

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

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ABITA HOLDS BRIDGE MEETING

MASS MEETING AT ABITA SPRINGS UNANIMOUSLY INDORSES THE BRIDGE

The Handsome Pavilion Decorated With Products of St. Tammany Parish, Flowers and Bunting. Over a Thousand People Brave the Rain and Turn Out to Show Their Interest and Patriotism. Speakers Heartily Applauded and Resolutions of Indorsement are Passed Unanimously.

Rainy weather has followed the bridge meetings lately, and while it has increased the trade in umbrellas, it has not prevented the people from turning out in full numbers to show their enthusiasm in the bridge matter. The pavilion at Abita was handsomely decorated with products of St. Tammany parish, flags and ribbons, and above the front of the stage, reaching from one side to the other, was a picture on canvas of a concrete bridge with electric cars at intervals on their way to and from the city. On the stage were speakers and representative citizens of New Orleans and St. Tammany parish, while the floor of the pavilion was crowded with interested people, there being many ladies among them. Mandeville turned out a large delegation headed by Mayor Hartman, and there were quite a number from Covington and Abita, the crowds being well handled by the Motor Club. A dinner was given to the members of the press and other guests at the Mutti hotel, which was well served and greatly enjoyed.

Clem G. Hearsey of the New Orleans Playhouse came over to report the meeting. He was accompanied by Mrs. Hearsey. Mr. Hearsey has made accurate and well written reports of the various bridge meetings held on this side of the lake, and the people here appreciate the interest the Playhouse has taken in the bridge matter.

Mr. Hoskins and others from New Orleans took back specimens of St. Tammany products that were on exhibition. These products were grown by Robert Voss and members of the Dutch family, in the German Settlement, and will compare favorably with like products grown anywhere.

Capt. G. E. Millar presided, and in opening the meeting gave a very interesting talk. He said that Abita was interested in the building of the bridge, because aside from the numerous other benefits that would accrue from the bridge, the transportation was of the greatest importance, something that Abita had never had the advantage of. Intercommunication between New Orleans and Abita Springs meant a great deal to the town educationally. New Orleans offered the best opportunities for research and study provided by all large cities and not found in country towns; the experience that goes with the intermingling of people in metropolitan life and contact with the highest development in science, business and art; the creation of that interest in the world's doing that never fails to be of educational value.

He said that the present condition reminded him of the absentee landlordism of Ireland. The sweat of the tenant was converted into money that was spent outside of the Isle. So it was with New Orleans. The products of St. Tammany and the benefits of her climate and waters were within the reach of the wealthy of that city, but she gave nothing in return, because conditions were such that we could not grasp the opportunities offered. The situation was an unnatural one, debarred of the reciprocity that would give to the rich and poor alike the advantages of both places.

He spoke of the immense mail order business that was now going to northern cities and that would be diverted to New Orleans, if the bridge were built and the people had the opportunity of making personal inspection of purchases that could not be made at home. Formerly we were even better situated than we were now. Then we could reach New Orleans in one hour and forty-five minutes, with a fare of \$2.20 for the round trip. Now it takes three hours and with the straight fare proposition in effect would cost \$3.80. The bridge was a necessity to both New Orleans and St. Tammany parish, and it must be built. Patriotism should furnish the energy to push it through. Captain Millar then introduced H. L. Garland as the "father of the bridge across the lake."

of the bridge. It was started as long ago as he could remember and had gathered more strength and enthusiasm at each presentation of the subject. That it must be built and the sooner the better. We should make up our minds that it can and that done by united action exhausting every resource in our power. That with St. Tammany parish, with \$5,000,000 deposited in her banks, and New Orleans with \$30,000,000 in her banks, it would be a liberal done, by united action we could not build it. Twenty years ago St. Tammany parish was assessed at \$1,000,000; to-day it is assessed \$6,000,000. This increase is but a shadow of what may be expected twenty years to come.

Mr. H. Clay Riggs was introduced as the man who had done more than any other for progress of St. Tammany parish.

