

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, Editor

COVINGTON, ST. TAMMANY PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1911

VOL XXXVII NO 26

WELCOME, FIREMEN OF OUR STATE OF LOUISIANA!

EXPERT SAYS IS NOT SAFE

Architect Stevens Says this of Our School Building.

That Its Completion Would Simply Entail Loss.

Better to Tear Down and Build New Structure.

Plans Faulty and Unfit for a School Building.

New Orleans, May 2, 1911. Mr. H. B. Messick, Covington, La.

Dear Sir—In accordance with your request, I beg to submit herewith a brief report regarding the condition of your high school building, the construction of which was begun some few years ago.

A careful inspection of the masonry work shows the walls to be badly cracked in many places, and at some points the pressed brick face work has fallen off. I did not deem it necessary to examine carefully to the cause of these badly cracked walls, as whether the fractures are due to faulty construction, insufficient foundations, or partly from disintegration caused by the exposed condition of the unfinished work, they are absolutely unfit for use if not altogether unsafe. A superficial inspection of the walls reveals the fact that the brick work has been laid up very loosely, and at no point that could be investigated, properly bedded in mortar. In addition to this fact, the mortar appears to have been poorly made, having an insufficient quantity of lime, and evidently no cement in its composition. There are several points on the building where the foundation has evidently cracked, and has spread in its bed, although, as stated above, no investigation of the foundation was made because of the evident unfitness of the use of the walls, whatever might be the cause of the fissure. Not having the specifications or plans as a guide for my inspection, I could not determine why the support near the windows, however, only a flat segment has been built over these openings with a wooden lintel to partly support same, and the faultiness of this construction is very apparent from the manner in which these arches are falling in. It is customary to support such openings with cast iron joists, especially where the floor joists rest, so near the openings, and investigation of this construction shows that the ends of your floor joists spanning some 28 to 30 feet are carried by two new-locks of brick supported by wooden lintel, and when you take into consideration the further fact that these bricks are laid in rotten mortar, the weakness of this construction might be well imagined as a matter of fact, proper school house construction requires that floors be designed to carry 126 pounds per square foot. If your floors had anything like their dead loads and live loads, the arches would not support them.

Regarding the masonry work generally, the proposition appeals to me as follows:

Your walls are half built, and loaded only with the floor joists of first and second floors so that they are carrying now more than one quarter the load that they would be placed on them if all the floors and interior finish as well as the remainder of the wall itself and the roof construction was completed. In addition to the dead load they are supposed to have a carrying capacity of six times.

The vibration of the live loads they will be required to stand when the building is occupied as a school. Now if the walls and foundations in their incomplete condition, and carrying practically no weight, are left to pieces, it does not require an expert to calculate that they are totally unfit to carry the full loads that such a building is properly designed to support.

To repair the cracks in the walls would not at all remove the cause that has produced them and would of course make these walls no stronger than they are at present, and my opinion is that to carry this building to completion on the present masonry would be a total waste of money and would give you a building that would almost immediately have to be demolished because of its dangerous condition.

As requested by you, I have carefully looked over the plans of your building with a view of recommending changes or modifications which would produce results more in conformity with established laws governing school house construction, but have come to the conclusion that the plans contain so many errors that it would be far wiser to abandon them altogether, adopting entirely new and model plans. This can be done without loss to you if your present structure is demolished, and I do not think I would figure on any other course.

The subject of school house design has been made a special study by medical authorities and school boards throughout the country for a number of years with the result that the rules governing the construction of this class of buildings have been more completely standardized than any other type of public building, and in consequence, most of the large cities and many states have adopted regulations that are not only used as a guide by the architects, but in many cases set forth requirements that are made compulsory under the law. These rules regulate the size and location of entrances and exits, the direction and dimensions of corridors, and the location, construction and dimensions of staircases as well as the lighting of these portions of the building. These features comprise what is known as the communications of a school building. Other regulations that are not only approximate dimensions of a school room; fix within absolute limits the quantity of lighting and the cubic arrangement and design of windows. With regard to special features, such as auditoriums, laboratories, etc., the regulations are almost equally specific. An auditorium, for instance, in addition to having ample exits and direct communication with the exterior, is supposed never to be raised higher than the second floor of the building. An auditorium properly placed on the ground floor.

