

Lake Charles Commercial.

VOL. 16.

LAKE CHARLES, CALCASIEU PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1896.

NO. 7.

New Meat Market,

Ryan Streets, near Broad.

ED. CALHOUN, Proprietor.

ALL KINDS OF FRESH MEATS, CONSTANTLY ON HAND.

LAKE CITY

MARRIAGE : AND : BLACKSMITH : WORKS,

Machinist's Forgings of all Kinds,

Boiler and Sheet-Iron Work a Specialty.

Separators and Engines Repaired.

ALL WORK GUARANTEED.

Caldwell & Kensey, Proprietors.

The 1896

SPRING AND

SUMMER

LINE OF

Nobby Clothing,

Reglgee Shirts, Hats, Fancy Coats and Vests,

and Novelties in Neckwear.

CHAS. G. HEBERT

LEADS THEM ALL.

AN STREET. LAKE CHARLES, LA.

HOUSTON ICE BREWING CO.,

THOS. N. COSTELLO, Agent,

Ice-Cold Keg Beer, BOTTLED BEER

IN WHOLESALE QUANTITIES.

Little Tram Saloon,

Ice-Cold Beer Always on Tap,

Fine Wines, Liquors and Cigars.

Proprietors.

MISS H. SCALLEY.

Spring Opening!

LADIES ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO EX-

AMINE MY

SPRING STOCK

OF PATTERN HATS AND BONNETS, AND NOV-

ELTIES IN HIGH ART MILLINERY.

MISS H. SCALLEY.

Paints, Oils, Varnish.

Color : Works,

HARD OIL FINISH

MIXED PAINTS.

White Lead

BENCH COHRES,

Raw and Boiled

Linseed Oil.

BRUSHES!

FINEST GRADE BRUSHES IN THE CITY.

Loxley-Martin Hardware Co.

W. H. HASKELL & Co.,

INSURANCE AGENTS,

Fire, Accident, Boiler, Plate Glass

and other insurances.

W. H. HASKELL & Co.,

Proprietors.

SOLDIERS AT LAKE CHARLES.

Review of the Encampment of the First Regiment, by the Baton Rouge Bulletin.

Shortly after the trip of the Baton Rouge and Plaquemine companies to New Orleans during the carnival last February, a scheme was conceived to organize the companies of the First Battalion preparatory for an encampment this summer. The companies then belonging to the First Battalion were A, B, C and D, from Baton Rouge, Zachary, Lake Providence and Plaquemine. When the fact became known that the First Battalion was organizing with a view of going into camp this summer there were several applications from companies outside of the command for assignment. The companies assigned were D, of the Second Battalion from Ruston; the first, second, third and fourth separate companies of infantry from Baton Rouge, Lake Charles and Hammond; also Company I, from Natchitoches, which was mustered in only six weeks ago. The addition of these companies to the Battalion formed the First Regiment, and this is the first regimental formation that has existed in the State for several years.

After it was learned at the last session of the Legislature that the State would not appropriate money for a State encampment next year, the officers of the First Regiment decided to put the command into camp at its own expense this summer. The undertaking was a large one, but every officer appreciated the fact that he must put forth his best efforts to save the command, for upon an encampment rested its success or failure.

It was only six weeks before the day when the companies were to start for camp when the first notices of the encampment went around and the work of preparation was begun. On account of the little interest taken previous to this by the members of the various companies and the little work done by the companies, they were generally in a poor condition to undertake an encampment. Most of the companies had no money at all and some were in debt. These facts are stated to show how wonderful was the brilliant success of the encampment under such unfavorable circumstances.

