

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, DECEMBER 14, 1912

VOL XXXVIII NO 2

DIST. COURT PROCEEDINGS THIS WEEK

Judge Lancaster and Dist. Attorney Vol Brock

Enter Upon Their Duties in New Official Capacity.

Grand Jury Brings in But Four True Bills.

Town of Abita Loses Case In Matter of Lights.

Court opened Monday with Judge Joseph B. Lancaster on the bench and District Attorney J. Vol Brock prosecuting. The docket was not a heavy one and there were few criminal cases, but the proceedings had more than passing interest from the fact that this was the first sitting of the newly elected judge, and also the first appearance in his official capacity of the new district attorney.

The retiring judge, Thos. M. Burns, had presided in the court since October, 1903, when he entered upon the unexpired term of Judge Jas. M. Thompson, whose death left the bench vacant. He declined to become a candidate for re-election and Hon. Jos. B. Lancaster was elected as his successor, receiving a highly complimentary vote from the people of the district. The court room was more than usually crowded on this occasion of his first sitting.

Judge Lancaster in his charge to the grand jury called their attention to the oath that bound them to a performance of their duties, and in reference to matters regarding the sanitary condition of the jail in which prisoners were confined, cautioned them to take the most prompt and effective measures to improve the same. That it was the duty of the police jury to make provision for the maintenance of proper conditions and that it was the duty of the jury to investigate any charges as to an unsanitary state of affairs. The State Board of Health had the power to make sanitary rules and to inspect jails, and enforce those rules, and within the scope of their power might at any time be expected to make investigation into the sanitary condition here.

Attention was called to the fact that there should be a systematic numbering of cases before the jury, so that they would rotate in an order that would enable witnesses to know when they would be called upon to testify and not be obliged to linger about the court for several days waiting to be called. He had noticed women with babes in their arms so waiting, and he believed this was a hardship that might be overcome by a proper preparing and numbering of the cases, to be taken up in order.

He also spoke of the frequency with which charges were brought before the jury that had little foundation in fact, and that were sometimes the result of personal spite or political grudge. True bills in such cases entailed considerable expense upon the parish without the possibility of conviction, as in such cases, as well as cases in which the evidence is entirely insufficient to convict on that count, should be thrown out.

Also that cases in which no true bill is found should be so numbered and disposed of that they will not remain over to the next grand jury, with the probability of again being taken up. It should be so arranged in such cases that the bondsmen will know that they are discharged and no longer liable.

Following is the business transacted this week:

Louisa Rogers vs. Wm. Rogers, dismissed at plaintiff's cost.

Mercantile Lumber and Supply Co. vs. Jones & Pickett Co., Ltd., suit to be taken up in private chambers within 10 days.

L. J. Helitz vs. John Colitora, dismissed at plaintiff's cost.

Mrs. Nora Fenderson et al. vs. Sme-line Rogers et al, dismissed at plaintiff's cost.

Edmund Rizer, vs. Town of Abita Springs, judgment for plaintiff against town of Abita Springs but rejecting plaintiff's demand on A. Nutt and A. O. Pons.

This was a case in which the town of Abita had contracted for lights for the town, but which they claimed did not come up to the efficiency claimed for them. It seems that the notes were signed by Alexander Nutt mayor, and A. O. Pons, secretary, but that it was not meant that they should be individually responsible for the debt. According to the judgment they are relieved of personal responsibility, but the town is held liable.

John Peraldo vs. Chas. R. Bonwell, preliminary judgment.

Newman & Wilcox vs. A. D. Piaggio, preliminary judgment.

J. W. Hartman et al vs. T. Z. Brewster, sheriff, et al, preliminary judgment.

W. M. Polk vs. J. A. Harper, under advisement.

F. J. Helitz vs. J. D. Thomas judgment as prayed for.

Louis Jenkins vs. Johnson Lumbert

RENE CANTON APPLIES FOR A PARDON

Farrar Writes a Pathetic Letter for His Pardon.

Widow of Victim Does Not Sign Plea for Release.

Pardon Hangs Upon Intention to Commit Crime

Board Commutes Sentence; Governor to Act.