FIRE CHIEF ENDS HIS LIFE

Thomas O'Connor Fires Fatal Shot Into His Brain.

Act Done in State of Aberration and Illness.

Veteran Chief Highly Esteemed and Respected.

His Sad Ending Greatly Deplored by Everyone.

New Orleans, La., May 21, 1911. Thomas O'Connor, for forty-two years chief of the New Orleans Fire Department, after turning his seventy-third year in life, shot and killed himself in his home at 18 Julia street, last afternoon at 4 o'clock.

That sickness which has lasted some time caused a depression of spirits in the old veteran is certain, though he was looking forward to some pleasant diversions for the days to come, and gave no hint of his intention to end his life.

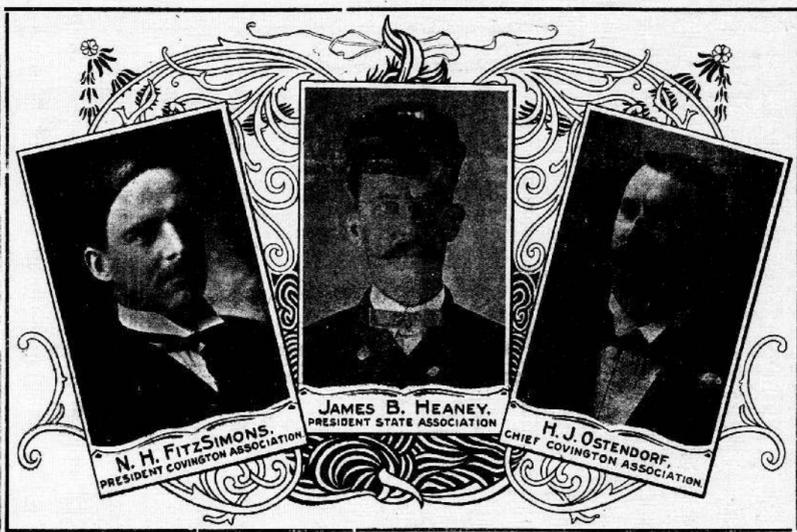
He went into the dining-room a little before 4 o'clock and seated himself in a rocking chair by a window. It was thought by Mrs. O'Connor that he would take a nap, as was his wont. She was on the second floor attending to some of her duties. A few minutes after 4 o'clock there was a loud report. Mrs. O'Connor at first believed that it was the popping of a cork from a charged bottle, for her husband had medicinal water which was charged, and the taking of the cork from the neck of the bottle caused a loud report. But there was such a silence after that report that Mrs. O'Connor divined that something was wrong, and hurrying down the stairs went into the dining room. She was horrified to find her husband with a gaping wound in the right side of his head. She screamed, and this, with the report of the pistol, attracted the attention of men in the O'Connor shop which adjoins the home.

Phillie and L. J. Scheyer, of the O'Connor concern, rushed in, and they, too, saw the terrible tragedy. They went to the assistance of the old veteran, but it was plain to them that he was in a dying condition. An ambulance was called and in a short while the van was there, and the students worked hard to save the life that was fast ebbing away. Policeman Raglio joined those who were in the house and he worked with the ambulance attendants. When the news was first sent to police headquarters it seemed incredible, but it was immediately confirmed. Captain Rawlings, Assistant Chief of Detectives Mounsey and Corporal Peterson went to the house in the auto patrol wagon. The word went to every eighth-house in the city, and the sorrow and regret of the firemen was great. In his will Mr. O'Connor expresses a desire to be buried in the family tomb and leaves everything he dies possessed of to his children. He appoints his executor.

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It is not within the purpose of this report to enumerate all the defects that appear in your plan, and as a matter of fact this would be a difficult task, and, as in the event of your demolishing your present incomplete structure, you will hardly attempt to rebuild the same building, an exhaustive criticism of the plan will hardly be necessary.

