

The St. Tammany Farmer.

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, Should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor."

D. H. MASON, JR., Editor.

COVINGTON, ST TAMMANY PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1908.

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LEGISLATURE MEETS.
Both Houses Getting in Trim for a Big Rush of Business.
The Guinness Horror Attracts Large Number to Scene of Crime

Baton Rouge, La., May 11.—Without a contest on the floor of either the House or the Senate for any office, from president pro tem. and speaker down to doorkeeper, the General Assembly of 1908 was to-day organized and entered upon its eventful career.
Senator T. C. Barret, of Caddo, was elected President Pro Tem. of the Senate by a unanimous vote, after his nomination had been seconded by Senator T. J. Labbe, of St. Martin and Senator Joseph Voegtle, of Orleans, both of whom had been candidates at one time.
Representative Henry Garland Dupre was elected Speaker of the House without a dissenting vote, after he had been warmly seconded by Representative Lee Thomas, of Shreveport, and Representative F. A. Tate, of Assumption, who had been candidates in opposition.
Harmony and peace were so paramount to-day that it was scarcely believable that these were the same legislators who arrived here Friday and Saturday and participated in the hot fight over these two leading honors.
Both houses elected their officers and then named Committees on Organization to work out details.
The attendance on the opening day established a new record. Out of 115 members of the House every one was present and 114 were sworn in, the only remaining one, Honorable N. S. Dougherty, of East Baton Rouge, on the advice of his friends, decided not to take the legislative oath until after June 1, when his term as sheriff of that parish will have expired.
It was shown that had he taken the oath to-day he would by that act have vacated the Sheriff's office, if anyone choose to question his right to hold it.
In the Senate, out of forty-one members, forty were present and took the oath of office. James M. Nugent, of Rapides, was the only absentee.
The passage of a concurrent resolution, introduced in the upper house by Senator C. C. Cordill, vitalizing and perpetuating the Port Investigation Commission until June 1, was the first legislative act of this General Assembly. Despite the rush of organization and swearing in of members, Senator Cordill gave the resolution birth in the Senate by which the life of the Commission will be extended until it can complete its labors and make its report. He said this could be done by June 1. The Commission was legally dead to-day, and would have been shorn of all its powers had not the Cordill resolution been railroad through.
Passing the Senate without opposition, the measure was rushed across the marble hall and into the House, where it was seized upon and under a suspension of the rules, was passed. The Commission will meet in New Orleans on May 14 and complete its report.
The other legislative feature of the initial day also originated in the Senate when Senator John Marks, of Assumption, sprang a resolution on that body inviting Governor John A. Johnson, of Minnesota, presidential candidate, here, to address the Legislature on "Taxation and Assessments." Evidently fearing that a blanket invitation to Governor Johnson might look like dabbling in national politics and committing the State of Louisiana to the Johnson camp, as against Bryan or Culberson or some other Democratic candidate, the Senate sat upon the Marks resolution, and Senator Voegtle, of Orleans, objected when Mr. Marks asked for unanimous consent for a suspension of the rules to pass it.
Senator Marks declared to-night that there was no politics in his resolution, and that he will amend it tomorrow so as to also include William Jennings Bryan, of Nebraska, and Charles A. Culberson, of Texas, in his invitation.
The Marks incident in the Senate to-day has led to the discovery that there is a good-sized spark of Johnson sentiment in the Louisiana State Legislature that might easily be fanned into a flame if nurtured properly. Mr. Marks, however, denies most positively that he had any intention whatever of launching a Johnson boom here.
"I do not believe in bringing to Louisiana Candidate Bryan, Candidate Johnson or any other candidate to boost his political prospects," said Senator Voegtle to-night, in explanation of his "objection."
Having settled the presiding officers, the rush for committee assignments is now on, and the representatives and

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senators are to-night climbing over each other in their efforts to secure choice committee assignments. Requests are being filed with Speaker Dupre and Lieutenant Governor Lambremont as to their choices.
Never in the history of Louisiana legislatures, so old-timers say, have so many pie hunters camped in Baton Rouge at the opening of a General Assembly looking for jobs. The general stringency in business affairs over the State is assigned at the first cause and then it now appears that wholesale promises were made by legislators and others during their campaigns to deliver legislative jobs.
That scores of hungry and foot-sore hunters will be compelled to turn their ways homeward empty handed, is now a foregone conclusion. Not a quarter of the people in Baton Rouge looking for jobs will be able to secure them, and the soreness at being turned down will not be made until next week after the inauguration of Governor Sanders.
Interest in the House selections center about the Committee on Appropriations, Ways and Means and Contingent Expenses. There is no longer any question that Representative J. M. Johnson, of Tallulah, is to be Chairman of Appropriations. It is also stated with equal certainty that Representative Leon Locke, of Lake Charles, will be Chairman of Contingent Expenses. Ways and Means is still an open issue, but there was a strong belief to-night that this honor will be tendered Representative Edward J. Gay, of Iberville. It has been rumored that the chairmanship of Ways and Means might be offered Mr. Thomas, who pulled down from the speaker-ship race, but the friends of Mr. Gay feel quite confident to-night that he will be accorded the place, although he has made no contest to secure it.
In the Senate the early programme appears to be holding and that Senator Joseph Voegtle will be made Chairman of the Finance Committee; Senator Henry L. Favrot, Chairman of City Affairs; Senator Barrett, Chairman of Judiciary "A," and Senator Marks, Chairman of Judiciary "B." Senator Labbe will be given his choice of one or two committees, probably settling on Election and Qualifications.

Both houses will devote most of their time to-morrow to listening to the closing message of Governor Blanchard.
The Guinness Murders.
From Times-Democrat.
Laporte, Ind., May 10.—All roads in Laporte county to-day, led to the farm of Mrs. Belle Guinness, alleged to have murdered at least ten persons, whose bodies have been unearthed in the barnyard, and now believed to have been burned to death with her three children in a fire which destroyed her farm house on April 28. Upward of 15,000 sightseers visited the place of death. Nearly every able-bodied resident of Laporte went to the Guinness farm, and railroads and trolley lines brought about 4000 non-residents to the city.
Mayor Darrow found it necessary to issue stringent orders that the Sunday closing laws should be strictly enforced. Hotels and restaurants were overrun with patrons. Every conveyance in Laporte was pressed into service in an attempt to provide transportation to the farm, which is a mile north. Hundreds, however, were forced to walk.
There was nothing in the attitude of the crowd to indicate that they were visiting a place where tragedies occurred. Jokes and laughing comments were heard on every side, and exclamations of joy from successful relic hunters were numerous.
Along the roadside were several lemonade stands and lunch wagons. At the gates were vendors of souvenir postal cards, and those bearing a group picture of Mrs. Guinness and the three little ones who met death

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