New Orleans, Dec. 10.—That Rene Canton's hopes of life hangs on the thin thread of technicalities, and not on the mercy visited upon him by the bereaved father and family of Edgar Howard Farrar, Jr., was the declaration made by Judge Crelein yesterday when he sat as a member of the Pardon Board to pass upon the plea for a commutation of the sentence of death to life imprisonment. If, when he was attacked by Farrar, he believed that he was being arrested for crime, and shot out of malice for the law and his accused was murdered, but if he struck him in self-defense, it was manslaughter and the sentence should be commuted, said Judge Crelein.

If Murder, Hang Him. "If there is murder in this case, I want this man hanged," declared Judge Crelein. "If there is not murder, I want the sentence commuted." And from the general opinion as intimated by Lieutenant Governor Barret and Attorney General Pleasant, the other members of the Pardon Board, it was their general concurrence that the case should be tried on its principles and not be prejudiced for or against the accused.

The case was called about 2 o'clock in the evening, and was delayed because Colonel Pleasant declares that Mr. Farrar, father of the slain boy, desired to be present at the hearing of the case for several minutes, during which Mr. Farrar was communicated with and stated that he did not wish to hear the case reviewed. The case was again called and Judge Gaultier, attorney for defense, presented an application for a pardon for Rene Canton, who was the brother of the victim, and in which the Farrar family or the Spear family—that of Farrar's widow—was not represented.

Judge Gaultier stated that he understood that Mrs. E. H. Farrar, Jr., was in sympathy with the commutation of the sentence, but that she had been advised not to place her signature on the application, due to the fact that her family did not desire the notoriety, nor were they in favor of the commutation of the sentence. However, two letters were placed before the board, one from the father, and one from the mother, both of which were signed by the father, and in which he requested a pardon for his son, and in which he stated that he would not wish to see his son hanged.

Letter From E. H. Farrar. "I sent you inclosed copy of a letter addressed by me in my own behalf and in behalf of the members of my family to his excellency, Luther P. Hall, governor of the State, asking him to relieve Rene Canton, who was convicted of the murder of my son, Edgar Howard Farrar, Jr., on December 6, and to send his case before your honorable body for consideration as to whether his sentence should be commuted to imprisonment for life. The governor granted this request for the reasons stated in my letter, and the matter is now before you.

"From a purely theoretical standpoint of view the wishes of the family against whom a crime has been committed should play no part in determining whether the criminal should be punished at all or to the extent of his punishment, because the interests of society are alone involved in such a question, and not the feelings or sentiments of individuals. But you are called upon to advise the governor as to the quality of mercy that he shall dispense in the execution of his high office, and the dread sentence of the law should never be carried out until it is found that the case is one which excludes the exercise of that divine faculty.

"It is here that room is found for consulting the feelings and wishes of those most injured by a crime, and the fact that the family to whom the crime was committed should be granted such a request is mere sentimentalism and in opposition to the best interests of society. The grounds stated in this letter to the governor asking the reprieve show the case was brought up, and also she had sought to save the life of her murdered son ask you to recommend the commutation of the murderer's sentence to imprisonment for life."

In the letter to the governor Mr. Farrar included the pathos of a father's love, which had blossomed into the great forgiveness that would flood the lowly dwelling of the murderer's father and wife with supreme happiness—a happiness which would be impossible to the imposing seat of aristocracy, in which the law of "an

INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER BIBLE STUDY CLUB QUESTIONS

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SUGGESTIVE QUESTIONS
December 22, 1912.
Christmas Lesson. Isa. ix:1-7.
Golden Text—Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. Isa. ix:6.