To begin with it is not economical and in no measure considered necessary to erect your school building in such a manner as to provide play grounds in basement story when outside play grounds are available. Basement play grounds are built only in cities where surroundings are cramped, and children have no recreation space except possibly the streets. When a basement story is designed for play rooms, however, it should be abundantly



CLOSING EXERCISES OF ABITA SCHOOL

An Excellent Program Well Was Carried Out.

Addresses by Supt. Messick and Prof. Wright.

Saturday evening at 8:30 o'clock the closing exercises of the Abita Public School took place. The program was very nice and interesting. "Little people from Japan." Those who took part were: Elmire Spitzfaden and Herman Fishel, Marian Thompson and Alvin Biggio, Sydney Celogne and Clarence Grelle, Marie Louise Rausch and Clovis Vigorite, Adelaide Cross and Vernon Abney, Rita Fishel and Percy Demaree, Carrie Baiser and Charles Spitzfaden, Ida Keen and Fred Bennette, Edith Keen and Joseph Pons.

Piano duet by Clara Summers and Annelia Spitzfaden. Arabella's Poor Relations—Annie Strain, Louise Wilbur, Elery Demarce and Alphonse Cassagne.

Piano solo by Annie Strain. Our Army and Navy—Elmira Pons, Mamie Smith, Hilda Abney, Louaine Allen, Carrie Baiser, Eloise Heur, Isabella Barclay, Annet Stecker, Dorothy Mott, John Cross, Walter Allen, Edward Heintz, Tom Millar, Phoebe Crossby, Clara Summers, Audrey Bennett, Lillian Mutti, Rita Fishel, Lois Abney, Hilda Baiser, Clara Schmalz, Sidnie Calonge.

After the program prizes were awarded by Prof. Wright. Gold pens to: Louise Willar, 8th grade; Elmira Pons, 7th grade; Lydia Strain, 6th grade. Miss Bailey presented books to Rachel Keen and Hilda Baiser. Miss Bertha Mutti presented books to Carrie Baiser, Herman Fishel, Edith Hoffman, Fred Bennette and Joseph Pons for the best table lessons.

Prof. Wright then introduced Supt. Messick, who gave quite an interesting talk on children's education.

school buildings this is required by law. (See Act of Legislature, governing School House Construction). I note that all of your doors, both for exterior and interior openings, open in.

One of the chief considerations in planning a school house is to make every feature of it thoroughly sanitary, and in order to accomplish this purpose it is necessary to provide everywhere an abundance of light and perfect ventilation. To obtain this effect, as well as add to the safety of a building, corridors are made wide and perfectly straight with staircases located at the ends of same where they have wide platforms and spacious windows. These windows give direct light through the corridors and when open, make possible a natural current of ventilation throughout the buildings. Such an effect is impossible in your plan which has a hall way that is not only poorly lighted and ill ventilated, but is entirely too cramped at the exits and around staircases.

The rules governing the construction of staircases require among other things that they shall be abundantly lighted and your staircases are absolutely dark. The staircases are usually placed at ends of the corridors and are built to ascend half way from one story to the next to wide platforms. In other words there are two flights of stairs to each story. This method of construction renders stair climbing less difficult and tiresome, and in case of accident would break the fall of a full distance from one story to the next. The maximum width of staircases is 6 feet, and 5 feet is considered better. A rail is provided on the wall side as well as on the outside, and children have these means of support which would prevent them from falling down stairs if crowded in a panic. It is considered the height of poor design to arrange staircases so that they will converge to the same point, as a fire or any other obstruction at this one-point would completely block up the building and make escape impossible. If you will study the stairs in your plan it should at once become apparent to you that they are not only unserviceable but dangerous.

TO ADVERTISE ST. TAMMANY

Meeting Called for this Purpose by John L. Cahill at Abita.

