

# The Opelousas Courier.

Vol. XXVIII.

Opelousas, Parish of St. Landry, La., July 2, 1881.

No. 39.

## The Opelousas Courier.

Official Journal of Town of Opelousas.

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY, BY LEONCE & L. A. SANDOZ.

OPPELOUSAS.

SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1881.

Savien Cart, Esq., has been appointed notary public for this parish.

Northern ice sells in Lake Charles at two cents per pound. So says the Echo.

Samuel Trivas, alias Samuel Field, convicted last March, in the district court for Rapides parish, of the murder of A. J. Hanna, will be executed at Alexandria on the 8th day of July.

We learn that Judge Albert Voorhies comes this evening on the train to attend the session of the Supreme Court, where he is retained to argue a civil case from this parish and a criminal case from Avoyelles.

The assessment rolls are completed, and filed in the Recorder's office, and thirty days is the time allowed for their inspection and correction. See notice to that effect, by Oct. Fontenot, assessor, in another column.

Attorneys, litigants, and all others interested in cases before our Supreme Court, which opens here on the 5th of July inst., are respectfully informed that we are prepared to do Brief Printing neatly, quickly, accurately, and at reasonable prices.

Mr. Theodore Chachere, one of the members of the immigration committee, offers very fair inducements to small farmers to settle in our parish. He owns 1200 arpents of splendid land—the most of which is under fence—within three and four miles of Opelousas, which he proposes to cut up into tracts of twenty arpents, furnishing a double room house to each tract, and selling these plots at \$500, payable in 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years. Where no house is furnished, or the land is not fenced, he will sell for a less price, giving the same length of time as above, to make payments. Now this looks like business, and sounds like earnest feeling. Who will speak next in the same tone?

On Friday evening, the 24th ult., we had quite a storm of wind from the east, which, fortunately, lasted but a few minutes in its violence. Mr. Theodore Chachere's rice mill, in process of erection, was blown down and some of the timbers badly broken. The damages, however, will be immediately repaired, and the building will be finished in full time for the rice crop. Although the wind lasted only a few minutes, many trees and a good deal of fencing were blown down in some portions of town and the country. The rainfall was very partial, and did not amount to anything. Partial showers have fallen during the past week in a few favored spots, but not enough to do much good to the parched corn crops.

The Hon. T. S. Fontenot, our staunch democratic senator, was in town on Tuesday last, and was looking the very picture of health. He gives a gloomy account of the crops in his portion of the parish, and says that if it does not rain a thorough shower within a very few days, the corn crop will be a total failure. He told us that a neighbor of his—Mr. Antonio Miller—had a number of potato plants growing, which came up from the seed of the potato tuber. He is experimenting with them, to ascertain what they will produce, or to demonstrate if they will produce genuine tubers, as those produced from the stems or other potatoes. This is something new to us, and we will await the result of his experiment with much interest.

The divine services, at the Episcopal church, were very impressive and interesting on Sunday last. The Right Rev. Bishop Galleher, of the Louisiana diocese of the Protestant Episcopal church, delivered a very eloquent sermon, at 11 o'clock a. m., to a large and attentive congregation. After the conclusion of his discourse, his eminent pastor, assisted by the able Rector—the Rev. Mr. Coombs—received ten candidates into the church by the solemn administration of the sacraments, and administered to a large number of communicants.

Deputy Collector is now a commanding and dignified appearance, affable and eloquent in his conversation; earnest and convincing in his ministry; and one who is devoted in heart and soul to the great work of his divine Rector. In the afternoon, he went to Washington and preached at 6 o'clock, and on Monday morning he went to the Morgan train for New Iberia, where his official church duties called him. He informed us that he was expected to visit Opelousas again in September or October, when he would make a more prolonged stay in our place.

## A Big Brace Game.

PLAYED ON THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PARTIES THEREOF.

[N. O. Times.]

Publication has been made in the newspapers of the discovery of one of the grandest swindles that has ever been perpetrated upon the United States government. The facts of the case are:

George Taylor, a congressman from New York, succeeded in 1874 in obtaining the recognition before the French-American claims commission of the claim of Belloc, Nobiom & Co., for \$298,064. This sum was supposed to represent the value of cotton which had been destroyed by the United States forces in Louisiana during the war.