1. Verse 1—What troubles come to saint or sinner out of which good may not be derived?
2. What troubles have you ever known, national or personal, that have been worse?
3. What beneficent results came to Israel from their captivity?
4. Which most helps a nation, morally or spiritually, its prosperity or its adversity?
5. Verse 2—Does God ever permit or send any affliction to a nation or an individual with the intention of inflicting ultimate injury? Give your reasons.
6. Is it so that the light of prosperity generally follows the darkness of adversity and that grief gives place to joy? Why?
7. What is the great light which finally came to the Jews and to the world?
8. In how many respects may we regard Jesus as the light of the world? This is one of the questions that may be answered in writing by members of the club.
9. Verse 3—Why is an increase of national population generally regarded with satisfaction?
10. What are the peculiar joys which result from a bountiful harvest?
11. Why are people generally joyful when they are making money?
12. Verse 4—What deliverance had God wrought for Israel?
13. What oppressors does Jesus deliver men from today?
14. If Jesus delivers his followers from the slavery of sin how is it that most Christians confess that they still sin, that is are under bondage to sin?
15. How did God deliver Israel in "the day of Midian?" (See Judges vii:19-25.)
16. What is the power which breaks the chains of sin and sets the captives free?
17. Verse 5—What is the difference between physical and moral battles?
18. Verse 6—Of what child does Isaiah speak?
19. What did God's ancient Israel expect their coming Messiah would accomplish?
20. What are some of the scriptural names for the Christ?
21. How do the terms "Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace," apply to Jesus?
22. Verse 7—How many nations of the earth does Jesus reign over today?
23. What are the signs of the increase of Christ's government today?
24. Will the day ever come, and if so when, when Jesus shall rule over the whole earth?

Lesson for Sunday, Dec. 29, 1912. Review.

Send the ST. TAMMANY FARMER from now till 1913, one year, for which I inclose one dollar. Count me a member of the Local Club of the Bible Question Contest.

NAME _____

eye for an eye" has been eliminated. The letter to the governor follows:

A Thanksgiving Letter. "On this day of Thanksgiving the thoughts of all my household were turned to the vacant chair made empty by the crime of the poor wretch, the date of whose execution you have fixed. This matter has been in our minds for some time, and after mature reflection, all of us—father, mother, sisters, brothers and widow of my murdered son—have concluded to ask you to relieve Rene Canton and to send his case before the Board of Pardons for their consideration as to whether his sentence should not be commuted to imprisonment for life.

"We feel that this young brute is the product of our system of society for which all of us, particularly persons of our positions, are to some extent responsible. His father and mother are honest, hardworking people. With them the struggle for existence was too exacting and bitter to permit them to devote the time and personal care necessary to develop the good and repress the evil in their son, who thus grew up and again influenced that surround the children of the poor in a large city.

"We believe that he shot my son as instinctively as a snake would strike one who crossed his path, and while the act was murder in law and in fact, yet it lacked that forethought and deliberation which makes a crime of this sort unpardonable. This man is now in no condition of mind to be sent into the next world. We hope and pray that time and reflection will bring repentance and that his soul may be saved."

Incidentally in the letter, Mr. Farrar brought out the fact that although the young widow, and since a mother, had not signed the application of Canton for a pardon, she had agreed to offer no objection when the case was brought up, and also she had sought to save the life of her husband's murderer.

Widow Didn't Sign. But sentiment was swept aside by the cold judicial turn that was taken in the case of the murderer when the case was threshed out. If, by code of law, he was to be granted a life in the penitentiary, instead of a death on the gallows, the laws of the state must give it to him and not the forgiving sentiments of a bereaved father for his son. This was made plain when Judge Crelein declared that "if there is murder, I want this man hanged." He was concurred with by the other members of the board.

Whether or not, sitting as a jury of three in private consultation the

three members of the Pardon Board will cast aside the death adjudged by a jury of twelve, lies only with their interpretation of the moment in which the shooting took place.

Unconceived and knowing his status they planned to rob the place. Rene argument brought out to sustain Canton was made by Judge Gaultier, who declared that had Canton been resisting arrest, then he would have shot the negro who was holding his brother also, but that he only acted for Mr. Farrar's letter expressed: "He shot my son instinctively as a snake would strike."

Another strong point in Canton's favor was that he did not know that the negro was holding his brother until January 3, giving the Pardon Board sufficient time to consider the application for a reprieve of the sentence of death to life imprisonment.