On the morning of the 14th of July, 1896, five companies landed in Lake Charles, where they were met by Company G, of that city, and escorted to the camp grounds, and as the rose that morning ten deep toned guns from Battery C, Iberia Artillery, proclaimed to the citizens of Lake Charles that Camp Henry W. Allen was established. There was some trouble the first day because of the necessity of moving the Camp to its original location on the lake shore. The good citizens of Lake Charles came to the rescue of the boys, however, and by 7 o'clock that evening everyone was comfortably installed and the Camp in good running order. The following were the companies in Camp, their strength and commanding officers: Company C, Lake Providence, Captain R. N. Rea, commanding, strength, 23. Company C, Iberia Artillery, Captain U. A. Patin, commanding, strength, including the hospital and ambulance corps under command of Captain F. E. Artoad, assistant surgeon of that command, 25. Company G, Lake Charles, Captain S. A. Knapp, commanding, strength, 45. Company F, Ruston, Captain M. L. Kidd, commanding, strength, 45. Company I, Natchitoches, Captain W. S. Thibod, commanding, strength, 44. Company A, Baton Rouge, Captain T. W. Lee, commanding, strength, 45. The Regimental Band numbered 16 men. The strength of the command was two hundred and twenty-eight.

The daily work done by the command consisted of Guard duty, company and regimental drills in close and extended order and target practice. There was also one general march in heavy marching order and one sham battle. As the weather in the command was very hot, the officers of the command and many of them have only been out of college a few years, it is hardly necessary to comment on the Regimental drills, as those drills, depend almost entirely on the training of the officers. The company drills were very fine and the boys received many compliments from the numerous visitors who came to camp every day. It was expected that there would be a contest between the companies for a prize to be won in competitive drill. The unusually fine drilling done by the companies was the result of careful and diligent preparation for the competitive drill. It may be added that because of the refusal of all companies except that from Baton Rouge, to enter the contest, the Baton Rouge boys claimed the championship and wore the blue ribbon home. They are assured, however, that the company that wears the blue at the next encampment will have to work for it.

One of the most successful features of the encampment was the practice march. The command was ordered out of camp at 5:30 a. m., and after a march of about one mile entered the city. Led by a very handsome band, with mounted staff, flying colors, hospital, artillery and infantry in heavy marching order, it may be imagined that the display did full credit to the command. The grand finale of the encampment was a magnificent sham battle. A large park just outside of the city was selected as the site of the battle. The troops were under command of Col. Stevens, who held the defense, and Lieut. Col. Pleasant, who made the attack. The object for defense was the Iberia Battery, and was protected by the companies from Lake Charles and Natchitoches under command respectively of Captains Knapp and Trichel. The companies forming the attack were Lake Providence, Ruston and Baton Rouge, commanded respectively by Captains Rea, Kidd and Lee. The battle resulted in the capture of the battery and routing of the defense. It will hardly be necessary to state that the defense was told before hand that they must get whipped. Owing to the great dissatisfaction over the result, however, it has been decided to put them on the winning side next time. The ambulance and hospital corps were on the grounds for duty, but as no accidents occurred they had very little to do. As the battle wound up one man was ordered to consider himself shot. He was carried from the field on a stretcher, and after being properly cared for, returned to the hospital in the ambulance. The most amusing feature of the battle was the capture of the battery. The men being disarmed were compelled to fly for their lives, and one very red faced, corpulent fellow was seen to wave the flag of truce as he disappeared over the big ditch that marked the limit of the battle field. The battle was witnessed by about fifteen hundred enthusiastic spectators, and was considered by all as a most brilliant success.

Charles may be assured that if the First Regiment doesn't encamp in their city next year it will not be because they don't want to. Altogether the encampment was a most brilliant success, and the First Regiment bids fair to become one of the first commands in the country. With a year's work on the hospital, commissary, quartermaster and ordnance departments, and a good set of well trained officers to lead the command, the First will go into encampment next year with six hundred men.

Can Bryan Win?

Now that the National Democratic convention is of the past and the platform and nominees of the party are known, there is speculation as to the possibility of the ticket's success. The Republicans profess to believe that McKinley will have an easy victory. They claim that the Eastern and a number of the Middle States cannot be prevented from going solidly for the Ohio Napoleon of protection, while the doubtful of the Middle States they will attempt to control through the purchasing power of a campaign fund of several millions of dollars wrung from the eastern manufacturers and capitalists. The goldbug Democrats may be expected to array their strength against the regular Democratic nominees by supporting a ticket of their own making, or if there be none, then by voting for McKinley.

