a desirable investment.

A singular combat was witnessed a few days since at Nix's ferry. On going to his store, early in the morning, his son (who sleeps in the store) called Mr. Nix's attention to the fight going on, between two large fish in the river. They must have fought several hours, for Johnnie Nix heard them, before day, splashing and making a fearful noise in the water. About sunrise one of them threw up the sponge and turned over on his back. Mr. Nix sent one of his hands to the rescue in a boat. The man towed the fish ashore, and it died in a few minutes after it was landed. It proved to be what is known, in our waters, as a shovel fish, and measured about five feet in length. From the wounds and gashes on the dead fish, his antagonist must have been an alligator-gar-fish.

We wish to call the attention of the residents of this parish to the card of Mr. J. L. Bourgeois. He comes amongst us, highly recommended by his Excellency the Governor of this State and others of equally high repute. The young gentleman, is eminently qualified to conduct a first class school, being a graduate of the La. State Seminary of Learning and Military Academy, an A. B. and LL. B. and having had six years experience in the schools of New Orleans. We therefore take pleasure in recommending him to all who have children, whom they wish to enjoy the benefit of a thorough education.

There are at least forty schooners engaged in the lumber trade of the Calcasieu River, and with the railroad facilities, it is still impossible to get the lumber away from the mills. Last week the Goos mill wharves were so crowded with lumber that Mr. Goos had to throw a large quantity in the river, to get it out of his way, so as to continue sawing. The lumber will not be lost, however, as it will be floated to the railroad landing, hauled out, and shipped by rail.

We are indebted to Mr. G. Gardemal, the courteous telegraph operator at the Railroad depot, for the very useful report of shipment of lumber and cross-ties, by railroad, from the 1st to the 10th of this month. Our intention is to continue, with the assistance of Mr. Gardemal, the publication of this interesting business item of Lake Charles.

We have received a copy of the Ashley County Times, published at Hamburg, Ashley County, Arkansas, by Mr. Wm. Prather, well known to the craft in southwestern Louisiana. From the appearance of his paper he has a good patronage. Mr. Prather is an old typo and editor, and we wish him success.

A special from Beaumont to the N. O. Democrat says: "Our shipments of lumber, since the first of August, averages seventy cars daily, the heaviest business ever known here."

We presume this number must include cars passing through from Lake Charles and Orange.

New Orleans has now a Committee of Public Safety. The C. O. P. S. is the outgrowth of a defective police, stupid juries, executive clemency, and the consequent increase of lawlessness and crime. The organization is a secret one. We publish the first official proclamation in another column.

We call particular attention to the new card of M. J. Rostect. The flues manufactured by the Galveston Artificial Stone Works have been in use in our town for several years, and have given universal satisfaction. Go at once and get one, and comply with the ordinance of the Town Council.

A New Era for Lake Charles.

The mill owners and lumbermen of Calcasieu have at last realized the fact that they can no longer absolutely depend upon the uncertain rises of the river for their supply of timber and logs. The demand for lumber, at this point, has been constantly increasing since the day that the first saw-mill was erected at Lake Charles, and this demand has, to-day, reached such proportions that our twelve saw-mills are strained to their utmost capacity to fill one-half of the orders sent to them. Any interruption in the supply of logs is, therefore, a serious loss to them, and we are glad to see that serious steps are being taken by some of our citizens to prevent any such contingency in the future.

We had occasion, in a previous number, to allude to a project then on foot for the construction of a steam tramway, through the pine region, for hauling logs to tide water in the river. We are now in possession of facts which enable us to assure our readers that this project will be carried into execution at an early day. Our parishioner Mr. A. J. Perkins, was this week in the timbered country, selecting the location and course of the road, which is to be constructed in the interest of the firm of A. J. Perkins & Co., of which he is the senior partner. This road is intended to strike tide water, on the West Fork, and to run up through the northwestern part of the parish.

We have also been informed, by our townsman Mr. H. C. Gill, that a surveying party is now in the field, or rather, to speak more technically, in the woods, locating another road, which is destined to run north from this place, and to tap the main river near the mouth of Marsh Bayou, about forty miles by water from Lake Charles. The early construction of this road, which is to be, for the present, a tramway to haul logs by horse-power, may be considered a certainty. Mr. Gill, in whose interest the road and tramway are to be built, has already purchased the land through which the road is to pass; he will, at once, have a portable saw-mill on the ground to saw the material for tramway and carriers, and promises a speedy completion of this long wished for enterprise. In due time, if the business justifies it, he will convert his horse-power into a steam tramway.

We wish these gentlemen all the success they deserve in their laudable enterprises. The great lumber interests of Lake Charles look up to them with the brightest anticipations for the future, and the day that our log-men, mill-men and lumber-men will no longer be dependent upon the rise or fall of the Calcasieu River for their supply of material, will be the dawn of a new era of unexampled prosperity upon Lake Charles.

Last Saturday our town, and particularly the vicinity of the Court House, looked like the first day of Court term. The tax sales, to take place that day, had drawn a large crowd into town. All the property advertised, except a very few, sold without competition. Fifty cents and one dollar each adjudication, being about all that was offered, and generally whoever got in the first bid, had the property knocked down to him.