The Case Reviewed. The case as reviewed was that Edgar H. Farrar, Jr., prominent young attorney and son of one of the most prominent families in the city had recently been married, and after establishing his home in the city he spent the summer of 1912 in his new home all of the expensive presents which had been bestowed at the time of their marriage.

The two Canton boys, of which Rene was the eldest, were common laborers, and had a somewhat shabby record in the city. Seeing the house himself, had only a short time before married a young girl of creditable standing in the city.

The Canton boys perpetrated the robbery one day, and shortly following it was discovered that the house had been robbed. Young Farrar was immediately communicated with and returned from his summer home to make an investigation of the robbery. The negro keeper of the place who saw the robbery take place, met him at the house and as they were making the investigation about the premises the negro saw the Canton boys pass and pointed them out to Farrar.

Followed by the negro, Farrar who was a powerful man, pushed out to capture the two criminals and bring them to the hands of justice. Running up behind the boys, and seized both of them by the neck and tried to hold both of them until said could be summoned. Rene, who was armed, jerked away from Farrar, running about sixteen feet, turned and fired, killing Farrar. The young Canton meanwhile succeeded in escaping from Farrar's grasp, but

was captured by the negro, who held him until the police arrived.

Canton Turned and Fired. Rene Canton, following his escape and killing of Farrar, without awaiting to see whether or not his shots had been effective, turned and fled without waiting to see whether or not his shots had been fatal. He was afterwards captured by the police. The two Canton boys were tried and the youngest sentenced to penal servitude, while the eldest was sentenced to be hanged Dec. 6.

Through the untiring efforts of his young wife, who it is alleged several times approached the young widow and also the bereaved father, Governor Hall granted a reprieve until January 3, giving the Pardon Board sufficient time to consider the application for a reprieve of the sentence of death to life imprisonment.

(Continued on page 4).

A CARD.

To the People of the 26th Judicial District:

In leaving the bench of the District Court, over which I have presided since October, 1903, I do so with very pleasant memories of the cooperation and helpfulness of the members of the bar practicing in the 26th Judicial District. To them I owe much of my success in administering justice and in securing to the people the protection that comes from a fair and impartial interpretation and enforcement of the law. It is a pleasure to me to note the law-abiding tendency of the people and the great advancement disclosed in the spirit of submission and self-reliance that makes the enforcement of the law an easy task.

In appreciation of this cooperation I wish to thank all who have lent me their support; those who have acted in an official capacity in the office of the Sheriff and Clerk of Court; those who have conscientiously performed their duty as jurors; and those who in the practice of law have maintained its dignity and assisted in the true purpose of its mission.

I further wish to express my satisfaction that in my successor, Hon. Jos. B. Lancaster, the court will have a presiding officer in whom the people have confidence and from whom may be expected full security in legal rights and a just consideration of all matters coming before the court.

THOS. M. BURNS.

(Continued on page 4).

W. P. U. FAVORS THE NEW TAX FOR SCHOOL

Enthusiastic Meeting and Resolutions Passed.

President Makes Spirited Call for United Effort.

Asks for Better Attendance and Greater Interest.

Question of Petitioning N. O. G. N. Taken Up.

At an interesting meeting of the Women's Progressive Union, Dec. 10, matters of great importance were discussed and acted upon.

Fair matters were brought to a happy close by the reading of the splendid report returned by Mrs. J. B. Wortham, chairman of the refreshment committee at the 3d Annual St. Tammany Parish Fair. The Union has every reason to be proud of the work done by Mrs. Wortham and all the members of all her committees who were in charge of the various booths. Their administration was wise and their efforts untiring. The aforesaid report showed \$573.73 as the net proceeds, the amount turned over to the Park Commissioners by the Women's Progressive Union.

The question of assisting the patrons of the N. O. G. N. R. R. to obtain a better schedule and abatement of delays, as meaning much to the welfare and population of Covington was strongly put before the Union by Miss Lily Adams, who is in a position to know and to say what a detriment to Covington the present conditions are. It was decided to take some measures to help the patrons of the road now before the Railroad Commission endeavoring to secure better service.

