

Lake Charles Commercial.

VOL. 1.

LAKE CHARLES, CALCASIEU PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1881.

NO. 7

LAKE CHARLES COMMERCIAL,

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY
JOHN M. CORMICK.

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ADVERTISING RATES:

INCHES.	1 month	2 months	3 months	6 months	12 months
1 inch	\$2.00	\$3.50	\$5.00	\$7.00	\$10.00
2 inches	3.00	5.00	7.00	10.00	15.00
3 inches	4.00	6.00	8.00	12.00	20.00
4 inches	5.00	7.00	10.00	15.00	25.00
5 inches	6.00	8.00	11.00	16.00	30.00
6 inches	7.00	9.00	12.00	17.00	35.00
7 inches	8.00	10.00	13.00	18.00	40.00
8 inches	9.00	11.00	14.00	19.00	45.00
10 inches	11.00	13.00	16.00	22.00	50.00
15 inches	15.00	18.00	22.00	30.00	60.00
20 inches	20.00	25.00	30.00	40.00	80.00

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LAKE CHARLES, LA.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 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.

Thanks to Messrs. G. W. Ryan and Jno. H. Poe, for new subscriptions to the COMMERCIAL.

Mrs. Millard Fillmore, widow of ex-President Fillmore, died in Buffalo, New York, on the 11th inst., aged 71 years.

The bridge at the north end of Ward Alley, is in a sadly dilapidated condition. It ought to be replaced with a new one.

We invite particular attention to the card of Capt. T. R. Reynolds, as Lessee of the Haskell House. Capt. Tom is an old hand at the business, and if he cannot get a meal to satisfy the most fastidious gourmet, then we will pay the forfeit.

"Every body" says that our town is very dull—that it is dead; but if "every body" will take a trip east of here, "every body" will come back satisfied that Lake Charles is the liveliest corpse, for a dead town, west of the Alleghany Mountains.

Whilst passenger rates, on most railroads of the country, are being reduced to three cents a mile with tickets, and four cents a mile without tickets, the La. Western Railroad still charges the prohibitive rate of six cents a mile, and no commutation tickets issued.

We are glad to see the rice mill of Jacob Ryan & Sons pounding away again. Rice has been so cheap for some time, that they could not realize in the market, for cleaned rice, what they had paid for it in the rough. They have received another large lot of rice this week.

ICE.—Our enterprising townsman, Hon. Wm. Meyer, who has been so far unsuccessful in manufacturing ice, on account of some defect in his machinery, now assures us that everything is all right, and he will be prepared to furnish us with home-made ice during the balance of summer.

We invite particular attention to the notice of a Fair to be held for the benefit of the new Catholic Church. Father Kelly knows how to manage a Fair, and he certainly deserves encouragement in his indefatigable efforts to finish his church inside, to correspond with the exterior. We feel confident that the people of our parish will lend their assistance and means to forward and make a success of so laudable an object.

RIOT IN ORANGE.—The town of Orange, Texas, was the scene of one of those violent disturbances, which are of but too frequent occurrence of late, in several parts of the country. The affair at one time assumed all the proportions of a riot. The origin of the difficulty took place in one of the saloons, where several negro desperadoes made an assault upon a white man, Gus. Garvey; several shots were fired, but no one hurt. The sheriff started off with a posse of a few citizens to arrest the disturbers of the peace, these, upon seeing the sheriff and his men coming, fired upon them with shot-guns, one shot taking effect in the sheriff's arm and side. Their fire was returned and two of the negroes were killed and several others wounded. In a few minutes afterwards the citizens of the town hearing that the sheriff had been shot, armed themselves and went in pursuit of the negroes. Two more of the negroes were killed during the night, one hung, and their leader, Delino, and thirteen negroes, are lodged in jail, where they are only protected from the fate of their companions, by the strong arm of the military guarding the jail. The news that have reached us, of this unfortunate affair, are very meagre, and we give the above under all reservation.

THE PRESIDENT'S CONDITION.—The condition of the President was very critical during the first part of this week, and, at one time, his physicians themselves had given up all hopes of his recovery. A change for the better occurred Thursday, and the last reports from Washington are more encouraging. Since then he has been able to retain some food, and although he is extremely weak, he is said to be in no immediate danger. Within the next few days his fate will be decided; if he passes the present crisis, and gains in strength he will most probably recover, otherwise the worst is soon to be expected.

Why is it that some of our enterprising citizens do not establish a factory here for making doors, sash and blinds. There certainly is no place in the South where greater facilities exist than right here for successfully carrying on such a business. We have lumber of the best quality, in illimitable supply, and facilities for shipping by rail and by water, in any direction. We venture to say that a "cute Yankee," with a small capital, could set up such a factory, along side of one of our saw-mills, and get rich by working up what is, every day, thrown into the slab-pit to burn up.