Mr. Riggs said that he never had a bridge meeting without rain, but that he did not think it had dampened the ardor of the people any. That passenger traffic over the proposed bridge was an insignificant thing in comparison with other resources and the great benefits to be derived. That three corporations had drawn a lead beyond which no other road could approach. That it cost \$14 per car to get service. That in the mean time there were railroads east and west of us anxiously seeking an opportunity to get into New Orleans. That the revenues of this bridge would be \$14 per car. That one to two thousand cars would pass over the bridge every day. That the revenues would pay for the bridge.

Mr. Riggs favored the Belt Line of New Orleans, as the logical bridge of the bridge. That above all things the bridge should not get into the hands of a private company. Municipal ownership was the only way by which New Orleans would be released from the grasp of the few corporations that owned the valuable franchises of the city and that would eventually control the bridge and shut out other roads seeking entrance into New Orleans, by purchasing a controlling interest in the stock of any private company.

J. E. GLISSON.

Mr. Glisson has been one of the active workers for the bridge. He said that he was glad to express his approval of and interest in the bridge. That if left to us alone the bridge would be built, and built in short order. We must not be led astray by strange gods. That he did not care who built it as long as we got the bridge. That when it was built he would be able to go to his business in New Orleans and return to his home in Abita every day. That was what a large number of people wanted; to be able to conduct business in New Orleans and to come to their homes on this side of the lake; but we must not be carried away by strange gods and a wilderness of difficulties. He was opposed to the Belt Line proposition, because he did

not think it could be accomplished. That he did not know a single official of the Belt Line that looked upon the matter seriously.

He said that he had proposed a plan for building the bridge that he thought would be accepted at the meeting of the committee in October. That plan provided for a capital of \$5,000,000, or 100,000 shares at \$50 each, payable 10 per cent cash and \$1.50 per month, with free passage over the bridge to the amount of the stock subscribed. There will also be charter provision against dissolution. That the members of the committee, Mandeville and Abita would be ex-officio members of the board of directors. He said that the buying of stock would be co-operative to the extent that lumber, piling or construction material of any kind that could be used in building the bridge would be accepted in payment of stock.

Mr. Koepf said that New Orleans needed the bridge worse than St. Tammany. She needed the water, she needed the safety in times of sickness and epidemics. St. Tammany people had always been friendly toward New Orleans and had thrown her doors wide open to New Orleans people in times of distress even in such trivial things as those of 1878 and 1902. In return her people had built homes in Mississippi, who had closed her doors to them and held them in detention camps. That now was the time for New Orleans to redeem herself by building this bridge. It would be a sense of her salvation. Her exclusive policy was losing trade for her. Her cotton was being lost to Galveston, her lumber to Gulfport, and the Louisiana Rice Growers Association was now using every effort to prevent rice from being shipped to New Orleans. This condition was due to the exclusiveness of New Orleans and her disregard of every interest in the State except her own. To prosper, she must learn that her interests are interwoven with every other interest in the State. She must not only do things for herself, but she must be a force within the state for the development and prosperity of every portion of it. She had an opportunity in the building of this bridge to weave a sympathetic bond as well as a business one. That it would be one of the greatest upbuilders for the city.

He said that the rich man could always provide for himself. What was needed was an opportunity for the poor man to place himself in a position to partake of the State's wealth. That it was difficult for a man of moderate means to get money at a New Orleans bank. That the proceedings were so costly as to be prohibitive, and that the country banks were following the bad example set by the New Orleans banks. "Money do," it was the time for New Orleans to accept her mission as a great city and to become a worker for the prosperity of the whole State and not a drainer of its resources into her own coffers to be spent abroad.

DR. E. E. BARCLAY.

Dr. E. E. Barclay, of the New Orleans Item, made an excellent talk, but it was so interspersed with poetry and anecdotes that it would be difficult to give its sense without reporting it in whole.

