

HEADQUARTERS TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA, December 21, 1864.

OPPELOUSAS: SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1865.

The Hon. C. H. MOUTON is a candidate for re-election for the office of Judge of the 8th Judicial District, composed of the parishes of St. Landry, Calcasieu, Lafayette and Vermilion.

We regret that we cannot give our readers any positive news relative to the positions of the contending armies in Tennessee and Georgia; the reports are so contradictory that we dare not repeat them, for on day we are told that Sherman has entered Savannah, and on the next, that it is not taken. At another time Hood is cut to pieces, and immediately afterwards the Federals are flying before him, and he establishes his Head Quarters at Nashville. We shall soon be compelled to disbelieve all news we get concerning the war and wait for more positive news.

A New Paper.—The Confederate States, a newspaper published a few years ago at New Iberia, and whose material the Yankees had thrown to the winds, has just reappeared under the title of the Confederacy. John A. French, the editor, is under the age of conscription.

As to the editor of the Confederate States, Mr. Barnett, his heart failed him, and, in company with his workman, Mr. White, went over to the enemy.

An affray took place in our town on Tuesday last between Lieut. Burns, of Baylie Vinson's scouts, and a person named Beackum, in which the Lieutenant was shot in the abdomen; he is in a critical situation, and Beackum, who was also wounded in the thigh, is doing better.

The cause of all this, as is no doubt already suspected, was a superabundance of spirits.

FORT McALLISTER.

ITS GEOGRAPHY—ITS STRENGTH—ITS RESISTANCE TO NAVAL ATTACKS. The avenue of approach, says the N. Y. Times, to the rear of Savannah, has for three years been guarded by Fort McAllister, a powerful sand fort, mounting 80 heavy guns en barbette. Admiral Dupont, in the spring of 1863, made two attempts, with his formidable iron-clad fleet, to take this fort; but after a protracted bombardment, failed—several of the monitors being disabled in the attack. It would appear that Sherman has swung round his right wing, resting it on the Ogeechee, and capturing the fort at the same time.

Fort McAllister is a very strong earthwork situated on the Ogeechee river, about sixteen miles south of the mouth of the Savannah river, and about six miles from the mouth of Ossabaw Sound. This part of the coast of Georgia is of that amphibious character which marks so much of the Southern coast in general: the leveled and unfinished ends of nature's web, where sea and land keep up a mutual warfare. The ocean breaks in between Great Wassaw and Ossabaw Islands, forming Ossabaw Sound, and into this estuary flow the Great and the Little Ogeechee and the Vernon rivers. The land or rather the marsh on each side of the Ogeechee is almost a fleur de'eau, certainly hardly rising a foot above the level of the river, while at times it is entirely submerged. For miles and miles on every hand there is nothing to be seen but these low and level islands and inlets, covered with reeds and rank grasses, save where a lusher vegetation has pushed up an occasional clump of trees called "hummocks."

About six miles from the mouth of Ossabaw Sound, near where the Savannah, Albany and Gulf Railroad crosses the Ogeechee, the river juts out into a promontory named Point Genesis, covered by one of these hummocks of more than ordinary size. Behind this, hidden from the river, lies Fort McAllister, an earthwork of immense strength, erected by the rebels early in the war. Its battery completely commands the river.

Fort McAllister, which has just succeeded to an attack from the land side, had previously bid defiance to two attacks from our naval forces.—The first of these took place nearly two years ago. On the 27th of January, 1863, the monitor Montauk, commanded by Captain Worden, bombarded his earthen walls for nearly six hours, without either receiving or doing much damage. Each appeared to be invincible against the other. The second and more important attack was made on the 3d of March, 1863. The vessels employed in this engagement were the monitors Montauk, Passaic, Patuxent and Nahant, and the gunboats Seneca, Wissahickon and Dawn, and several mortar schooners. This formidable force raised a storm of shot and shell upon the fort for one whole day, with no more damage to the rebels than the dismounting of a gun or two. Late in the afternoon the fleet was withdrawn, unharmed, and the vessels dropped down the stream, the rebels coming out on the parapets cheering a defiant adieu.

