

The St. Tammany Farmer

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THE POITEVENT LETTER.

The publication of a letter from Mr. Jean Poitevent, on the first page, makes it necessary, in defense of drainage, to correct impressions that might be created by it. We believe Mr. Poitevent's attitude against drainage is the result of a misconception of its importance to the parish, and also a failure to fully comprehend the responsibility of great corporations in community upbuilding. The advancement in individual wealth, happiness and social welfare must come largely through the initiative of those whose experience in self-advancement has taught them the lessons in the big book of financing and business, that must be learned to put through great undertakings. People without time, without means and without study of the processes by which wealth is accumulated and prosperous communities builded can not of themselves devise the means of accomplishing these things or see the opportunities that are afforded. Therefore the big men of communities have the opportunity of making themselves warm in the hearts of the people. The stability and loyalty of labor, the political, economic and social conditions of the people fall largely to the guidance of such men and the direction of their leadership, the just exercise of which frequently involves the casting aside of self-interest.

Since Mr. Poitevent states he is not the spokesman of the timber interests, his letter sets that matter at rest.

St. Tammany parish has a grave problem before it. After the timber is all gone, St. Tammany will have nothing, unless our lands are made productive by drainage and Mr. Arnett's plans for making this a great fruit country succeed. We had hoped that the Poitevent & Favre Company would join the plan for improvement.

As for Mr. Morris' letter, it is plain enough. It probably means just what it says. Those districts that were so situated as to make drainage more expensive than in other districts could vote it down if they felt that drainage was not feasible; but it was believed that when they saw the remarkable result of drainage they would vote for it at almost any cost. This has been the experience in other states where drainage has been adopted. The law itself provides that the state engineers must report the feasibility of drainage before the law goes into effect; and it also provides that "SUCH ACREAGE TAX SHALL ONLY BE IMPOSED UPON SUCH LANDS IN THE DISTRICT AS ARE NECESSARILY ESPECIALLY BENEFITTED BY THE DRAINAGE." The districts were made small, as we understand it, so as to give as uniform condition as possible in each district, and so that the districts in which the people believed their lands were already drained enough, or where reclamation by levying and pumping might be necessary at the greater cost of \$3.50 per acre, or where for any reason the people could not be convinced of the advantage of drainage, would not by their refusal interfere with other districts which wanted drainage, and were willing to vote it. Thus the Poitevent lands were put in one district, with the same privileges as every other district—no more and no less. It was considered of Mr. Morris to provide for the protection of the companies who had growing timber on their lands. It seems to be the opinion of timber men (although we believe it is incorrect) that drainage hurts growing timber. These lands can not be farmed until the timber is off.

The sole object was to protect those large holders of timber land, whom it was considered would not have their lands in cultivation for years, who would not dispose of them as long as the timber was standing, by giving them the same opportunity that was given the owners of land that might be farmed, of holding off drainage until it would be profitable by reason of readiness for farming. If their lands were cut up and placed in other districts it would be subject to rules governing farm lands and by a vote of that district would have to pay the cost years in advance of the time they could make profitable use of it. No other district can be taxed for drainage until the voters of those districts decide they want it, and this placed the timber owners on the same footing as other owners of land. Therefore, as Mr. Poitevent says, the timber interests had nothing to fear except the "reflex action," which we believe would increase the value of their lands.

The plan will not be put before the people again until this campaign is over. It will be put up to the people then to vote for or against it. It can not be forced upon them against their will. And when it is voted for it will be by districts and not as a parish-wide proposition, and the timber districts will probably be put to themselves just as before.

The surface area of St. Tammany parish is 579,840 acres. This includes rivers, towns, marshes, swamps and overflowed lands. The land in farms in 1910 was 72,368 acres. The land that would be taken in by the drainage of the whole parish would probably be not over 200,000 acres, in fact, probably less. At the maximum of 50 cents an acre this would be \$100,000. This is for gravity drainage. If under the law for levying and pumping, which allows a maximum tax of \$3.50 per acre, the cost would not be more than \$700,000. Our land certainly does not need to be pumped and levied. This also includes maintenance, which Mr. Poitevent says would cost \$275,000 a year. As to the increase in value of lands, this has been too well demonstrated to discuss, and we shall hereafter give numerous cases in support of it.