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas the parish of St. Tammany recognizes that in the building of a bridge across Lake Pontchartrain there will have been accomplished one of the greatest undertakings ever attempted for the settlement of lands and the investment of capital in the state; and

WAR SCARE DIMINISHES

Rumors of German Ambassador's Murder Unfounded.

Rumors in Alsace Create a Panical Condition.

But Subsequent Events Have Been More Quieting.

German Chancellor Has Accepted France's Proposals.

Berlin, Sept. 5.—The nervousness over the protracted Franco-German negotiations with regard to Morocco seems to have increased with the resumption of the German Foreign Office yesterday of the counter attack. The German ambassador said the French ambassador had been withdrawn from the German provincial banks owing to rumors that he was being arrested. Other rumors circulated in the Alsace region to the effect that the German ambassador to France had been murdered in Paris and that Germany immediately would declare war were strengthened by the return of a dragon regiment to Colmar, the capital of Alsace, to maintain the scene of the military maneuver. An outbreak of disorder among the troops, however, was the reason of their return.

There was no need to-day between the French ambassador and the foreign minister. The German imperial chancellor returns to Paris from a meeting between the German emperor and Crown Prince Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary.

The French proposals to Germany according to an apparently insipid article printed to-day in the Lokal Anzeiger, were submitted in the form of an elaborate draft of a treaty.

According to the paper no difficulties are apprehended over the execution of employment of black troops in a future European war. France probably could not be put in Morocco probably could not be put elsewhere in Africa had not proved particularly reliable.

Economic arrangements offer the chief difficulty in the way of a settlement in France's good faith, according to the Lokal Anzeiger, must insist upon the most minute guarantees for her economic and commercial interests as the French Government, unfortunately, under the pressure of commercial hunters, has a constant tendency to violate the obligations it becomes a party to in this respect. Mutual interests must be opened unrestrictedly to all nations without taxes, export duties or devices which would shut out competition. The tone of the article indicates a thorough confidence in France's good faith, before they are backed up by the most substantial guarantees.

The Nord Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, commenting on the general Moroccan situation, says it expects the Franco-German negotiations will proceed more smoothly than they did before they were interrupted. France, the Lokal Anzeiger adds, is not haggling over the question of territorial compensation if she is given a free hand in Morocco. Germany is willing to grant her full political freedom of action, provided France takes over corresponding political obligations, including the protection of life and property of German subjects, and ends the normal status under which the French authorities have sheltered behind the native regime when German rights were infringed.

FRENCH MILITARY MOVES.

Give Rise to Rumors, Which Have Been Denied.

Paris, Sept. 5.—Although Germany has made no reply as yet to France's proposal of yesterday relative to the Moroccan dispute, and while none is expected by the French foreign officials for several days, rumors, doubtless due to the outcome of the negotiations, are current.

SEN. BAILEY IS OUT OF IT

Senator Bailey Will Not Be a Candidate.

Disapproval of the Action of Congress the Cause.

His Term in the Senate Will Expire March 3, 1913.

Will Then Practice Law in New York City.

Galveston, Tex., Sept. 6.—United States Senator Joseph W. Bailey Wednesday confirmed the announcement made Tuesday night that he would not be a candidate for reelection to the United States Senate. His term will expire March 3, 1913. Very few persons here knew of the senator's determination until Wednesday and only a portion of the larger morning papers in Texas published the announcement.

It is said Senator Bailey will go to New York City to practice law after his Senate service ends. Many times Wednesday Senator Bailey refused to amplify his brief and positive statement announcing his forthcoming retirement. He would only say that the statement was definite and irrevocable.

To a few intimate friends the senator is said to have confided the causes of his action but these friends have refused to pass the information along. Some of them said that certain actions of the present Texas legislature have been displeasing to Senator Bailey but they would not give this statement as authorities on the matter.

Austin, Tex., Sept. 6.—United States Senator's possible retirement to private life forestalls an important political change in Texas, namely the elimination of an issue which has appeared in practically every important political agitation in this state for about six years. So numerous and so loyal were the senator's friends that it was an alignment of "Bailey" and "anti-Bailey" men that has been a large factor in the voting at the state legislature and some time ago the polls on general state issues.