A judgment was rendered by the Court of Claims, and the money was paid, and subsequently it was discovered that the claim was entirely fraudulent. The Court of Claims annulled their decision, but the money was of course not recovered. A party by the name of Vallade was connected with the late Fourth District Court of this city and from the parties connected with the case the following particulars of the first and original suit are gathered:

A man by the name of Boucard and another by the name of Bernard contracted with A. P. Nobiom, the surviving partner of Belloc, Nobiom & Co., to prosecute the claim, for which they were to receive two thirds of whatever amount might be recovered. A party by the name of Vallade was connected with them as assistant. George Taylor was employed to prosecute the claims at Washington, and a lawyer at New Orleans was engaged to take testimony in the case. In the beginning of these proceedings Bernard died. After judgment was rendered on the claim Peychaud, the syndic of the firm of Belloc, Nobiom & Co., went to Washington and received from the proceeds of the judgment \$98,000 which he placed in bank and took a tabernacle of distribution in the Fourth District Court then presided over by Judge Barney Lynch. A great many oppositions were filed to Peychaud's tabernacle, and the money was all absorbed and paid. Vallade presented a claim which was rejected. After the money was distributed, Bonchard claimed that he had not received as much as he was entitled to, and therefore called on Peychaud to come to his relief, which he did not do. Bonchard then swore that he would break up the whole thing, and immediately went to work with that object in view. The result proves that he succeeded.

Mr. J. D. Houston, tax collector for the city and parish of Orleans, has written a long letter to the Auditor, in which he alleges, that he is powerless to enforce the payment of delinquent taxes, as there has been no legal forfeitures of the lands of delinquents to the State, under the provisions of the act in view. He is holding for the delinquents, and that all sales made in pursuance thereof are null and void. As the same difficulties probably exist in all of the other parishes, we publish the following summary from Mr. Houston's letter for the benefit of our readers:

1. That the sales to the State under acts of 1871, 1873 and 1874 are almost without exception invalid.

2. That it is not my duty to assume them to be good when I know the contrary.

3. That there have been no forfeitures under acts of 1877 and 1878.

4. That for this reason there can be no sales, as the sales must have been preceded by the forfeiture.

5. That the State constitution of 1879 prohibits forfeitures of real estate for taxes after its adoption.

6. That the back taxes to be collected under act No. 107, of 1880, can only be collected when the property bound for such taxes has already been forfeited, or validly sold to the State.

7. That as there exists neither the forfeiture nor the valid sales I can do nothing under act No. 17 of 1880.

8. That, except under the act No. 107—there exists no authority to bid real estate, in the parish of Orleans, for back State taxes due prior to 1880.

With the above stated facts, signing me in the face, I have stopped all further work in preparing lists for advertisement and notices regarding back taxes due prior to 1880, as a continuance of the work would be productive of no good, and simply entail a further expense upon me.

The advertisements would cost between twelve and twenty thousand dollars, the payment of which, amount I would be compelled to guarantee, and upon failure to collect the taxes, which would be inevitable, I would have the amount to pay. As it is, I have already expended over \$2000 in clerk hire and stationery.

I would respectfully suggest that you, in your next report, ask the legislature notice to this state of affairs, so that body, if it has within their power, may take some steps to remedy the evil.

The immigration committee met on Wednesday evening last, and appointed a sub-committee to draft a plan of organization for an immigration association, to correspond with the agent of German immigration, and Wm. H. Harris, agent of immigration for the State of Louisiana, and make their report to the committee of date at a meeting to be held on the 20th July.

At their next meeting, the committee expect to have everything perfected for the regular and permanent organization of an immigration association.

A century plant on the old John Germain place, near Washington, is in bloom.

## Back Taxes.

[N. O. States.]

Mr. Jas. D. Houston writes a letter to Auditor Jemel, in which he explains that, owing to the fact that the laws and formalities relative to the sale and forfeiture of property of delinquents not having been complied with, he cannot enforce the collection of the back taxes prior to 1880, until there is some remedy applied by the Legislature. Thus, for the present, at least, there is a complete break down of the machinery for the collection of back taxes. With such a constitution and such legislation as we have had under the guidance of rings and corrupt politicians, it is no wonder that, as the *Picayune* remarks, "the State government seems to have fallen into decay." Well, what are we going to do about it? There can be no appeal to the people for several years yet and we must rely upon the present corrupt ring Legislature for relief. And what relief can the honest interests of the State hope for from an irresponsible body, a majority of which has been in several instances bought up and organized in the support of interests hostile to the people?