NEW BUILDINGS.—Mr. Wm. Athens, of our town, is putting up two neat cottage residences on Ryan street. And another residence is being built on Hodges street. Last but not least, M. J. Rostee is having a new building put up on Ryan street. It is for an office for the COMMERCIAL. Mr. James Howard, the builder, says he will have it ready for us, in a very short while. When we get around on Ryan street, we want the boys to remember "There's a chiel among you takin' notes, An' faith, he'll prent 'em too."

We note with pleasure the improvements going on around the public square. Under the supervision of our efficient deputy sheriff, Julien Richard, the jail yard has been cleaned up, all the weeds cut down and thrown outside, the jail has been thoroughly white-washed inside, and is being white-washed on the outside; the weeds on the Court House square are being cut down, and everything being put in apple-pie order for the session of Court, to begin on Monday, the 29th inst.

THE NOTED TRAIN ROBBERS.—The publishers of "Border Outlaws" assert that their history of the Younger Brothers and Frank and Jesse James, published six months ago, has already reached the enormous sale of more than 60,000 copies. Since the late robbery and double murder at Winston, Mo., they have issued a new edition, containing a full history of that outrage, with illustrations, which brings the events in the lives of these airy gentlemen of the highway down to the present moment. For lively reading we presume this book can hardly be surpassed.

Persons desiring agencies will find advertisement elsewhere.

Just as we are going to press we are informed from good authority that at or near the residence of Richard Morrow, a freedman, on the Sugartown road, two miles from Ritchie's Ferry a difficulty took place between Messrs. Bean Hodges and James Clark, which resulted in the severe stabbing of both parties, Clark was dangerously hurt; but Hodges' wounds are not so dangerous. We have not been able to get the full particulars of the affray, so we will abstain from any comments until better informed in the premises.

HEROES OF THE PLAINS.—Is the charming title of a new book just published by the Historical Publishing Co., of St. Louis, Mo. It embraces the lives and adventures of Wild Bill, Buffalo Bill, Kit Carson, Capt. Payne, Capt. Jack, Texas Jack, California Joe, and other celebrated Indian fighters, scouts, hunters, and guides, and is doubtless a book well worth having. There are not many people in this great land of ours who do not feel an interest in the romantic deeds of the gallant plainmen. See advertisement elsewhere.

Not a vacant dwelling house to rent in Lake Charles.

Changes in the Constitution.

Hon. Galusha A. Grow, ex-Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, through an interview in the New York Tribune suggests a change in the constitution in order to relieve the President of the enormous and growing load of executive duties devolved upon him. Mr. Grow would limit the appointing power of the President to his Cabinet, the foreign ministers and the judges of the United States courts, placing the task of making selections for the subordinate offices in the hands of the heads of departments. Still further to relieve the President, the ex-speaker would make the Vice President a member of the Cabinet, and put upon him the duty of deciding a large class of comparatively minor questions coming up for executive decision. This, Mr. Grow suggests, would give the President time to attend to our foreign relations, and study important national questions upon which he has to make recommendations to Congress with much more care than he can possibly give to them under the existing system.

Reward Offered for a Murderer.

[Special to the N. O. Democrat.]
Skipwith, Miss., Aug. 15.—Two hundred and fifty dollars reward has been offered by the citizens of Rolling Fork for the apprehension of Joseph Thomas, who assassinated in cold blood Chas. Murphy. Thomas is about 25 years old, about five feet eight inches high, dark complexion, coarse black hair, brown mustaches, dark gray eyes, round face, heavy beard shaven, and low forehead; weighing about 140 pounds. He will probably try to make his escape by way of Yazoo City and the river or cross the Mississippi river and go to Texas.

A young lady was overheard to remark to an elderly lady while walking along Fifth Street yesterday: "If I can't have the dress I want I won't graduate! Now that settles it! No, I won't!"—St. Louis Republic.

PERSONAL.

A. J. Perkins left again for Galveston last Saturday night.

Messrs. Edgar and Henry Roy, of Opelousas, are visiting our town.

Desire Hebert was in town on Thursday. 5,600 acres of land changed hands that day.

Miss Gussie Lyons, from Orange, Texas, is here visiting among her many friends and relations.

Mrs. Mattie Holmes, with her two little daughters, from New Orleans, is visiting friends and relatives in Lake Charles.

J. Bienvenn, Jr., from M. L. Navra's China Palace, New Orleans, was with us this week. He sold several good bills.

Dr. E. J. Lyons, who has been, with his family, spending some time in the pine woods, returned home last Thursday, looking quite refreshed.