A successor to Senator Bailey will be selected at a primary next July. Those mentioned as candidates include Gov. C. B. Dinkins, former Governor Thomas M. Campbell, Col. John Walters, leader of the anti-prohibitionists in the recent state-wide election; Thomas Pall, leader of the days in the same election; Congressman Russell, Cone Johnson and Judge William Pollock. The latter two were candidates for governor at the last election.

WARRIORS IN EUROPE BELIEVED TO BE PASSING.

Paris, Sept. 6.—Advices received here Wednesday from Berlin indicate that the German imperial minister, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, has indicated his acceptance of the French proposals presented last Monday to the German foreign minister, Herr Von Kiderlin-Waechter, by the French ambassador, M. Cambon, looking to a settlement of the Moroccan dispute.

COVINGTON WATERWORKS

Commercial League Holds Meeting at Courthouse

Mayor Wurzlów of Houma, Gives Interesting Talk.

Mansfield and Bloodworth Tell Benefits of System.

Sentiment Strongly in Favor of Proposition.

The meeting of the Covington Commercial Club, at the courthouse Monday, was well attended and much enthusiasm was shown in the object of the meeting, which was the discussion of the question of waterworks and school building. It was called to order by President Davis, who introduced Mr. J. B. Mansfield, manager of the Columbian Iron Works of Tennessee and New Orleans.

Mr. Mansfield went over a map of the town of Covington and outlined the manner in which the piping would be laid and explained the advantages of an efficient service in providing water for household purposes and for fighting fire. The system included ten, eight and six-inch mains, with meters and all the necessary machinery, pumps and appliances for good service and efficiency. Mr. Mansfield explained that in making an estimate of this kind it was necessary to make a certainty of covering all expenses, and that he would guarantee that there would be no additional cost above the \$65,000 which he estimated would be the cost of such a plant as Covington needs. In fact, it might be less. He said that such a plant would reduce the insurance rates to the extent that the reduction would pay the five mill tax to be voted for forty years. He would be willing to build the waterworks if we would give him the existing insurance between old and new rates. To illustrate he took the Wehrli building occupied by P. J. Lacroix, merchant. That was considered to represent the least reduction that would be made, namely 75 cents per \$100, or 7 1/2 mills on the dollar. That was a saving of 2 1/2 mills. It must also be remembered that property is not assessed at its full value. Therefore the building of the waterworks would mean a profit to property holders.

Mr. J. B. Bloodworth, secretary of the Louisiana Fire Prevention Bureau, criticised in Mr. Mansfield's statement, but said that people must not expect that insurance rates would be heavily cut in all cases. There would undoubtedly be a saving but he did not wish any one to be disappointed by expecting too much of a reduction. That if we would wait a couple of weeks until his secretary returned from his vacation he would come over and list all the property and tell exactly what the reduction would be on each.

Mr. Mansfield's plan included 2,000 feet of pipe, a concrete reservoir holding 200,000 gallons of water which could be pumped into the main, a 125-foot tower with 75,000 gallon tank, chemical engine, pump, etc.

Mr. Wurzlów then announced that Mayor Calvin Wurzlów of Houma, La. was in the audience and called upon him to address the meeting. Mr. Wurzlów stated that he had been in Covington a short time, but that he had thoroughly enjoyed every moment of his stay. He was a beautiful town, whose healthfulness and pure water was unexcelled. He said he had put in waterworks under difficulties. That they shipped immense quantities of systems from the salt bayous, but that they were also shipped. When they first put in their water system, at a cost of \$30,000, they raised the money by a 5-mill assessment for thirty years. That they made the mistake of putting in small pumps, small pipes and small boilers, and that the system had proved inadequate. Since the waterworks had been put in the town had grown from 5,000 to 6,000 population and the number of taxes had been used to enlarge the system. That with the incomplete system the reduction in insurance rates had been slight, and that it was necessary to put in a new and proper plant to meet the requirements of the insurance men. Covington should not make the same mistake. A town of the size of Covington should not wait longer to put in waterworks, and that it did so it should pay in the long run. It was able to do that. That it had just such a disastrous fire as had lately occurred in Covington, but that since the installation of the waterworks there had been no fire to amount to anything. Mr. Wurzlów advised municipal ownership, and operation of the plant. He said that no matter how much confidence might be placed in a private company there was no telling when a change might be made in it, and conditions become unfavorable. He said that Houma had been

