

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, JULY 13, 1912

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SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Report of Superintendent and Secretary Elmer E. Lyon, Discussing the Different Schools and Reciting his Action in the Matter of the Four Mill School Tax Collected by the Town of Covington and that Still Uncollected, With Copy of Letter From Auditor Smith in Regard to Said Tax, and Other Matters.

Covington, La., July 6, 1912. The Parish School Board met in regular session in the Superintendent's office on the above date with President C. A. David in the chair and all members present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The superintendent's report for the quarter ending June 30, 1912, was read and accepted. It is as follows:

To the Honorable President and Members of the Board of School Directors of the Parish of St. Tammany, Louisiana:—In this, my written report of the school conditions in this parish, I wish to include some matters that I think should be placed on record in this office.

All of the schools of the parish have closed, the teachers have been paid and we must now turn our attention to the matter of financing and arranging for the schools of another year. At your last meeting you authorized the re-opening of the Folsom and Middle Roads schools for another month. This was done, but while the Folsom school completed the month, the Middle Roads schools had to be closed because of their inability to keep up the attendance to the legal average.

It will be remembered that at your last meeting I instructed me at your last meeting to pay Mr. H. J. Smith the amount of \$200 from the Covington special school fund, as his expenses in the cause of H. J. Smith and G. R. Tolson vs. Parish School Board. I wish to report that I have refused to do this because of the fact that our attorney informed me that an act would not be legal, as this money comes from a special tax that was voted solely for building school house and not for other purposes.

I have had several interviews with various patrons of the former Blackwell school in regard to the re-opening of a school in that neighborhood. They are now thoroughly convinced that they would not be able to keep up the average should one be relocated there, and they will not ask for a school, but do ask that the board will assist in paying the expenses necessary to send the children to Folsom.

For several years what is known as the Washington graded school in the fifth ward has been run by Washington and St. Tammany parishes, each sharing equally in the expenses, as about the same number of pupils come from each parish. This was the agreement made between former Superintendents Bateman and Merrill for the year just closed. This parish kept its part of the agreement. We engaged a male principal for \$70 a month and a lady assistant for \$50 a month and assumed the supervision of the school; that being a part of the agreement. We advanced the entire amount of these teachers' salaries, expecting that we would be paid by Washington parish one-half of this amount as had been the case in former years. At the end of the seventh month, with the parish owing us \$420, I suggested that the Washington parish children remain at home. The superintendent of that parish agreed to this and then I was able to discharge the principal and by giving the assistant \$10 extra we continued the school for the eighth and ninth months with one teacher. The point I wish to call your attention to is the fact that we have an unpaid claim against Washington parish for \$420 and I do not recommend that we make any new bargains with that parish until this claim is adjusted.

The following is the copy of a letter received from Hon. A. M. Smith, the Supervisor of Public Accounts at Baton Rouge, and whose duty it is by law to check and audit every quarter the accounts of each Parish Superintendent:

Baton Rouge, La., June 1, 1912. Mr. E. E. Lyon, Superintendent of Education, Covington, La. Dear Sir:—In examining your reports filed with this office at the end of each quarterly period, in compliance with Act No. 25 of 1910, I found it rather difficult to determine whether or not all or any part of the four mill school tax voted by the town of Covington about five years ago is included among your figures. I therefore request that you prepare a separate statement showing just how much of the tax has been collected (giving the dates of tax collector's settlements), and what disposition was made of same. It may be that you will have to call on the officials of the town of Covington for some data in order to furnish me with this information. This is a matter which I think should have special attention, and should be perfectly clear on your records.

can be of service to you, do not hesitate to call upon me. Yours very truly, A. M. SMITH, Supervisor of Public Accounts.

In answer to this request I prepared and forwarded to Mr. Smith the following report:

Report of Covington Special Four Mill Tax. Received. Jan. 14, Archie Smith... 1683.98

Paid Out. Jan. 15, C. B. & T. Co., Inc. 1616.31

On hand in bank June 1, 1912 568.98. You will notice that the sum of \$45 was paid for rent on the Emile Norman Cottage, used by the Covington Parish School Board.

In continuation of this same matter, you will notice that there has been no money received from the town of Covington, as a part of the income from this tax, since April 19, 1911, over a year ago. In my recent report of the Finance Committee of the town council we learn that up to and including the 23d day of May 1912, the town had collected the sum of \$1186.02. This statement is followed by the information that this amount has been spent by the town for other purposes. I think that it is an unquestioned fact with members of the town officials that such an act was very poor business; to say nothing of the legality of it.

I feel that I must urge upon you the necessity of some action being taken toward securing this and future amounts that may become due. To a careful business man, it will at once become evident that should we get this money at once, the funds will have lost four and three-eighths percent interest on it; this being the rate paid by the Covington Bank & Trust Co. on all money held by them in the name of the school board, under whatever account. I mention this in order that you may take any action you consider necessary in order to protect this fund and the interests of the tax payers you represent.

Believing that all of the schools of this parish should be run as a system, I have prepared and present to-day for your approval, certain rules intended to apply to high schools as well as graded and ungraded schools of the town.

INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER BIBLE STUDY CLUB QUESTIONS

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SUGGESTIVE QUESTIONS

July 21, 1912.

The Growth of the Kingdom. Mark iv:26-32; Matt. xiii:33. Golden Text—Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as in heaven. Matt. vi:33.