Effort to be Made to Make Our Advantages Known Abroad.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held at the town hall at Abita Springs, Thursday, under the auspices of the Progressive League. J. L. Cahill, temporary chairman called the meeting to order. Mr. J. P. Rausch was elected chairman and A. O. Pons secretary. Meeting was announced to be for the purpose of advertising St. Tammany parish and interesting other towns in the movement. The co-operation of other towns will be solicited and officials will be communicated with to this end. The subscriptions taken at the meeting amounted to \$250.00. The following committee was appointed by the chairman to canvass further subscriptions: Dr. L. C. Heintz, H. J. Thompson, A. O. Pons, Alexander Mutti, J. L. Cahill, Louis Darring, F. J. Michaels, Chas. W. Schmidt, J. C. Bordes, G. E. Millar.

Judge Pons, in behalf of the girls, presented Prof. Wright with a token of remembrance, a gold tie clasp. Capt. G. E. Millar, of the local school board, addressed a few words, thanking Prof. Wright and his assistants, Misses Bailey and Mutti, for their good work for this past school term.

The closing remarks were addressed by Prof. Wright. Sons and music was under the management of Mrs. G. W. Wright. Dancing and refreshments after the program were furnished by Brown's Orchestra (gratis). The ladies who presided at the refreshments stands were Mrs. H. J. Thompson, Mrs. Wm. Duprat, Mrs. J. Stecker and Mrs. T. D. Terrebbonne.

Three hundred pounds of ice were furnished free by the St. Tammany Ice and Manufacturing Company.

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(Continued on Page 6).

ILLINOIS CENTRAL OFFERS PRIZE

Will Give Fine-Bred Hogs to Boys of Parish Corn Club

Who Compete Successfully at the Parish Fairs this Fall.

Chicago, May 21, 1911. Supt. H. B. Messick, Covington, La.

The Illinois Central Railroad Company has always manifested the keenest interest in the agricultural developments along its line of road in the state of Louisiana and Mississippi, and in order to promote in a practical way, and for the purpose of assisting those engaged in bringing about better agricultural conditions and to encourage the boys in the growing of corn and the raising of live stock, this company will give a thoroughbred registered Poland China Duroc Jersey, Berkshire or Tamworth boar to the boy winning first prize in the Corn Club contests at the coming parish fairs this fall in every parish and county traversed by the lines of the Illinois Central and the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroads in the two states mentioned.

The object in offering these blooded animals as prizes is two-fold, viz: To create the keenest competition among boys in the growing of corn and to awaken an interest among them in animal husbandry, as well as to show them what a splendid proposition the raising of thoroughbred corn and thoroughbred hogs makes, by demonstrating in a practical way that it costs less to feed and care for one of these thoroughbred swine and that the net results derived herefrom with the "razor-back" are infinitely greater than have been back or "scrub" pig.

In awarding these prizes we will be governed by the rules adopted by the Corn Clubs in their respective parishes traversed by our lines. Will you kindly send to it that this announcement is given as wide publicity as possible and that each and every member of your Boy's Corn Club is notified of this additional prize?

Through you we hope to keep in touch with the work of the boys in your parish and will thank you to write us at any time, as we desire to carry on the heartiest co-operation possible.

Yours truly,
J. C. CLAIR,
Industrial and Immigration Commissioner.

REPORTS UNFAVORABLY.

War Department, United States Engineer Office, Custom House, New Orleans, La., May 17, 1911. Judge A. O. Pons, Abita Springs, La.

Dear Sir—The report upon the preliminary examination of Abita River has been submitted to the Chief of Engineers and I am sorry to inform you that it has had to be without favorable recommendation. The upper portion of the stream is so narrow and winding and the bends so sharp that it is impossible to make the stream navigable by following the existing waterway. The only practicable method would be to dig a canal for the entire distance from the tide water portion of the river to Abita Springs. This, on account of the amount of excavation involved and the difficulty of dredging through a heavily wooded country, would, it is considered, involve an expenditure out of proportion to the benefits to be derived.