The Richmond Whig of Oct. 29th says: We were shown yesterday evening, by a returned prisoner a specimen of the bread upon which the Confederate prisoners now confined at Fort Delaware, are fed.—It looks for all the world as if made of sawdust mixed with some dark powder, and would not to all appearances, be half as palatable—even to a starving man—as the pernicious pone prepared by our negroes for making beer. Such is the miserable apology for bread so kindly doled out by the hypocritical Yankees to helpless prisoners whom the fortune of war has placed in their custody. There would be some excuse for them if, like the South, their territory was ravaged, their barns burned, and their ports blockaded; but this, we regret to say, is not the case; and in the midst of plenty they endeavor by starvation to conquer those whom they find it impossible to overcome in open and honorable combat. For decency's sake, let us never again hear a whisper of complaint of either the quantity or quality of the food allowed Northern prisoners at Andersonville and Richmond.

The Confederate Gen. Beal, released from Fort Warren on parole, to act in conjunction with the Union General Payne in the exchange of 1000 bales of cotton from the South for 30,000 blankets for Confederate prisoners, has arrived in New York and reported to General Dix.

Married.—In our town, on Tuesday last, by Rev. F. Raymond, Mr. J. A. Gauthier to Miss Elodie Delbourg, both of this Parish.

Died.—In Big Cane, at the residence of Mr. Robbett, her grandfather, on the 16th Jan. 1865, Lou Hannah Smith, aged five years, two months and eight days.

Fond parents do not weep, for she has gone to God. She folded her little white hands on her breast and sweetly fell asleep. A voice of gladness is hushed around that social hearth-stone, and a bright face has passed away, leaving a mournful void. Why weep that she has gone? An angel now in Heaven, she sweeps the chords of the golden harp, plucks rich fruit from the tree of life, and drinks deep draughts from that fount of living waters which flow from the throne of God. She now stands on that radiant shore, wearing the starry crown, and singing a new song "song of the redeemed" a sound which has been echoing through the arcades of Heaven, many, many years; one of which will ever mingle with the surging waves of an eternity to come, and there in that blessed land she awaits the coming of the loved ones left behind.

ZULEMA. Opelousas, January 20th 1865.

HEAD QUARTERS, Post Quartermaster's Office, Opelousas, Jan. 18, 1865.

LIST of deserters and absentees, Weatherly's Battalion Sharp Shooters, who can avail themselves of the pardon offered by the military authorities of this District, by reporting to the undersigned, or to the Headquarters of Weatherly's Battalion on or before the 1st of February next:

- Jules Hebert, Charles Shakider, Sosthaick Ortega, Philippe Fontenot, Co. B; J. B. Chackman, D. Roy, Pierre Carriere, A. Carville, Co. C; E. Ardoin, S. Dupre, S. Bergeron, O. David, J. Deville, N. Deshotelis, Lastie L. Fontenot, M. Fontenot, E. Fournier, J. P. Lafleur, E. Ortego, B. Sollean, D. L. Roy, P. Piacet, J. Guilbeau, V. Duplchain, Co. D; F. C. Belair Fontenot, Don Louis Young, Jean Pierre Veillon, J. P. Fontenot, Cyrus Ancein, Leon Leblen, Onézime Ivo Pitre, Jessé P. Young, Lucius Langly, François Langly, Zénon Vidrine, Ozémé Deville, Marcelin Lafleur, Lucius Pitre, Robert Tale.

None can avail themselves of the pardon who have deserted since the publication of the Order from Dist. Headquarters. I have been ordered to arrest all the deserters of the above command and forward them to camp. Avail yourselves speedily of the pardon offered, and thereby avoid the consequences of an arrest and Court Martial. JAMES C. HILL, Capt. Co. D, Weatherly's Bat. S. S. Jan. 21, 1865.—34—2.

Notice.