We entertain the highest respect for Mr. Poitevent and we regret very much that we cannot agree with him as to drainage. We give below some extracts from the drainage law under which the districts were intended to be organized. They show that the cost could not lawfully be any where near the enormous amount Mr. Poitevent anticipates, and they also show that it is clothed with ample provisions for the prevention of unnecessary expense. We believe that if Mr. Poitevent will look into the matter more thoroughly he will change his attitude toward drainage.

Where the drainage of land requires levying and pumping the law provides against drainage that is not feasible, as follows:

"Provided, no bonds shall be issued against any lands where the report of the Board of State Engineers shows that the project is not feasible or that the cost per acre for the reclamation would be so great as to make it doubtful that an acreage tax or forced contribution of \$3.50 per acre would be sufficient to pay the interest on the debt, the fraction of the principal due each year and the cost of maintaining the drainage."

"The money realized by the sale of the bonds shall be used exclusively by said Drainage District for the purpose of draining and reclaiming such lands, and performing other necessary work in connection therewith, AND SUCH ACREAGE TAX SHALL ONLY BE IMPOSED UPON SUCH LANDS IN THE DISTRICTS AS ARE NECESSARILY ESPECIALLY BENEFITTED BY THE DRAINAGE."

"Police juries on their own initiative may divide parishes into one or more drainage districts, provided that no such districts shall contain, within its limits, less than five land owners."

"Where police juries refuse to organize drainage districts, they are required to do so on petition of a number of property holders representing a majority of the acres of land in said district."

"Commissioners have the power and it shall be their duty to open natural drains."

"In making their report to the board of drainage commissioners, the said Board of State Engineers shall state specifically whether or not the project is feasible, the cost per acre to drain and reclaim the lands; the cost per acre of maintenance after the drainage is established; the character of the lands, whether prairie or timbered, and, if partly timbered, the proportion of each; the cost per acre of putting the lands in a state of cultivation after the drainage is accomplished, the fertility of the soil of such drainage district, and the value of the land per acre after the reclamation is completed."

All expenses for preliminary surveys to determine cost of draining and reclaiming the land shall be advanced by the land owners petitioning the drainage commission for such drainage, which amounts shall be reimbursed to said land owners by the Drainage Commission out of any funds realized from the sale of bonds; provided, the drainage of lands is proceeded with as contemplated in this Act."

The total cost of all legal expenses incurred in organizing a drainage of sub-drainage district and issuing bonds therefor shall never exceed one and one-half per cent of the total bond issue, where said bond does not exceed three hundred thousand dollars, and not exceeding one per cent where the bond issue is three hundred thousand dollars or more."

"The cost and expense for engineering shall never exceed five per cent of such drainage work."

THE LAST STRAND



LOOK, BOYS! LOOK!

The grandest dance yet will be given at the Abita Springs Pavilion Sunday, August 29. Fine orchestra from New Orleans. Benefit of Abita Springs school. The committee has everything arranged. A good time promised all. Don't miss it. Admission 25c. For a good cause.

NOTICE OF HOMESTEAD ENTRY.

Baton Rouge, La., Aug. 20, 1920. Notice is hereby given that Joseph Wilson Todd, of Lacombe, Louisiana, who, on July 23, 1915, made Homestead Entry, No. 37599, for east half of northeast quarter (½ of ne ¼), section 21, township 8 south, range 13 east, St. Helena Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make three year proof, to establish claim to the land above described before Clerk of Court, at Covington, Louisiana, on the 6th day of October, 1920.

Claimant names as witnesses: Walter Bautant, John Bautant, Louis Revere, Berry Todd, all of Lacombe Louisiana.

E. D. GIANELLONI, Registrar.

au25-5t

COMMISSIONERS AND WATCHERS.