We have received a copy of the Terrebonne Times, a new paper published at Houma, Terrebonne parish, by the Terrebonne Publishing Company, with Mr. H. M. Johnson as editor and business manager. The Times is a large eight-page paper, well printed and ably edited. We X with pleasure.

Advertise in the COMMERCIAL.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.—On Friday 5th inst., Mr. Gustave Landry, who lived on Lacasine, during a thunder storm, was sitting in his house with his family, when the chimney was struck by lightning. The electricity went down the chimney, entering the room, killing Mr. Landry instantly, and seriously injuring his mother-in-law. No other member of the family was hurt, and the old lady will recover.

Bagdad Siftings.

We have had refreshing showers for a week past, but not sufficient to cause a freshet, but we have had plenty to cause us all to cast our eyes heavenward in anticipation. Plat & Moss and Stanton & Co., are driving ahead, with a good supply of logs; but lumber is accumulating so that there will soon be no wharf room, unless schooners make better trips.

Lutchie Hansen, a laborer at Stanton & Co's mill, accidentally got his hand caught in the edging saw and mangled his thumb and forefinger to such an extent that both had to be amputated. Dr. Moss attended him.

A good many men have come in here the past week seeking employment, and all have been successful in finding ready work and good wages, at the mills, and tie camps above here. Come along, gentlemen, we can find lots of work for you, and good pay at that.

A few days' sojourn in the West Fork timber district has thoroughly convinced us that there is more timber being put in the streams, in that section, this season, than has been for any previous years—and, moreover, the log-men are taking special pains to have only A No. 1 logs hauled. They have come to the conclusion that "De nihilo nihil fit," and they are right. The present good prices for timber is very encouraging, hence their idea for pushing things ahead in good season. There is but little doubt that in a short time those mills that are investing before hand will be well supplied with timber, and of the best quality at that. E. & O. E.

West Lake Charles Jottings.

Hot! Hotter! Hottest!
Give us a breeze! breeze! breeze!
Norris' mills have suspended operations for a month, in order to prepare for the fall trade.

Peaches, from up the river, are on the market here, selling at twenty-five cents a bucket.

Mr. A. J. Perkins returned Friday evening from a tour of inspection in the pine woods, where he has been looking for a site for his steam tramway.

The saloon owned by Mr. W. C. Bush is open at all times to the public. Wiley, the genial bar-tender, will serve his friends with dispatch. Give him a call.

The schooner Hermes, loaded with pieux, while in the act of taking her departure last Monday evening, struck a snag in the lake, and filled her hold with water. She is now on Clooney's ways for repairs.

The writer returned from a trip to Calcasieu Pass Wednesday, feeling greatly benefited by the delightful Gulf breezes that he enjoyed while there. Capt. Mouroe, Collector of Customs for that port, came up at the same time and will remain here until Monday. The crops at the Pass are good, with the single exception of the orange, (not even excepting the mosquito,) which was considerably damaged by the cold weather. The yield will be, literally nothing.

The COMMERCIAL is a welcome visitor at that place.

"NAC NUD."
COL. ROCKWELL will present to Congress, when it meets, a bill appropriating \$40,000 for repairing and refurbishing the White House. While Congress will undoubtedly grant this, it will probably, at the same time, decide upon erecting a new Presidential mansion in some more suitable and desirable portion of the city. The White House has been notorious for its insalubrity, nearly everybody living in it suffering from malaria. The building, moreover, is very costly and expensive, Congress being called on, every year, to contribute from 10 to 20 per cent of the cost of a new building for repairs. It would be economy to proceed at once to erect a new house and stop lavishing money on the present one.—N. O. Democrat.

PERSONAL.

L. Crager, representing Green-leave, Block & Co., of Galveston, is on hand with his samples.

Ben Asher, from LeGierse & Co., grocers of Galveston, is here with a smile on him like an overseer's wages.

F. A. Fairchild, merchant from Niblett's Bluff, was on hand last Saturday. He looks as fat and happy as usual.

We had the pleasure of a call, Tuesday, from Dr. L. N. Mims. He reports peace and plenty prevailing in his neighborhood on the Sabine.

Mr. Henry Welsh, from Welsh's Station, was in town last Thursday, and called at our sanctum and got a receipt for a year's subscription. You may rest assured he was a welcome visitor.

Mr. C. F. Hfrey, a merchant from Cedar Bayou, Texas, paid our town a visit this week, prospecting. He expressed himself as being agreeably surprised at the appearance and extent of the Lake City.

Mr. J. W. Harrison, the efficient book-keeper of Perkins & Miller, West Lake Charles, who has been rusticating at Calcasieu Pass for several days, returned last Wednesday, and is again at his post.

We were agreeably surprised, last Saturday, at having a call from our friend Sam Haas, of Bayou Chicot, St. Landry parish. Sam always has his eye open to business, and in proof of same, he invested \$1162 cash, in three pieces of property at sheriff's sale, and subscribed to the COMMERCIAL. Come again Sam.