IN virtue of an Act of Congress of the Confederate States, approved June 14th, 1864, entitled "An Act providing for the establishment and payment of claims for a certain description of property taken or informally impressed for the use of the army" and of an appointment by the Secretary of War, I will proceed at my office in Opelousas, every day, between the hours of 9 A. M. and 1 P. M., to receive and take proof, under oath, in relation to all claims in said district for forage, provisions, cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, mules, teams and wagons, heretofore taken or informally impressed for the use of the army and not yet paid for, or by his order or direction express or implied from the use of the property, etc., etc.

Parties must furnish the necessary paper to record their claims and the evidence. HENRY L. GARLAND, Opelousas, Jan. 21, 1865.—34—3.

HEAD QUARTERS, District Western Louisiana, Alexandria, Dec. 19, 1864.

General Orders No. 157. The sentence of death recently awarded by Courts Martial to deserters, and executed under my orders, sufficiently shows my purpose of dealing with men who forsake their comrades, their colors and their country in the hour of danger. But to those of my command who have been so misled from their duty, I am disposed to give one more opportunity of returning to their colors.

1. To those therefore who have deserted their comrades prior to this date, and who voluntarily surrender themselves to an Officer of the Confederate Army before the first of February, 1865, and then proceed to rejoin their proper commands, I offer a pardon, so far as to assure them that they will not be punished with death; and if they can show extenuating circumstances to palliate their crime I will be disposed to grant such a full pardon.

2. All officers who receive deserters or absentees who thus report, will forward them to their proper commands or to the nearest Headquarters, with a written statement as evidence of the fact that the deserter voluntarily gave himself up.

3. There will be no relaxation in the pursuit of deserters in consequence of the offer of pardon above extended;—but all officers are directed to use every exertion to apprehend them and to bring them to justice. Whenever they are apprehended, they will be tried by Court Martial and if found guilty will be shot to death.

The pardon is extended only to those who voluntarily give themselves up.

4. It must be distinctly understood that this pardon will not embrace any who desert after this date; and all after reporting to an officer, fail to rejoin their commands in a reasonable time will forfeit the pardon extended to them.

While I have no disposition to deal with undue severity towards any, justice to those gallant soldiers who in the face of every danger and hardship stand by their colors, requires the severest punishment of those who shrink from their sides in the day of trial. It is hoped therefore that the amnesty above offered, will bring back these erring men to their colors, and that their services hereafter will be such as to wipe out the stain which their past misconduct has placed on their characters.

S. B. BUCKNER, Lieut. Gen. Comd'g. Jan. 14, 1865.—33—3.

MOLASSES FOR SALE.

FIFTY BARRELS good molasses, will be sold to families, by the barrel or half barrel. Apply at the office of the Opelousas Courier. Opelousas 18th June 1864. 34f

Headquarters, Conscript District, La., Shreveport, Dec. 21, 1864. SPECIAL ORDERS No. 293.

VI. The Board of Medical Examiners for Conscripts will attend at the following places, on the days designated, for the purpose of examining all unassigned conscripts claiming exemption from all service, or from service in the field, on account of mental or physical disability:

- Mansfield, January 9 and 10
Manny, " 12 and 13
Lake Charles, " 17 and 18
Abbeville, " 21 and 23
Franklin, " 25
New Iberia, " 27
St. Martinsville, " 28
Veraillesville, " 30
Opelousas, February 1, 2, 3
Marksville, " 6, 7
Alexandria, " 9, 10, 11
Natchitoches, " 14, 15

Enrolling Officers will give notice in the most public manner, throughout their respective parishes, of the days fixed for examination, and will require all unassigned conscripts claiming exemption as above to be in attendance on the days designated, whether previously examined or not.—The Enrolling Officers will be in attendance, and will see that each conscript who has not been previously examined is enrolled before examination; such as have been heretofore discharged from all service, and are pronounced by the Board fit for field or staff duty, will be re-enrolled, and disposed of as indicated in previous orders. The Enrolling Officers will order before the Board for re-examination any men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years detailed on certificates of disability and assigned to the Reserve Corps, whose disability they have reason to believe has ceased to exist; if pronounced by the Board fit for field service they will be re-enrolled in the class for field service.