All interested parties have the privilege of an appeal from this conclusion to the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, a permanent body sitting at Washington, D. C., to which all examination and survey reports of this character are referred. Parties desiring to do so may be heard on appeal by the board, either orally or in writing. Written communications should be addressed to the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, Rooms 507-510, Colorado Building, Washington, D. C., and should be mailed in time to be in their possession within three weeks from the date of this communication. If oral hearing are desired, dates are the same may be arranged for by correspondence by the board.

You are requested to communicate

ousness, loss of appetite, warn of kidney trouble that may end in would have fallen on any one who attacked the son of Peter Bondy, of wonderfully from taking six bottles.

Very respectfully,
LANSING H. BEACH,
Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

GIBBS-BILBO FIST FIGHT

Senator Gibbs Strikes Senator Bilbo With Cane.

Senator Bilbo Defends Himself With His Fists.

The Men Separated Before Being Much Hurt.

Fight Result of Remarks by Bilbo in Speech.

Yazoo City, Miss., May 20.—With a cane presented him twenty-three years ago by Jackson citizens for his services in behalf of good government Senator W. D. Gibbs, who is a candidate for lieutenant governor, to-day resented the charge that he was a "renegade Confederate, which he claims Senator Theodore G. Bilbo has been making in speeches throughout the state. Senator Gibbs met Senator Bilbo in front of the Sentinel office this morning, and without parley proceeded to belabor his alleged accuser with the cane.

After two blows had been struck the cane broke and the men went at each other with their fists, but were separated by bystanders before either had done the other any more damage. According to a statement issued by Senator Gibbs after the fight Senator Bilbo refused to shoot it out on the grounds that his assailant was too old a man.

Senator Gibbs says he had warned Senator Bilbo that he would resent the charges on sight. He insists that there was no politics concerned with the affair; that it was purely a personal matter. After the fight friends of Senator Gibbs collected a purse of \$30 with which to purchase him another cane. W. G. SMITH'S STATEMENT. The following signed statement was given out by W. G. Smith, a witness to the affair: "Senator Bilbo and I were going west on Jefferson street, and were about half way between Sentinel office and the garage, when we met Mr. Gibbs. He was walking on the sidewalk, next to the street. Senator Bilbo was on my left, and I was walking on the sidewalk, next to the wall. We were paying no attention to Gibbs, and as we got even with him, and were about to pass, Gibbs struck Bilbo a blow with his stick. Gibbs did not say a word to Bilbo before or at the time the blow was struck, and the latter had no warning that he was to be attacked, and it was a surprise to both of us. Bilbo saw the movement of Gibbs' arm in time to throw up his left hand to ward off the blow, and caught the force of it on his left hand, breaking the stick. Bilbo struck back one blow with his left hand, landing on Mr. Gibbs' breast. Bilbo's hat fell off into the gutter. Bilbo stepped down into the gutter to get his hat, and as he stepped back on the sidewalk he reached out and picked up the butt end of the stick, striking Bilbo again.

"Bilbo then told Gibbs that he was too old a man to strike, and would not for that reason fight him. Gibbs told Bilbo that the reason he struck him was because Bilbo had charged on the stump that he (Gibbs) was a renegade Confederate. Gibbs said that he had said that he would break his stick over Bilbo's head, and he had done it; that he intended to attack him during the Dulacay trial, but refrained from doing so because it might interfere with the trial.

"Bilbo replied that he had made the statement on information that he had heard from many years, and that he had nothing to take back; that now that the matter had come up in this way, he intended to investigate Gibbs' war record, and would give the results of his investigation to the people.

"About this time Policeman Lynch and Marshal Parks came up and put them under arrest, and left at 1 o'clock for Bilzoni, in Washington County, where he spoke this afternoon to a large crowd."

the foregoing to any persons known by you to be interested in the improvement and who, not being known to this office, do not receive a copy of this communication.

Very respectfully,
LANSING H. BEACH,
Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

A Father's Vengeance.

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FIREMEN'S CONVENTION

Now in Session at Courthouse, Convention Hall.

Program and Routes of the Parades to Take Place.

List of Delegates Registered Up to Noon of Friday.

Hon. Robert C. Wickliffe Telegraphs Good Wishes.