NEWSPAPER.—Mr. John McCormick, of our town, will soon commence the publication of a weekly six column paper, to be called "The Lake Charles Commercial." The press, type and printing office furniture, are new, and Mr. McCormick is an excellent practical printer, of many years' experience. We are informed that the initial number of the Commercial will be issued early in July. In the meantime we will be pleased to furnish our contemporary with the use of our exchanges.—*Lake Charles Echo.*

The present car is said to possess more courage than his father.

Over five hundred persons were confined in the Catholic Church in New Iberia.

Postmaster General James says that he strongly believes in the public service employing young men, for his experience has taught him that all successful reformers were young men.

The various new encyclopedias claim to answer almost any question under the sun, but none of them has yet answered the question as to whom was Mr. William Paterson's assaillant.

Think of over one hundred thousand sheep in one flock. On the elevated Alps a flock of these itchy animals numbering 125,000 passed through Pleasant Valley, in Nevada. The country was covered for miles with them. They were being driven from California to Montana.

The bridge across the Berwick bay which is being built by the Morgan road is progressing rapidly. Piles are being driven at the rate of twenty-five a day and the contractors state that the bridge will be completed and ready for trains by fall. All of the piles are thoroughly creosoted, and the structure will be substantial.—*N. O. Times.*

The king of Siam has forwarded a stoups to be used in the construction of the National Washington monument, which has been raised so far to a height of 200 feet. It is expected 45 feet more will be added to the structure before work will have to be stopped for the winter. The total height is to be 550 feet, which will make it the loftiest building raised by man above the surface of the earth in the world. The spire of the cathedral of Cologne is now the tallest.—*N. O. Times.*

The planters of Southern Georgia and Florida are turning their attention to the cultivation of upland rice. The pine lands yield from twenty to fifty bushels per acre, and last year it sold at \$1.05 per bushel at home. A Lake City merchant has received an order from New York for 10,000 bushels, for which 85 cents is offered. Has it ever occurred to our Louisiana planters that they can raise their own rice? There is no doubt that it will grow luxuriantly in every parish in the State, and it is quite as easily cultivated as corn.—*Es.*

The examination and commencement exercises of the consolidated public school took place at the Opelousas Opera House on Thursday, the 26th ult. The enrollment of this school is about 130 pupils—boys and girls—and the studies ranged from primary to the academic grade. The pupils all acquitted themselves in a manner creditable alike to themselves and to their teachers, and established beyond question the diligence of the former and the competency and conscientious discharge of duties by the latter. The commencement exercises, at night, were particularly interesting, including declamations, essays, recitations, lyrical dialogues, operetta and music. The house was packed to almost suffocation, and although the heat was almost insupportable, the large audience maintained their lively interest in the close of the well executed programme. We have not time now to say more, but conclude by assuring teachers and pupils, that they performed their duties well, and are justly entitled to all praise, with a pleasant vacation from their onerous labors.

Thereafter, any person intending to make opposition to said appointment will file the same with the following named section his filed notice of his intention to make said opposition in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the judge or Clerk of Court at Opelousas, La., on Tuesday, July 26th, 1881, viz: Joseph L. Couvreur, Homestead No. 466, for the lots 13 and 16 on S. E. of Sec. 21, Township 8 S., R. 3 E., La. Meridian. His name the following witnesses to prove his contention on residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz: Leon Mrs. Charles Wolcott, Joseph Couvreur and John Couvreur, of St. Landry parish, La. GEO. BALDLY, Register.

TWO town lots, with improvements, situated on the northern portion of the town of Opelousas, formerly belonging to Jacques Delbecq, for further particulars apply at Bienville, July 2, 1881.

## JUDICIAL NOTICES

Probate Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 4250

ESTATE OF MIRZA SHERIF GUILLOEY.

By virtue of an order of the Honorable the Probate Court in and for the parish of Saint Landry, there will be sold at public auction, to the last and highest bidder, by the undersigned administrator or a duly qualified auctioneer at the late residence of G. Delbecq, in Chataignier, parish aforesaid, on WEDNESDAY, August 3, 1881, the following described property, belonging to the estate of Mirza Sherif Guilloey, deceased to-wit:

1. The plantation on which deceased last died, situated in Chataignier, in the aforesaid parish, containing two hundred and thirty acres, together with all the buildings and improvements situated thereon, bounded north by Napoleon Bonaparte, east by Damas Ardoin, south by Heric Anouin, and west by Valmont Guilloey.