Mr. Solomon Bloch, of Opelousas, is in our town, visiting his brother, that Prince of merchants, Mr. David Bloch, of the firm of Kaufman & Block.

Hon. A. J. Kearney, Dist. Atty., returned from Vernon parish last Wednesday evening and left, by steamer Ramos, Thursday morning, for his home.

Ed. McCarty, from Heidenheimer Bros., was back in town again this week. As summer is drawing to a close, we presume he wants to dispose of H. & Bros. stock of summer whiskey.

Hon. R. S. Perry's children, from New Iberia, are visiting the family of Judge G. A. Fournet, in Lake Charles. We learn that Mrs. Fournet will return with them to New Iberia, on a visit to the scenes of her former home.

Mr. C. T. Perkins, of Vermilionville, called on us last Thursday. He reports business booming in Vermilionville. He also expressed himself so well pleased with the COMMERCIAL that he could not do without it, and paid for a year's subscription.

Mr. Chas. F. Patten, a young man whose occupation is that of house-carpenter, arrived in town last Sunday evening, seeking employment, and, as the best means of keeping himself posted, he came around Monday morning and subscribed for the COMMERCIAL. He means business.

C. A. Levie, of Yale & Bowling, dry goods dealers, New Orleans, E. Marin, representing "La Confiance" Fire Insurance Co., of Paris, France, at New Orleans, and W. C. Perkins, representing C. M. Pearce & Co., grocers of Galveston, are on our streets this morning.

The Yorktown Centennial.

Washington, Aug. 15.—Secretary Blaine, through Minister White at Berlin, has invited the relatives of Baron Steuben to attend the Yorktown celebration. In his communication to Minister White Secretary Blaine says: Those who come as representatives of Baron Steuben will be assured in our day of peace and prosperity of as warm a welcome as was given to their illustrious kinsman in the dark days of adversity and war. They will be the honored guests of 50,000, 600 of Americans, a vast number of whom have German blood in their veins and constitute one of the most worthy and valuable elements that make up the strength of the republic. Intensely devoted with patriotic fidelity to America, they yet retain and cherish and transmit most effectual memories of the Fatherland.

To these the visit of Baron Steuben's relatives will have something of a revival of family ties, while to all Americans, of whatever origin, the presence of German guests will afford a fitting opportunity of testifying their respect for that great country within whose limits are included so much of human grandeur and human progress.

The fact is unknown in school geographies that there is a strip of country between Kansas and Texas which is included in no State or Territory. It lies between the Pan-Handle of Texas, Kansas, and Colorado. It is about one hundred and fifty miles long and fifty miles wide. A Western paper says of this tract: "It is not known how it came to be left out in making up the civil divisions of the country. As suitable disposition as any would be to detach the northern projection of Texas, the Pan Handle, and consolidate it with the public lands as a new territory."

Can Calcasieu be Made an Agricultural Parish?

No. 3.

In my last communication I treated on the timber lands of the parish, their fertility and cheapness; but the one-tenth has not been told. Beside the rich timber lands along the river, there are other lands in the parish that are very fertile, and can be bought at a low figure per acre.

The Big Woods, and other localities in the parish, such as Sugar Town, Hickory Flat, and other points, are surrounded by rich lands, covered with heavy pine timber, which will pay the purchaser a good profit to cut it off and float it down the river to Lake Charles, where they will find a ready market for it at the mills.

All these lands are susceptible of a high state of cultivation, and only require the strong arms and willing hands of the Europeans who are coming to America by the hundred thousand every year; and the hardy western people who are migrating to our southern clime.

To secure a share of the wonderful influx from Europe there should be agents in New York who would inform those seeking homes in America, of the cheapness, fertility, and value of the land and the timber growing thereon, the certainty of the fruit crop, and there is no doubt whatever of the parish being soon dotted throughout its vast extent with the homes of happy, thriving farmers and fruit-growers.

All along the banks of the river, and the lakes through which it runs, the country is exempt from frosts, consequently there is seldom a failure of a fruit crop. The past winter and spring were the coldest ever known here, and yet there is a good peach and grape crop.

Now, if the land will produce good crops of peaches and other fruits, and also grapes, with the loose careless manner of the natives, it would produce a hundred fold more with proper attention. We want twenty thousand of the strong, hardy, willing sons of the old world to buy up and improve the rich lands of the parish; the extent of which is so vast, that there is plenty room for them, and still room for more.

HEBDOMADAL.

Prohibition.