By order of Col. E. G. RANDOLPH, Comd'g. Conscripts, Dist. La. GOODWILL, Capt. & Adj't. Dec. 31, 1864.—31—61.

HEAD QUARTERS, Enrolling Officer, St. Landry Parish, Opelousas, January 10th, 1865.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. — To All whom these Orders may Concern.

I. In accordance with Par. IV, Gen. Orders No. 92, Head Quarters Trans-Miss. Dept., and Par. II, General Orders No. 27, Hd Quarters Bureau of Conscription, all officers who have in their employ able-bodied conscripts between the ages of 18 and 45, other than skilful artisans or mechanics, after Jan. 1st, 1865, will be promptly reported to Department Head Quarters for violation of said law.

II. In accordance with Par. VI, Special Orders No. 293, Head Quarters Conscript District, Louisiana, all unassigned conscripts claiming exemption from all service, or from service in the field, on account of mental or physical disability, will appear before the Board of Medical Examiners at Opelousas, on the 1st, 2d and 3d of Feb., for examination. Those who have been heretofore discharged will appear for re-examination.

III. In obedience to General Orders No. 26, Head Quarters Bureau of Conscription, planters will make an immediate report, to this office, of the amount of cotton they have sold to parties calling themselves Government agents—giving the names of the purchasers, with the final disposition, represented by them, made of the cotton. J. N. M. TAYLOR, Enrolling Officer, St. Landry Parish, January 14th, 1865. 33—21.

CONFEDERATE STATES TAX.

Amended Act of February 14th, 1864. NOTICE TO DEALERS AND OTHER PERSONS.

ALL PERSONS who have been engaged or interested in any kind of BUSINESS, for profit or gain, (other than planting or farming) and all who have exercised any professional calling (other than the ministry, or a civil or military office) in this Parish, at, or during any time since the 1st January, 1864, are hereby notified and required to render to the undersigned District Collector and Assessor, within fifteen days from the date of this notice, a true, correct, and complete statement of their GROSS SALES or RECEIPTS up to the 1st of January, 1865, and thereupon to pay to said Collector, the GENERAL TAX thereon, according to law; as well as the one-fifth Additional Tax, levied under the Act of June 10th, 1864, "To raise Money to increase the pay Soldiers." This one-fifth additional tax has to be paid by all persons registered in 1864.

N. B. Such persons as NEGLECT to make returns of their sales or receipts, will be subjected to a penalty in DOUBLE the amount of the tax due by them. THEO. C. LITTELL, Collector.

C. N. EALER, Assessor for St. Landry, January 14, 1865. 33—14.

WANTED.—A Lady made homeless by the war, wishes to obtain a permanent school in a good neighborhood. She has had long experience as a Teacher—can give the highest references as to qualifications, &c. Apply at the Courier Office. December 10th, 1864. 28—14

OLD TYPE METAL, Suitable for making shot, for sale at this office.

THE OPELOUSAS COURIER.

Published on Saturday, by Joel H. Sandoz. Owing to a constant fluctuation in the relative value of paper-money, we shall, from the 1st of November 1864, adopt our former rates, of 1860. Subscription, three dollars per year, payable in advance, or \$4 at the end of the year. A subscriber wishing to discontinue must give a written notice to that effect and settle up all arrearages. Advertisements will be inserted at five cents per line for each insertion; and all advertisements sent in for publication will be inserted in English and French (unless otherwise ordered) until the editor shall judge it convenient to discontinue. No subscription will be stopped until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the Editor. Candidates to public favors will pay ten dollars each, in advance, if they wish to be announced. Confederate and other current paper-money will be accepted at their relative value at the time of payment. Until further change, advertisements of the General or State Government will be inserted at the rate of fifty cents per line, payable in Confederate or State bills.

HEADQUARTERS TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT, SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA, December 21, 1864.

[Extract.] SPECIAL ORDERS No. 316.