At a meeting of the Democratic Parish Executive Committee held on Tuesday, August 24, 1920, the following were appointed Commissioners and Watchers of the primary election to be held September 14th, 1920:

Ward 1. Commissioners, Frank Goldatz, John Englehardt, Victor Chastellier, Jr., B. A. Taylor, John Eckel. Watchers, Robert Koopp, Anthony Koopp. Deputy Sheriff's, Geo. R. Dutsch, Ulysses Wattingly.

Ward 2, Precinct 1. Commissioners, Rankin Fitzgerald, Sidney Burns, Charles Wilkins, J. T. Jenkins, Elmer Taylor. Deputy Sheriff's, T. N. Galloway, J. H. Burns.

Ward 2, Precinct 2. Commissioners, W. T. Wallace, Doss Jenkins, Willie Desmond, Willie Burns, B. M. Bryant. Watcher, Cliff Bailey. Deputy Sheriff's, John Willie, Robt. McKee.

Ward 3. Commissioners, Pete Barelli, R. S. Blossman, A. J. Planche, Sidney Anderson, Chas. L. Smith. Watchers, T. E. Finney, Julian H. Smith. Deputy Sheriff's, E. Quatrevaux, Chas. Heintz.

Ward 4. Commissioners, W. G. Davis, J. N. Miller, W. R. Smith, James Land, Alex Smith. Watchers, W. A. Griffin, Paul Esquinace, E. J. Fulton. Deputy Sheriff's, Phillip Smith, Robert Smith.

Ward 5. Commissioners, R. W. Talley, Louis Grantham, L. A. Mizell, T. M. Talley, L. A. Talley. Watcher, Jesse Thomas. Deputy Sheriff's, J. B. Grantham, D. P. Carpenter.

Ward 6. Commissioners, Jim Craddock, S. R. Williams, Hardy Richardson, Ellis A. Crawford, Randolph Parker. Deputy Sheriff's, H. Q. Parker, V. M. Kennedy.

Ward 7. Commissioners, Paul Casler, S. P. Phillips, B. W. Todd, Taylor Cousin, Robert Krentel. Watcher, Emilie Revere. Deputy Sheriff's, J. M. Barringer, C. H. Culbertson.

Ward 8. Commissioners, Dr. C. F. Farmer, F. W. Eggeston, Ed. Foy, Don P. Watts, Jos. F. Crawford. Watchers, Fred. W. Schluter, J. H. Robert. Deputy Sheriff's, H. C. Wall, W. G. Powe.

Ward 9. Commissioners, L. Baden, Guy A. Bourgeois, B. P. Decker, Hosea Parker, Chas. Gusman. Watchers, S. J. Sebastian, Percy Saxon. Deputy Sheriff's, Luke Broom, J. W. Decker, Jr.

Ward 10. Commissioners, Domick Dazet, Steve Abney, Emilie Burekstock, John Finn, Frank Brown. Watchers, Jos. Lamousin, A. B. Kustnacker. Deputy Sheriff's, A. J. Bennett, Joseph Lamousin.

GEO. R. DUTSCH, Chairman. GUY A. SMITH, Secretary.

ADVERTISEMENTS



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

FOR SALE—1 lot of miscellaneous household furniture. Apply W. E. Morris, Covington. au21

FOR SALE—or RENT—My home on Lee Road, furnished or unfurnished. Mrs. O. M. Birch, Lee Road.

FOR SALE—Beautiful ferns set in tubs. Also plow, harrow and harness. Mrs. O. M. Birch, Lee Road.

SINGER SEWING MACHINES sold on easy installments. C. M. Smith, Boston street, near Claiborne bridge, Covington, La. au14-4t

Make hay while the sun shines. Do it with a Walter Wood Mower and Rake. We have a big stock on hand, 1 and 2 horse, at the right prices. H. J. Smith's Sons. au21

FOR SALE—Stove wood and fat pine, 200 fat pine post. W. P. Badon, 415 Lockwood street, Covington. je12.