2. Eighty arpents of woodland situated contiguous to the aforesaid plantation, in the aforesaid parish, and bounded north by Dorin Leclercq, east by Dorin P. Anouin, south by the railroad lands, and west by the last mentioned.

3. A tract of woodland situated as the foregoing, containing sixty arpents, and bounded north by the bayou des Cannes, east by the railroad land, south by Antoine Miller, and west by the last mentioned.

4. A tract of woodland situated as the foregoing, containing forty arpents and bounded north by bayou des Cannes, east by Theophile Bonaparte, south by the railroad lands, and west by the last mentioned.

5. Thirty head of cattle, more or less, ranging in the parish of Calcasieu.

6. Thirty head of gentle horned cattle, more or less.

7. One yoke oxen, three head horses, one or two mules, one buggy and harness, five head swine, one cow, one sheep, two sheep, one cavalry plow, household furniture, kitchen utensils, farming implements, &c.

Terms and conditions.—All adjudications of ten dollars and under, payable cash, and all adjudications over ten dollars payable in three equal annual installments from the day of sale; purchase money to be paid in cash, and the interest on the purchase money, at the rate of eight per cent per annum, interest shall be added on all sums not punctually paid; also ten per cent shall be added on all sums not punctually paid, and the same shall be added on all sums not punctually paid, and the same shall be added on all sums not punctually paid, and the same shall be added on all sums not punctually paid.

LOUIS BAPTISTE GUILLOEY, Administrator.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

McCleskey & Robbins vs. W. O. Posey.

District Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 19291.

Edward Heath vs. W. O. Posey.

District Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 19306.

Pierre Bussone vs. W. O. Posey.

District Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 19351.

Louis Grunwald vs. W. O. Posey.

District Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 19353.

J. C. Auer & Co. vs. W. O. Posey.

District Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 19362.

Simeon F. Sait vs. W. O. Posey.

District Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 19372.

C. B. Block & Co. vs. W. O. Posey.

District Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 19318.

By virtue of writs of fieri facias issued by the Hon. the District Court in and for the parish of St. Landry, in the above entitled suits, and to me directed, I will proceed to sell at public auction to the highest bidder, at the Poney Dragstore, in the town of Opelousas, parish of St. Landry, on SATURDAY, July 10th, 1881, at 11 o'clock a. m., the following listed property, to-wit:

One lot of goods consisting of drugs and medicines, stationery, fancy articles, glassware, &c. points, varnishes, brushes, school books, &c. &c. &c. and further, fancy pipes, fish-hooks, lines, fine wines and liquors; fancy soaps and fine perfumery, &c. &c. &c.

Sealed in the above entitled suits.

Terms—cash.

C. C. DUSON, Sheriff of the parish of St. Landry, Opelousas, July 2, 1881.

NOTICE OF TABLEAU.

Probate Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 4117

ESTATE OF PIERRE COMBAY AND WIFE.

Whereas, J. E. Combes, of the parish of St. Landry, administrator, has filed a final tableau of distribution of funds of said estate, accompanied by his petition praying for the same to be approved and confirmed.

And whereas, the said J. E. Combes, administrator, has been granted by an order of court dated June 22, 1881.

Now, therefore, notice is hereby given to all persons interested to make opposition to said tableau, in writing, at my office in the town of Opelousas, La., on Tuesday, July 26th, 1881, by which said tableau should not be homologated and confirmed. JAMES O. CHACHERE, Clerk.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION.

Probate Court, Parish of St. Landry, No. 4254

ESTATE OF FELICITE ROBIN.

Whereas, A. E. DeKerling, of St. Landry, has applied by his petition to be appointed administrator of the estate of Felicite Robin deceased, late of the parish of St. Landry.

Therefore, any person intending to make opposition to said appointment will file the same with the following named section his filed notice of his intention to make said opposition in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the judge or Clerk of Court at Opelousas, La., on Tuesday, July 26th, 1881, viz: Joseph L. Couvreur, Homestead No. 466, for the lots 13 and 16 on S. E. of Sec. 21, Township 8 S., R. 3 E., La. Meridian. His name the following witnesses to prove his contention on residence upon, and cultivation of, said land, viz: Leon Mrs. Charles Wolcott, Joseph Couvreur and John Couvreur, of St. Landry parish, La. GEO. BALDLY, Register.

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