SAYS OIL IS THERE

Sulphur Springs Oil Field To Be Worked Again.

G. W. Hill, Expert Oil Man, Says Oil is There.

The St. Tammany Oil Co. Will Sink a Well.

Confidence Expressed in Success of Undertaking.

Several oil wells have been sunk in St. Tammany parish, and while indications of oil have always been good, none of them have been carried down to the depth that would give absolute certainty as to the existence of oil. Lack of funds has been the main cause of these wells being abandoned. None of the wells, however, have created the confidence that existed and still exists in the Sulphur Springs well, which was abandoned after the pipe had been broken off in the ground, although effort was made to dig down to the broken joint and patch it up. The excavation that was made by this digging is still there, with the broken pipe in the center, filled with mud and water, and it has been a common practice for people to amuse themselves by poking sticks into the muddy bottom in order to see the gas bubble up through the water, or set a match to it and see it burn. This gas burns with a blue flame, showing that it is not marsh gas, but the genuine article. There comes up with the gas small quantities of oil that have also attracted attention, and Dr. B. B. Warren subjected it to the test that never fails in discovering crude petroleum. When placed with ether it colors the ether. Gas oil will not do this, and no other oil. This establishes beyond a doubt that petroleum is there. The quantity remains to be seen.

G. W. Hill, an oil expert, has been consulted, and so positive is he that oil will be found in paying quantities that he has interested himself in promoting a company which will be known as the St. Tammany Oil Company. Already some of our largest merchants and businessmen have subscribed money to the undertaking, and it looks as if Sulphur Springs would soon again be the busy scene of oil drilling.

Mr. Hill says that he has never undertaken the financing of an oil proposition and failed. He says the well will be put down and properly put down, and he has no doubt of the result.

Indications have been so good for oil in St. Tammany parish that confidence in its existence has been expressed by most oil men who have visited the various wells, and it is to be hoped that this time a thorough test will be made and that the well will be sunk to a depth that will leave no doubt as to whether there is or is not oil in paying quantities, for certain it is that there is both gas and oil in some quantity.

The old well is shrouded in mystery. Various stories go the rounds that it was purposely strangled. Be this as it may, the new well will tell the tale.

greatly helped by raising the school house from \$100 to \$1000. The revenues from this school are \$20,000. That the revenues of the city were now about \$35,000 against \$20,000 formerly. He said that Covington was a magnificent town; that strangers could more readily see the advantages of the town than home folks. That with its wonderful climate and water as an attraction, yet he had never seen it advertised.

Mr. Wurzlów said that while walking through the town he had come upon an old uncompleted building with crumbling and cracked walls and had asked what it was. He was surprised at being informed that it was a school building, and it had a \$40,000 school building, and it had been of inestimable value to the community. That if he had the advantage of such a school, instead of talking about it, he would have been talking in the halls of congress. By all means Covington should have a school building and waterworks.

Mr. Jack Bokenfohr then moved the following resolution, which was adopted:

Whereas, it is the sense of this meeting that the town of Covington stands badly in need of an adequate waterworks system and a modern public school building; therefore be it

Resolved, That in order to create a public sentiment in favor of voting a sufficient tax to acquire these much needed improvements there be called a mass meeting of the citizens and taxpayers of this town for the purpose of discussing this subject, the meeting to be held at the park pavilion, Monday, September 11, at 8 p. m., and to be as widely advertised as possible before that time. The meeting then adjourned.

Light Streak