FOR SALE—One mare, surrey, harness and three 5-month old pigs. Mrs. J. G. Bischof, Box 223, Covington, La. au28*

FOR SALE—Have a few good used typewriters, \$8.50 and up; 2 typewriter desks, a kitchen cabinet, two large ranges, Elmer's Exchange, Seiler Building. au28

HORSES, MARE AND MULES.
A pair of good young mules, \$200 for the pair, weighing about 800 to 1000 pounds each; one good work horse, \$65; one good Texas saddle, almost new; good army halters, \$1 each, can be used as bridles; harness and surreys, cheap; also two large sows and six shoats, very cheap. Glaser's Branch, Military Road, Jos. Tennant, Manager.

WANTED—Man to work on farm, must know how to grow all kinds of vegetables. Apply P. O. Box 146, Abita Springs, La. au28*

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F. B. TRENCHARD, the efficient electrical worker, 26th and Jefferson avenues. Magneto, motors, dynamos and auto ignition. Leaky auto radiators repaired. P. O. Box 296, Covington, La. au28*

When planning Baby's Layette be sure to write or phone us for information on our line of infant's Hand Made Garments. Dainty embroidered tucked and hemstitched dresses, tiny scalloped Gertrude petticoats, sheer and soft. Real French caps, all hand made, just the idea for a dainty little baby.

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MATHERNE'S POULTRY & RABBIT FARM
Rayne Cottage, Abita Springs, La. Pure Bred Belgian Hares \$3.50 a pair and up.

FOR SALE—Good furniture, etc. Every day is bargain day at Elmer's Exchange, Seiler bldg. j17t

FOR SALE—A second-hand express eastern. Apply R. C. Perkins, Claiborne, La. au14*

FOR SALE—At Covington, La., "The Oaks," large two-story house, N. 1367 America Street, known as "The Oaks," containing wide halls, porches, 21 rooms, bath, large dining room, kitchen, electric lights, 17 rooms furnished. Outbuildings. Entire square of ground, beautiful trees and surroundings. Only one mile from depot. Will sell as a going concern on easy terms. A. & C. Denis, 304 Camp street, New Orleans, La. au7-4t

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HORSE-SHOING—Sam C. Thesen, practical horse-shoer, has his shop across from the depot. Animals clipped and inter-ferring horses a specialty. All orders promptly attended to. Try me. dec 4

FOR SALE—Have a lot of fine Half Cotton Seed for sale. Address Box 627, Covington, La.

FAMOUS SUM-MO COFFE, served at the St. Tammany Parish Fair, is for sale at the St. Tammany Hay & Grain Warehouse, Covington, La.

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Number Twenty-Two.

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A happy future is assured to those who commence their married life with a savings account. It provides for emergencies which are bound to arise at times in every life. Prepare for these emergencies by putting aside a portion of your income regularly. Be frank with your wife; tell her exactly the amount of your salary or income and ask her to help you to set aside a certain sum to be saved every month. Get in the habit of feeling that this amount must be saved. The time will come, as it does in every one's life, when a good savings account will enable you to take advantage of an exceptional opportunity or enable you to meet trouble bravely.

Don't put off starting your savings account—do it at once, and by this time next year you will have an account to be proud of.

We invite your account and will be interested in its growth.

Ain't It a Grand and Glorious Feeling?

WHEN GASOLINE GOES UP TO 32 CENTS A GALLON and LUBRICATING OIL GOES UP TO 30 CENTS A QUART and TIRES GO UP TO \$25.00 AND \$30.00 EACH ain't it a GRAND and GLORIOUS feeling to OWN a CHEVROLET?

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Wishes to announce the arrival of their Fall and Winter line of over Five Hundred Samples for made-to-order clothing. We represent the Universal Tailoring Company, of Chicago, Ill. Their clothing is hand-tailored, their fabrics pure wool, and they guarantee to fit you. Come and make your selection now. We can order the suit shipped at any future date you may desire.

Telephone 81

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