Superintendent Elmer E. Lyon came before the ladies at their invitation, to explain the proposed re-sending of the 7 mill tax which the people of Covington are now paying for building and sustaining a public school—and are paying to no avail—and the substituting of a 3 1/2 mill ward tax for same. After Mr. Lyon finished his convincing talk no one could fail to see the advantage of such a method as applied to the school difficulties of our town. Self interest and self protection alone would urge the adoption of this plan, which can and will be made possible before asking for an election to vote the new 3 1/2 mill ward tax proposed.

When they left Folsom, Stern and Smith were directed to take the road near the hill, but understood their informant to say, "take the road by the mill." In consequence, about ten minutes after six o'clock in the evening they found themselves at a ford on the river bank. Looking across the river they could see the road as it emerged from the ford directly opposite, and they drove in, remembering the lesson learned at school, that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. They took their bearings and managed to reach the shore, safe but water-soaked and cold. They struck out in a trot for Mr. Blackwell's house, a short distance away, trusting to the exercise to keep the blood in circulation. The coffee Mr. Blackwell served them probably tasted better than coffee ever tasted before. By half past eight o'clock they were in dry clothes and on their way to Onville, which they reached by 9:30. Thanking Mr. Blackwell for his kindness they then phoned to Mr. Wallace Fogle in Covington, who sent a conveyance for them, and they were so again safe and sound at home, with no regrets, save for the faithful old horse that had lost his life in service and obedience.

The safe return of these gentlemen is remarkable in consideration of the very heavy clothing worn by them for their protection from the weather. Mr. Smith wore a heavy overcoat and Mr. Stern a hunting coat and sweater. Each had on heavy hunting boots and cartridge belts and carried guns. The guns are still at the bottom of the river, unless very lately recovered.

If you are troubled with chronic constipation, the mild and gentle effect of Chamberlain's Tablets make them especially suited to your case. For sale by all dealers.

(Continued on page 4).

IN SHADOW OF THE VALLEY OF DEATH

Two Prominent Young Businessmen of Covington,

Have Strenuous Time in Cold Waters of the River.

Horse Drowned and Lives Are Barely Saved.

Finally Reach the Shore and Arrive Home Safely.

Had not kind providence planted a tree in the ford near the Blackwell mill, on the Bogue Falaya River, the festivities of the coming holidays would have been cast aside, in Covington, in mournful remembrance of the loss of two of her foremost young businessmen, both popular in the younger married circles, for both would have been sacrificed to the swirling waters of the angry Bogue Falaya River, which is always dangerous after heavy rains, had not this tree stood exactly where it did to aid them in their escape from a watery grave.

Mr. Edmund B. Stern and Mr. Archie R. Smith went on a hunting trip last Sunday. They have been companions on many hunting and fishing expeditions as well as in the field of sports, when the old Covington baseball nine upheld the pride of Covington by defeating everything that was sent over from New Orleans and elsewhere to conquer them. Stern was catcher and Smith was a crackjack second baseman, who could generally be counted upon for a sure run when at the bat. In those days the old diamond of the Covington baseball park was the scene of much rooting for the home team and the megaphone was also put to good use by the imported rooters of visiting teams. But playing ball and fighting for your life in deep and angry waters are two very different things. Stern and Smith were directed to take the road near the hill, but understood their informant to say, "take the road by the mill." In consequence, about ten minutes after six o'clock in the evening they found themselves at a ford on the river bank. Looking across the river they could see the road as it emerged from the ford directly opposite, and they drove in, remembering the lesson learned at school, that a straight line is the shortest distance between two points. They took their bearings and managed to reach the shore, safe but water-soaked and cold. They struck out in a trot for Mr. Blackwell's house, a short distance away, trusting to the exercise to keep the blood in circulation. The coffee Mr. Blackwell served them probably tasted better than coffee ever tasted before. By half past eight o'clock they were in dry clothes and on their way to Onville, which they reached by 9:30. Thanking Mr. Blackwell for his kindness they then phoned to Mr. Wallace Fogle in Covington, who sent a conveyance for them, and they were so again safe and sound at home, with no regrets, save for the faithful old horse that had lost his life in service and obedience.

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