EDITOR COMMERCIAL:—Having read and heard a great deal on the subject of prohibition, during a number of years past, and still see many articles in different papers on the subject; and then read the published account of the spread of intemperance, it looks as if there was something wrong somewhere. In the State of Maine, where prohibition was first put in force, there is now more liquor drunk, and more money paid for license than there ever was before. In Ohio, where they have waged, for years, a relentless war against whiskey, there is more of the article made and drunk, and more licenses procured for its sale, than ever was known in the history of the State. In North Carolina, at the last election, they tried to make prohibition an organic law, but it was defeated by a majority of nearly one hundred thousand. Taking these facts into consideration, it certainly proves that the leaders are working on the wrong track, and will have to take a new departure to succeed. E. CURB.

Chinese Immigration into California.

[N. O. Democrat.]

The San Francisco papers announce that there has recently been a large influx of Chinese into California and British Columbia, so large, indeed, as to attract considerable attention and apprehension. Investigation developed the fact that they are being brought in at the instance of the various corporations engaged in the construction of railroads on the Pacific coast and the British Territories, the wages paid by contractors being \$32 per month, of which \$2 is paid per capita monthly to the head men of the coolies, thus leaving \$30 to the laborers.

A saloon keeper in New London Conn., whose lost pocket book containing nearly \$400, was returned to him by the finder, impulsively exclaimed: "You pees you honest boy; I will shake mit you for the drinks." And they "shook," and the honest boy lost.

Among Our Exchanges.

Iberia Journal: It is a decided affair that a branch road will be built from Jeannerette to Cypremort. At the meeting held on the 6th inst., although not largely attended, on account of the inclemency of the weather, \$8,250 was subscribed for the building of the road.

Baton Rouge Capitollian: On Saturday last, Sheriff Bates sold at public auction four and a half lots appraised at \$340, which realized \$600, or more than double the valuation placed upon them. Straws show which way the wind blows. Who will say that Baton Rouge is not moving ahead at a rapid pace?

Marksville Bulletin: The water in Red River is so low that navigation is greatly impeded. Last week no boat went down and the orders and letters from merchants, etc., had to "lie over" one week. The uncertainty of navigation is a great drawback to commerce, and this reason alone shows how sadly we are in need of rail communication with the outer world. If the railroad does not pass through Marksville, no time should be lost to construct a tap road from this place to Holmestown. There are no two-ways about it, we must have a railroad.

Marksville Bulletin: A watermelon weighing 71 pounds was on exhibition this week at Evergreen. It was raised, we believe, on the Frith plantation. This is undoubtedly the largest watermelon ever raised in this parish, and we may perhaps include the State. This is no sensational item, but an actual fact which can be sworn to by a number of persons who saw it weighed. Avoyelles thus shows another proof of being the banner parish of the State in fertility of soil.

Terrebonne Times: Hon. Enos Williams brought to the Times office, on Tuesday last, a curiosity in the shape of a chicken having four well developed legs. The chicken is formed in every other way naturally, but from the tail there is an extension of the backbone about half an inch in length, from which grew the two extra legs, which are as large and as long as the others. It was alive and hatched with the rest of the brood, but was killed by the hen soon after. It was of the game breed, and had it lived would undoubtedly made a famous fighter.

Anti-Negro Feeling in New York.

[N. Y. Special to the Cincinnati Gazette.]
It is now thought that if the contractors on the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad had decided to bring negroes from the South to replace white laborers in grading the road, they have abandoned the scheme on account of the hostility of the Irishmen and Italians to colored men. The contractors now disclaim any intention of putting negroes to work at present. "When the cold weather comes," said one of them yesterday; "the Italians will doubtless quit; then we will have to get colored laborers to fill their places."

At the Wehawken tunnel, 1,100 white laborers will be put to work as soon as five shafts are lowered to the proper level, which will be done in two or three weeks. The work will then be carried on night and day, with the aid of electric lights. The apprehensions of the men have become allayed by the statements of the contractors, and the trouble may be said to be over.

Texas is going to have more miles of railroad in a short time than was ever built in another State in the same space of time.

An exchange says, in Texas alone at the present time there are 20,000 men and 100,000 mules and horses engaged in railroad building. There is now two thousand miles of road under contract, and six thousand miles more are in contemplation within her borders. This is a fine showing and we challenge the world to compete with us. We say, hurrah for Texas and her railroads.—[Ex.]

AN APPRECIATIVE JURY.

During a trial for assault in Arkansas, a club, a rock, a rail, an ax-handle, a knife and a shot-gun were exhibited as the "instrument with which the deed was done." It was also shown that the assaulted man defended himself with a revolver, a scythe, a pitchfork, a chisel, a flail, a hand-saw and a cross-dog. The jury decided that they'd have given five dollars a piece to have seen the fight.—[Boston Post.]