But the threatened defection of the goldbug vote from the party nominees, or the power of the McKinley campaign millions need occasion the friends of bimetallic little concern. There is every probability that the Democratic ticket will receive the endorsement and support of the friends of silver in all parties—Republicans, Populists and the silver party—and should this prove true the election of Bryan and Sewall would be assured beyond peradventure of doubt.

Those states west of the Mississippi river will give Bryan a solid vote and he will make a clean sweep of the solid South with the possible exception of Kentucky and West Virginia. Maryland and Minnesota will probably give their electoral vote to the goldbug candidate, and these we credit to the Eastern States, which gives a division of the electoral votes as follows:

SOUTHERN STATES.	
Virginia.....	12
Alabama.....	11
Florida.....	4
North Carolina.....	4
South Carolina.....	9
Georgia.....	13
Tennessee.....	12
Arkansas.....	13
Texas.....	15
Missouri.....	17
Total.....	148

WESTERN STATES.	
Iowa.....	13
North Dakota.....	3
South Dakota.....	4
Kansas.....	10
Montana.....	3
Idaho.....	3
Washington.....	4
California.....	9
Nevada.....	3
Total.....	74

EASTERN AND MIDDLE STATES.	
Maine.....	6
New Hampshire.....	6
Vermont.....	4
Rhode Island.....	4
Massachusetts.....	11
Connecticut.....	6
Indiana.....	15
Michigan.....	14
Wisconsin.....	12
Total.....	225

Grand total.....447

It will thus be seen that the Western and Southern states, exclusive of Maryland and Minnesota, have an electoral vote of 222, being only two short of a majority. The Republicans concede Indiana, Illinois and Michigan as doubtful states. The laboring classes represent the masses in these states, and these were not controlled by the manufacturers and capitalists, will give unswerving support to the bimetallic nominees. The wage earners of Indiana, Illinois and Michigan can insure the success of bimetallic if they but stand by principle and their rights, and we believe they will be found doing their duty when the final day of battle comes.

Free Silver in the East.

Lake Charles, La., July 24, 1896. To the Editor of the Times-Democrat: The campaign of education must be carried on with vigor in the Eastern States. Our friends there must be given an opportunity to study the only political question deserving of attention to-day. The patronizing influence of the President is waning as the day of final settlement approaches; the "cuckoo" are all preparing to retire to their roosts. The people are comparatively free from the bondage that has of late stifled their sentiments. The farmer, the mechanic, the tradesman, the common people can now think for themselves, freed from disturbing influences. There can be no doubt of the conclusion which they will reach when they do so. South and West the people have already heard the evidence and the argument and formulated their verdict. Let the masses of the people in the Eastern States devote a portion of their time to the study of the most engrossing and paramount issue that has ever agitated the minds and excited the interests of the people of the United States since 1860, and if they will take hold of the question seriously give it patient thought and careful consideration, they will then be ready to vote upon it as intelligent and patriotic citizens should. They must close their ears to the outcry of the calamity prophets of Wall street, whose chief purpose is to prevent the people from arriving at a correct solution of the controversy.

The financial issue is neither Populistic, Democratic or Republican in a party sense. It is not a partisan question. No party has any proprietary right to either side of this great question. It is one that directly affects the whole American people and the civilization of the world. To make it a mere party question is to minimize and destroy its vast importance. It cannot be set back by a mere wave of the hand, nor hushed in the clamor of selfish interest. It will not down at the bidding of any man or party; but it will rise and come up again till it forces itself before the attention of the people. It cannot be subordinated to party policy and strategy. Parties are compelled to subordinate themselves to it. This all-absorbing question of how much and what kind of money the people of the United States shall use is the prime factor which has first to be determined before any other quantity in the social and political problem can be found. All other political questions, all other fiscal questions, all other social questions are necessarily dependent for their settlement upon the previous settlement of the money question. It is, therefore, a more urgent and important question than party platforms or even party autonomy. If not properly and correctly solved it will crush any party platform and destroy parties themselves. No intelligent revenue law, whether for revenue or for protection; no income tax law, no rating of taxation, no estimate of revenue or expenditure, no intelligent valuation and assessment for direct taxation, no appropriations of moneys can be made, unless the law maker or the executive are placed in a position to know the exact relation the money to be received and expended will bear to requirements of the revenue and its sources, and to the necessities of the appropriations and their purposes. Of what avail will it be to levy tariff taxes for protection or to raise them for revenue, unless we know what money will be derived from each taxation?