VIII. The following schedule of prices for articles herein named, adopted by Commissioners appointed, pursuant to law, for the State of Louisiana, is announced for the information of all concerned. The prices named, are, until further orders, the maximum which will be given within the State of Louisiana, by officers and agents purchasing for the Government.

SCHEDULE OF PRICES FOR LOUISIANA. Commissary Stores.

Table with columns: Articles, Quality, Description, Quantity, Price. Lists items like Wheat, Flour, Corn, etc. with prices per bushel or barrel.

Quartermasters' Stores.

Table with columns: Articles, Quality, Description, Quantity, Price. Lists items like Fodder, Hay, Leather, Shoes, etc. with prices per unit.

To which is to be added the same increase of price for the localities as made in the value of coin, in measuring corn, 56 lbs to the bushel should be the weight allowed per bushel.

When articles are impressed in any Parish or State, not produced or raised in that Parish or State, the authorized transportation from the place of production is to be added.

The following scale of prices for the service, &c., hereinafter specified, will be paid by officers of the army and Government agents:

Transportation by Stage for soldiers or any person in the employ of the Confederate States Government, shall be paid for at the rate of 40 cents per mile on Stage, or twenty-five cents per mile by Railroad, and 5 cents per mile by Boat.

For hauling tax in kind and other supplies, to be paid for at the rate of six cents per hundred pounds per mile—forage to be furnished by owner of team.

Six mule or eight ox team—driver, rations and forage furnished by Government—ten dollars per day. Owners furnishing driver, rations and forage—seventeen dollars per day.

Four mule or six ox team—driver, forage and rations furnished by the Government—eight dollars per day. Owner furnishing driver, rations and forage—thirteen dollars per day.

Two mule or four ox team—driver, rations and forage furnished by the Government—six dollars per day. Owner furnishing driver, rations and forage—eight dollars per day.

Load for two mule wagon and team, eight hundred pounds; load for all others, five hundred pounds per head.

Distance: mule team, eighteen miles per day; ox team, fourteen miles per day. If the load or distance be greater or less than the above, the price to vary accordingly.

For the hire of Grist or Saw Mills, one dollar per day for each horse-power, the Government to furnish everything, and repair all damages beyond the usual wear and tear.

For the hire of negro men, eighteen dollars per month, the Government to furnish rations, clothes, shoes, hats, blankets and medical attendance.

For the rental of stores or other tenements, eighteen per cent. per annum on the State Tax assessment, pro rata for portions of buildings.

For all pine trees cut for saw logs, the Government shall pay one dollar per tree, and for Cypress trees, two and a half dollars per tree.

When articles are impressed which are not the product of the State wherein impressed, the authorized transportation will be allowed from the place of production to the place wherein impressed.

The above schedule of prices has been adopted by the Commissioners at this session, and they would respectfully recommend that, in addition to its publication in one of the newspapers of each Parish, that the same be published in hand-bill form, and each and every Quartermaster and Commissary be furnished with copies.

JOS. H. HYNSON, REUBEN WHITE, Commissioners. By command of S. S. ANDERSON, Assistant Adjutant General. Gen. E. KIRBY SMITH, [Jan. 14, 1865.—33—4].

Notice. PLANTERS having vouchers in duplicate given by officers of the army in payment of the Tithe Tax of 1864, will deliver them to the Depot Agents before the expiration of each month, and receive from them the proper receipts. I. F. LITTELL, General Agent Tax in Kind, Parish of St. Landry, Opelousas, December 31st, 1864.—31—14

FOR SALE. A second hand family CARRIAGE payable in New Issue Confederate Notes. Apply at the Courier Office. Opelousas, Nov. 19th, 1864. 25—14.

E. Claude House. THIS establishment (formerly Union Hotel) has lately been reopened for the convenience of regular boarders and the public. A good Stable is attached to the Hotel. EMILE CLAUDE. Opelousas, August 8 1863.

Notice. THE Post Office is removed to Main street next to C. N. Ealer's corner, where the undersigned will sell Merchandise and produce on commission. JOHN MACDONALD. Opelousas, Dec. 31, 1864.