We were favored by a call this week from Mr. Jean Castex, of Mermentau. He reports the rice crop in his neighborhood, almost a failure, on account of the drouth, although above and below him the crop has not suffered so much. He left a kindly souvenir in the shape of a two-dollar William, for one year's subscription.

TO THE PUBLIC.

Proclamation of the Committee of Safety.

OUR OBJECTS AND PURPOSES.

1. To insure full protection, in life, liberty and property, to all good citizens, without distinction of party, race or nationality.
2. To suppress, at all hazards, crime and rowdyism.
3. To coerce our public servants, both high and low, to the full, faithful and fearless performance of their duties, and to afford them protection in the discharge of the same.
4. To see that the monies collected from the people of this commonwealth, especially the criminal laws, are strictly and impartially enforced; and to ferret out suppressed evidence and unwilling witnesses in all important State cases.
5. To prevent undue influence on the pardoning power.
6. To watch with vigilance the different branches of our government, and whenever and wherever we find an unfaithful public servant or a wrong done the people, to see that the servant is punished according to his guilt, and to sweep away the wrong, that right may rule. By order of
COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

The swiftest bird, probably, is the eagle of the sea, or frigate bird often measuring sixteen feet from tip to tip. It hovers at an elevation of 10,000 feet when a storm sweeps over the ocean. If it wishes to travel, says a French naturalist, it can almost annihilate space. It can breakfast in Africa and dine in America. This bird reposes on its great motionless wings, literally, "sleeping on the bosom of the air."

LAKE CHARLES COMMERCIAL.—This is the title of a new weekly journal lately started in the town of Lake Charles, La., by Mr. John McCormick. It is handsomely printed, ably edited, and brimful of well written editorials and choice selections. Brother McCormick, we wish you every success.—Ashley County (Ark.) Times.

[Communicated.]
Can Calcasieu be Made an Agricultural Parish?

No. 2.

In my last I treated upon the prairie lands of the parish. In this I propose to notice the timbered lands and the uses they may be put to. In doing this I shall confine myself to the lands upon either bank of the Calcasieu river above and below Lake Charles; leaving the other portions of the parish to be treated of at some future time. Upon each bank of the river below Lake Charles the land is high and runs sloping back from the river a long distance to the swamps, forming an elevated ridge of good rich land, capable of being cultivated, and which would produce, with proper cultivation, all diversities of crops of the State. Corn, cotton, oats, rye, barley, fruits, grapes, vegetables and cereals of all kinds, can be raised in abundance.

A great part of the above lands are lying in a wild state, waiting for and inviting the husbandman to improve them. Above Lake Charles, the same may be said of the formation of the land. Rich ridges of land covered with heavy timber. These lands can be bought cheap, and there is enough timber growing upon the land to more than pay the purchaser of the land. This timber is mostly pine, and is near the river, down which it can be floated and sold to the mills at a good price, returning to the owner a good per cent. on first investment.

Now, these lands could be made as famous as the Rhine lands of Europe, if the right kind of people would take hold of them. If the German citizens of the parish would use their influence with their friends in the fatherland, and induce them to come here and take hold of these lands, they could soon make a fortune.

The Germans are proverbial for their industry, frugality and good conduct. They understand the culture of the grape, and the making of wine, better than corn or cotton, and these river lands are well adapted to the culture of the grape, and the yield would be immense. The juice of the grape is worth about two dollars per gallon at the vintage, which would amount to a large sum per acre. Besides the grape, the peach could also be cultivated, and a large crop gathered every year and shipped to St. Louis and Chicago, and sold at a good price. They could be put in the Chicago market some weeks before any others, and reap the first market price. It is seldom that there is a failure of the peach crop, so there is but little risk to run. All that is needed is men who are not afraid to work to take hold of the matter, and, in a short time, this parish would rival the old world in its rich grape juice and fruits.

HEBDOMADAL.

The Assassin Guiteau, Likely to Spend Twenty Instead of Ten Years in the Penitentiary.

The Washington (D. C.) Law Reporter, a weekly, has an editorial article on "Assault with Intent to Kill," in which the inadequacy, defects and incompleteness of the Criminal Code of the District of Columbia are pointed out, but which reaches the conclusion that instead of the maximum penalty for Guiteau's offense being eight, or in case of two indictments sixteen years, it is according to law twenty years imprisonment. The article quotes a repealing section of a law relating to manslaughter and all capital felonies and crimes except murder, treason and piracy passed in 1875, which the writer claims repeals the law of 1865 fixing eight years as the maximum penalty for the first offense of assault with intent to kill. The 1875 law fixes imprisonment at not less than seven nor more than twenty years.

A facetious brakeman on the Central Pacific railroad cried out as the train was about entering a tunnel: "This tunnel is about one mile long, and the train will be four minutes in passing through it. The train dashed into daylight again in four seconds, and the scene in the car was one for a painter. Seven young ladies were closely pressed by fourteen pairs of masculine arms, fourteen pairs of lips were glued together, and two dozen whiskey flasks flashed in the air.