- 1. Verse 26—What does "the kingdom of God" here stand for? 2. What seed is here referred to and what is the ground in which it is sown? 3. Whom does the "Man" represent which sows the seed and how is the seed sown? 4. Verse 27—After a minister or teacher or any other Christian has sown the seed of the gospel ought he to be careful or anxious concerning its growth? Give your reasons. 5. What is the proof that the seed of the gospel will when sown always bring forth its proper fruit? 6. Verse 28—The earth produces a great variety of things by self-propagation, without human instrumentality. Would you say, or not, and why, that Christianity is in any manner analogous to this? (This is one of the questions which may be answered by members of the club) 7. In preaching the gospel, in heaven's lands what are generally the best results and what are the various stages in the process toward the ripe fruit of Christianity? 8. What is the meaning of "the full corn in the ear" as applied to the fruit of Christianity?

- 9. Verse 29—When the seed of the gospel is sown in a human heart or in a country does it ever die without germinating even if years intervene without visible fruit? Give your reasons. 10. What is the earthly fruit of Christianity? 11. Who are they that reap the harvest and enjoy the fruit of the gospel? 12. When will the final harvest of Christianity be reaped and what will it be? 13. Verse 30—What would you compare the kingdom of God to and what are some of the other comparisons which Jesus makes elsewhere? 14. Verses 31-32—What are some things like the mustard seed, exceedingly small, upon which vast issues depend? 15. What evidence or incidents can you give to illustrate the fact that the small mustard seed becomes a very large bush? 16. In what respect or in how many respects is Christianity like the mustard seed? 17. What is the equality in the gospel of Jesus which makes its seed so virile? 18. Matt. xiii:33—Whom does the woman in this parable stand for? 19. What does the leaven here represent? 20. What will be the final effect of Christianity upon this nation? Lesson for Sunday, July 23, 1912: The Wheat and the Tares. Matt. xiii:24-30, 36-43.

Send the ST. TAMMANY FARMER from now till 19 one year, for which I inclose one dollar. Count me a member of the Local Club of the Bible Question Contest.

In closing I wish to thank each of you for your continued co-operation and assistance in the many ways each one of you has made my labors lighter and more effective. I believe that I am to submit to you for approval to-day, a list of teachers better in many ways, than we have ever had in this parish. With a sincere desire to merit your continued confidence, I beg to remain, Very respectfully, E. E. LYON, Superintendent.

Financial report for quarter ending June 30, 1912. Receipts: Bal. on hand April 1... \$195.53

Disbursements: White teachers salary... 5744.98 Colored teachers salary... 185.38

WHY NOT STRIKE OIL? ALL THE WAY TO COVINGTON

Ready to Tap the Pocket, Waking Up on the Proposition of Good Roads. the Work Stops.

Few Hundred Dollars Needed to Complete Work. Plan to Have a Driveway from Baton Rouge.

One More Effort Will be Made to Raise Money. To Extend Along the Railroad to Covington.

Then It Will be Prosperity, A Road that is Needed by Else There is No Oil. Farmers and Capital.

The people have been under considerable nervous strain for the past week or two from the fact that it was expected that at any minute it might be announced that oil was struck. It seemed that they were to be rewarded for the expenditure of the money that it had been claimed by some could have been better used for the development of some interest that would have been stable, given employment to labor and put money in circulation at home. It had been a cherished hope of the oil people that the money they had invested would give return to the people of St. Tammany parish in the income and prosperity that always follows the discovery of oil, and that their pioneer work in the field of their search would show the wisdom of their speculation that they were doing more for the parish in probing the earth for the underlying wealth than in attempting any undertaking they could engage in. When they found expert oil men who were willing to risk money of their own because of the fine indications of oil, it was a stimulus that caused them to raise and secure every dollar they could control in order to prevent a majority of the stock from falling into the hands of outsiders, thereby losing control of the well and making it possible to cheat Covington stockholders and some people out of the benefits they had worked so hard to obtain. The well had not been opened. Some 2500 feet in depth has been reached, caused by rock underlying which is supposed to be the coveted oil. Gas has developed in some quantity and all the best efforts have been made to secure the use, with no money to go after it.

It does look hard, to stand on the very brink of success and then be shoved into the depths of despair. But unless some one comes forward with the money, nobody will know, after all that has been spent, whether oil is under the rock or not. If it is decided in the future to try again for oil, money will have to be raised to do the work all over again. If the work could be completed now it would cost but little. The oil people, however, have spent all their money and however little it will take, that little must come from some other source. The question is, will somebody come to the rescue. If not, it is all over. Perhaps a case of might have been.

Under the new plan this difficulty will be overcome. Gravel can be hauled over the railroad and distributed at convenient points along the entire stretch of the proposed road. The gravel can be secured either from the French Island deposits or from the smaller deposits in the Amite river and other streams that will have to be crossed. It is believed that by following this plan, the greatest difficulty that has confronted the road builders in this section of the State will be overcome. Another advantage to be had from paralleling the right of way of the railroad will be the reduction of the cost of maintenance, for the railroad must keep its right of way graded, and in doing so it would at the same time be looking after the drainage of the public roads.

PROFES BUILDING & LOAN ASSOCIATION. Located at Covington, La. For the Six Months Ending June 30, 1912. ASSETS: Mortgage loans secured by vendor's privilege \$2690.00

To the Good People of the Parish of St. Tammany: I have been to submit my candidacy for Judge of the Supreme Court. There is no political issue in a judicial campaign. It is merely a matter of your selecting a Judge who is competent to administer the law and who will be true to its every principle. With due regard for the responsibilities of the high office I have the return of this district to look to my record of numerous years of service on the bench, and if you then conclude to vote for me, your confidence and kindness will be very much appreciated. Yours very sincerely, CHARLES A. O'NEIL.