Yesterday brought many from their beds at an earlier hour than usual in preparation for the reception of the firemen and their friends. Unfinished and delayed decorations were put in place and many minor details of the last moment called for hurried execution. The reception committee waited upon the incoming visitors on the morning trains and badges were distributed to the delegates and visiting guests. The bureau of information promised to be useful adjunct to the preparations for the convenience of guests, but it evidently was not found by the visitors who were looking for the postoffice, for the kind of letter they were mailing were "let us take something."

The following delegates had registered up to the time we go to press: Wm. Holmes (Old Bill) Bogalusa; L. B. LeBlanc, H. C. Ende, Asst. Chief John Dupuy, Adolph Dupuy, Jr., Chief J. A. Hebert, Jr., Plaquemine; Secretary Wm. J. Klempeter, James J. Hoek, R. L. Maners, B. R. Stone, Gretna; Asst. Chief R. J. Munch, L. C. Schneider, Clinton Ayo, Geo. A. Toups, Men P. Sposito, Chas. A. Labit, F. H. Gaudet, J. Hoffmann, Lillibaud; Chief R. Neff, Alexander; President J. B. Heaney, New Orleans; J. I. Hebert, A. S. Brown, D. Mizzi, Gilbert Kahn, Opelousas; D. W. Wolf, Hammond; Robert White, New Orleans; C. M. Compton, P. E. Broussard, New Iberia; Chas. Love, R. A. Thiel, Franklin; F. Mouton, E. Monisset, Dr. G. A. Martin, Louis Chauvin, Wm. Graser, F. H. Moulton, A. H. Sautelle, Lafayette.

We go to press before the opening of the convention, but the following program was mapped out:

FRIDAY, MAY 26.

8:30 A. M.—Reception committee will assemble to meet all trains bearing visitors, firemen and delegates.

10:30 A. M.—The guests, officers, delegates and members will assemble at courthouse for the opening of the convention, which will be called to order by President J. B. Heaney.

11 A. M.—Invocation by Rev. Father Jos. Koegerl of St. Peter's Catholic Church. Address of welcome on behalf of town of Covington. Dr. F. M. Haverly, Mayor of Covington. Address on behalf of the local fire department, N. H. Fitzsimons, president Covington Firemen's Association. Response by President J. B. Heaney and delegates of State Association. Benediction, Rev. J. M. Williams, pastor Proulx parish church. Music by Second Regiment band of New Orleans.

2:30 P. M.—All delegates will assemble in the convention hall, the parish courthouse, where the regular order of business will be taken up.

8 P. M.—Entertainment. All delegates and firemen will assemble at the Air-Dome to attend a special vaudeville performance, complimentary to the state firemen.

SATURDAY, MAY 27.

8:30 A. M.—Reception Committee will meet all trains bearing visiting firemen.

10 A. M.—Convention called to order in convention hall, parish courthouse. Invocation, Rev. E. A. Reunie, pastor of Christ's Episcopal church.

Following topics are assigned for Saturday:

"Should not the insurance companies show a more fraternal friendship to the firemen of our state?" Harold A. Moise, New Orleans.

"Do the fire departments give protection other than from fire losses?" Chief Wm. Holmes, Bogalusa, La.

"What is the most important protection in a town, a police department or a fire department? How can a town be made to provide for a volunteer fire department the same as a police department?" Home Fire Company, Lafayette.

"What relation should exist between the paid firemen and the volunteers? Is the State Firemen's Association a benefit to the firemen? How can a pension be provided to protect our firemen?" Independent Fire Company No. 2, Baton Rouge.

"Is the efficiency of a fire department affected in any way by the interest manifested by the town council and citizens? How can the membership of volunteer fire companies be best maintained, and can it be done without the co-operation of the town council and citizens?" Jos. B. Lancaster, Covington.

"In what different ways can the volunteer fire service be made attractive in order to enlist and make loyal members of our young men? Discipline and its advantages?" Chief D. W. Wolf, Hammond.

"The necessity of fire drills in our

(Continued on Page 2).