

# St. Tammany Farmer

D. H. MASON, EDITOR  
E. D. KENTZEL, MANAGER. Proprietors

## THE BRIDGE AND THE BELT LINE.

The building of the bridge across the lake is a proposition that is gaining strength as discussion becomes more general. It is of encouraging significance, as details are being worked out and the searchlight of investigation brings to view the obstacles as well as the benefits, that there has been no disclaimer of the utility of the undertaking or of the great advantages it would give to the city of New Orleans and the parish of St. Tammany. The matter has sifted down to the mere question of how its building can be financed. That this problem will be satisfactorily solved cannot be doubted by those who have witnessed the enthusiasm of the people and the immensity of the gatherings that have responded to the calls for its discussion. We lost the Exposition, not because we were fainthearted or lacking in energy and patriotism, but because we were outvoted by those whose interests lay in another direction. The bridge is of much more importance to us, and we have our destiny in our own hands. It is a link that is being welded into the chain of facilities that will haul the great railroads into the city of New Orleans and bind to the lands of her suburbs the shores of St. Tammany parish.

The proposition of Mr. H. C. Riggs to have the Belt Railroad of New Orleans bond itself and build the bridge has the advantage of putting the bridge beyond the control of private interests that might ignore the welfare of the city in a monopoly for their own gain. It would regain to the city advantages that have been sacrificed to franchisees, would make her the terminal of the important railway lines that are now just outside her door, knocking for admittance, and would give to the Belt Railroad the power to fulfill its mission.

On the other hand, if the city of New Orleans fails to take advantage of this opportunity, the plan of Mr. Garland to form a bridge company will be taken up by the people, for they are determined that the bridge shall be built.

## AMUSEMENT AS A FACTOR IN PUBLIC ENTERPRISE.

There is an inclination amongst the people of Covington to get as much enjoyment out of life as is consistent with the means at hand. While we have not many wealthy families, neither have we many who cannot afford the ordinary amusements and entertainments provided by organizations and social clubs. The very fact that Covington has been a haven of recreation and pleasure for visitors has given the pleasure habit to her people, and no entertainment fails to draw a good audience that has behind it either merit or public benefit. In fact, the opportunity for amusement is eagerly grasped and it is not too much to expect that one good entertainment each week would be a profitable undertaking for the raising of funds for public benefit. The constant solicitation of subscriptions, no matter how meritorious the cause, becomes monotonous, but attendance at entertainments gives value received and is an expense that is looked upon as a necessary contribution to pleasures that should be enjoyed. A gathering together of the people once each week for enjoyment and for the benefit of some undertaking in which everybody is interested would not only awaken interest in public and beneficial affairs, but would be a social feature of much value to the community in bringing the people closer together and giving a better understanding of the civic duties of citizenship.

Would it not be a good idea to put on one of these entertainments at the pavilion each week for the benefit of some public improvement? One of the first that should be taken up is the providing of chairs for the pavilion. It would save the expense that is added to each entertainment in renting and hauling them back and forth, which is a considerable item. This is a matter in which each club and association is interested, and an entertainment for this purpose would have the support of every organization to make it a financial success.

## A CONTRIBUTION TO THE LAND SHOW.

The Police Jury is to be congratulated for its donation of \$100.00, to be used to promote the exhibits of Louisiana at the United States Land and Irrigation Exposition, at Chicago. The advertising that Louisiana has received through the exhibition of her fertile land and resources has been of great value. So much has attention been attracted thereby to her agricultural lands that visitors have begged for samples for use in their potted plants, and orders have been received for tons of her top soil to be used as fertilizer. Justin F. Denechaud, secretary of the Louisiana State Board of Immigration, was in Covington Thursday, and he is enthusiastic in his praise of the benefits these exhibits have been to the State.

## PUBLIC HEALTH.

Public health is a community problem. It can be solved only by intelligent systematic effort, backed by enlightened public sentiment. It is conceded that health is fundamental and individual development and general welfare, but it is also obvious that immediate constructive measures for betterment of sanitary conditions are far from the public mind.

To bring about a changed attitude, two measures are elemental: (1) instruction general and specific on health matters and in particular terms; (2) enforcement of necessary legislation.

The second depends on the first. A community awake to the danger of insanitary environment will demand enforcement of the law; a community apathetic to the sanitary evils that obtain will not attempt a remedy.