Let the people of the Eastern States take hold of the question. Let them consider it fully, without bias or prejudice from local or political influences. The truth honestly told and advocated will convince them as it has convinced others, and their eyes will be disencumbered from the veil of error which has obscured their vision. If they do, the reign of monetary reform is begun, our second declaration of independence will have been proclaimed and America will be an English dependency.

Bryan and free silver will come out victorious in November.—Crowsley Signal.

Workmen on the Free silver and monetary question, at St. Louis, Mo.

Rivers and Harbors Improvements.

The annual report of Major Quinn, relative to the improvements of rivers and harbors in Southern Louisiana and Eastern Texas for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, has been sent to the War Department. The report contains Major Quinn's estimates of what will be required for the continuance of these improvements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1898, as well as the amounts that may be profitably expended during that same period of time. The War Department has placed a bar upon the publication of these figures until these matters have been considered by Secretary Lamont. In the report which follows, the amount expended for the fiscal year just closed and the balance available at the beginning of the present fiscal year, exclusive of this year's appropriation, as well as such comments upon the character of the work as Major Quinn has made, are given:

Teche and Bayou Manchac—Improvements have given great relief to commerce but are not permanent. Expended, \$28,473 63; available, \$28,264 37. Commerce involved in improvements as shown by commercial statistics for last fiscal year, \$414,245.

Bayou Lafourche—Expended, \$108,856 92; available, \$65,019 80.

Bayou Plaquemine, Grand River and Pigeon Bayou—"By the completion of this route," says Major Quinn, "competing steamboat communication is opened in connection with the Texas and Pacific Railway at Plaquemine, covering a reduction of freight rates from the Teche of 33.1-3 per cent." Expended, \$18,698 71.

Plaquemine Lock—Coffer dam completed with exception of small gap left for passage of dredge; nearly 600 foundation piles driven, securing mouth of Bayou Plaquemine from further caving. Of this work Major Quinn says in part: "The results to follow the placing of locks in Bayou Plaquemine cannot be judged by the present tonnage and commerce, but are to be determined by the advantage which their completion will exercise upon the agricultural and commercial interests of a very large, populous and highly productive section of the country." Expended, \$350,412 76; available, \$71,094 74.

Bayou Courtableau—Expended, \$35,425 61; available, \$3274 39.

Bayou Teche—In commenting upon this work, Major Quinn remarks: "This is a very important improvement, and the benefits which will arise from the opening of the locks at Bayou Plaquemine and the connection by this means with New Orleans are almost incalculable." Value of commerce involved \$4,254,368, as shown by commercial statistics. Expended, \$60,922 65; available, \$10,027 44.

Channel Bay and Passes, Bayou Vermillion—"This forms part of this all-water route via Plaquemine," says Major Quinn, "and all parties interested in receiving or shipping freight are anxious for the opening of the locks at Bayou Plaquemine, as freight rates will be cheapened in consequence." Expended, \$12,365 63; available, \$1134 37.

Mormentau and Tributaries—No work; improvements in fairly good condition. Expended, \$7191 49; available, \$10,378 58.

Mouth and Passes Calcasieu—Expended, \$35,258; total expenditure thus far, \$295,545 88; available, \$89,574 80.

Sabine Pass, Tex.—Expended, \$2,007,542 62; available, \$65,345 07. Of this improvement, Major Quinn has this to say: "The commerce of this pass at this time consists almost entirely in the shipment of pine lumber to coastwise and foreign points. It is valued at \$175,000. One of the compensating results of the work has been the remaining from tidal waves of about seven or eight feet between the east shore of the Sabine Pass and the west shore of the Gulf of Mexico."

At the beginning of the present fiscal year, the balance available at the beginning of the present fiscal year, exclusive of this year's appropriation, as well as such comments upon the character of the work as Major Quinn has made, are given:

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