Louisiana is fortunate in having an adequate sanitary code, recently revised, and sufficient authority vested in health officers to enforce rules and regulations for the promotion of public health. To quote from an article by Lawrence Villier, "We have hitherto not been civilized enough or intelligent enough to spend money for the preservation of health." The health department of almost every city and state of the Union is terribly undermanned. It cannot begin to do what it knows to be imperatively necessary for public health welfare. The budgets appropriate thousands of dollars for property protection to one for the protection of health. This is one cause for laxity in enforcement of the law.

There is another, perhaps, equally responsible for inactivity in health matters. It is the general custom of depending on the individual to report insanitary conditions as a nuisance. Often, the only result of such complaint is "hard feelings" on the part of neighbors with no abatement of the nuisance. Inspection, thorough, systematic, and periodic is the only method for elimination of sanitary evils, in the first place, and for permanent maintenance of excellence of condition.

Inspection implies intelligent direction, and a trained force of sanitary experts, which, also implies a sufficient amount to pay for this kind of service.

The people of this country expend annually ten million dollars for screening as a protection from flies and mosquitoes. No comment is needed. With a 21-cent health department Chicago can hold the gross death rate under 16 per 1000 for a few years. It can hold the number of deaths from diphtheria at about 800; from scarlet fever at about 300; and baby typhoid at about 200. A health department about 300. A health department spending 50 cents per capita should

put diphtheria to, say, 100 deaths per year, scarlet fever to about 500, and cut off 5 per cent from consumption mortality."

In cities of fewer inhabitants, a smaller amount of effort would be sufficient to ensure freedom from preventable diseases, and in small towns a proportionately decreasing amount would avail, provided the fundamentals of sanitary conditions such as sewerage, water and sanitary conveniences were installed and paid for.

It is a common habit of mind to think of the cost of disease in terms of money only, but this is unimportant compared with other elements. Lowered earning capacity, tendency toward vice and crime, race deterioration, and individual inefficiency result from ignorance of health laws and lack of application of principles of hygiene. To tolerate conditions conducive to inefficiency is both unwise and uneconomic. Adequate health machinery is an "ounce" of prevention worth a "pound" of cure.

Conservation of resources is the dominant note of all modern effort. The health of its citizens is a nation's most valuable asset. To conserve merely material things, land and forest, water and minerals, without provision for the conservation of that that is basic—fundamental is most unwise.

The social structure of today is the most complex known in the world's history. Changed industrial conditions necessitate the possession of a skill hitherto uncalculated for; new attitude of mind and new temptations demand increased strength even grace of character; manifold interests, problems and activities call for intelligence of a high order. To meet the pressure of this environment the citizen must be equipped first of all with a good body, with physical vigor. That it is the State's duty to control environment to this end is unquestionable.

## Wife Got Tip Top Advice.

"My wife wanted me to take our boy to the doctor to cure an ugly boil," writes Dr. Frankel, of Sroud, Okla. "I said 'put Bucklen's Arnica Salve on it.' She did so, and it cured the boil in a short time." Quickest healer of burns, scalds, cuts, corns, bruises, sprains, swellings. Best plicure on earth. Try it. Only 25c at all druggists.

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Reduced round-trip tickets on sale daily; also cheap week-end rates.

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE MAY 14, 1911.

Southbound. Leaves Covington No. 9, 6:40 a. m. No. 10, 6:40 p. m. No. 21, 3:35 p. m. No. 22, 9:28 a. m. Sundays and Wednesdays. No. 7, 5:10 p. m. No. 8, 10:10 a. m. For information apply to Ticket Agent, or M. J. McMAHON, G. P. A., G. B. AUBURTN, A. G. P. A., Suite 905 Whitney Central Bldg., New Orleans. Long distance phone, Main 488.

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RETURNING, leave Madisonville daily at 5 a. m., and Mandeville daily (except Sundays), at 5:20 a. m., water and weather permitting.

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Summer Schedule, Effective July 16, North Bound—From Mandeville

Mandeville	Orleans	Genevieve	St. Charles	St. Louis	Covington
4.30	4.42	4.48	4.58	5.05	5.20
6.30	6.42	6.48	6.58	7.05	7.20
8.30	8.42	8.48	8.58	9.05	9.20
10.30	10.42	10.48	10.58	11.05	11.20

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