

Opeulous Courier.

Official Journal of the Parish of St. Landry. PUBLISHED ON SATURDAY BY LEONCE & L. A. SANDOZ.

OPELOUSAS: SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 1888.

DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET.

- For Governor: FRANCIS T. NICHOLS, of Assump. Co. For Lieutenant-Governor: JAMES JEFFRIES, of Rapides. For Secretary of State: L. F. MASON, of Concordia. For Attorney-General: WALTER H. ROBERTS, of Orleans. For State Treasurer: W. H. PIPES, of East Feliciana. For Auditor of Public Accounts: O. B. STEELE, of Union. For Superintendent of Public Education: J. S. BREAUX, of Iberia.

We are authorized to announce Gen. THOS. C. ANDERSON as a candidate for Sheriff at the election in April next.

READ THIS.

It is with pleasure that we announce to our many patrons that we have again made arrangements with that wide-awake, illustrated farm magazine, THE AMERICAN FARMER, published at Fort Wayne, Ind., and read by nearly 200,000 farmers, by which that great publication will be mailed direct FREE, to the address of any of our subscribers who will come in and pay up all arrears on subscription and one year in advance from date, and to any new subscriber who will pay one year in advance. This is a grand opportunity to obtain a first-class farm journal free. THE AMERICAN FARMER is a large 16-page journal, of national circulation, which ranks among the leading agricultural papers. It treats the questions of economy in agriculture and the rights and privileges of that vast body of citizens—American Farmers—whose industry is the basis of all material and national prosperity. Its highest purpose is the elevation and ennobling of agriculture, through the higher and broader education of the men and women engaged in its pursuits. The regular subscription price of THE AMERICAN FARMER is \$1.00 per year. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING. From any one number ideas can be obtained that will be worth three times the amount, yet YOU GET IT FREE. Call and see sample copy.

Get our prices for Job work.

WANTED.—A good, persevering collector.

Communications touching on anything of public interest are solicited.

We learn that fresh cantaloupe can be bought at a fair price on board the passenger trains on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Salt water fish, crabs and oysters can be had at Villaseca's every Wednesday and Friday during Lent. Send him your orders.

Snipe, which have been so scarce, are abundant in our prairies. The wild geese have taken their journey northward once more. This indicates a close of cold weather.

A parade of the Opelousas Fire Department will take place to-morrow (Sunday), March 4. The members of Opelousas Fire Co. No. 1 are requested to assemble at 10 a. m. at Littlell's Drugstore.

We noticed a good many improved agricultural implements on sale at our neighboring stores. This evinces a spirit of progress in our farming methods, and will assure an increase in our various products.

Mr. Geo. Elms, who purchased the Dupré residence near the depot is improving the premises with much taste in utility and appearance. He has had the house repainted, the new fence put up, and is now erecting a commodious outbuilding. A good deal of whitewashing is going on in different parts of town.

The recent heavy floods of rain were a positive benefit to our hitherto bad roads, beating down the mud and to a great extent filling up the ruts. The holes are almost dry, and the mud, which has been interrupted so long, has been resumed as usual. There has been a decided improvement in business.

NOTICE.—The public is hereby warned not to neglect a note given by me to the order of Joseph Figurant, for one hundred dollars, dated Feb. 27th, 1888, payable ten days after date and witnessed by Honore Michel and Gaston Peck. The said note having been obtained under duress and fraud and it having no consideration. JOSEPH THIBODEAU.

NECROLOGICAL.—W. W. Corcoran, the great philanthropist, was buried, under the rites of the Episcopal Church, at Washington City on last Monday evening. In accordance with the wishes of the deceased, the ceremonies were simple and devoid of ostentation. Many distinguished persons attended the funeral, among them Mrs. Cleveland who presented a beautiful pillow of flowers, and many other floral tributes sent by friends of the dead millionaire.

CARP FISH.—Mr. Diomed Durie informs us that the young German carp fish, which he received a few weeks ago, are doing well and are ready to market. He has them in a shallow enclosure of the lake, where he will feed and keep them until they are large enough to be turned out into the large body of water. In the center of three or four years Durie Lake will be teeming with this rapidly growing and excellent variety of fish.

We are informed that Mr. Bourdin of this town, who places some in his pond every four years ago, caught one last summer that weighed ten or twelve pounds.

WEATHER AND FARM.—The continuous rains during January and the first of February three days later back at least three weeks. At this time last year all of the first planting of corn had been made, and the greater part of the corn land had been planted. Up to this date but little corn has been planted, and this, if any, had been broken for cotton. The farmers, however, are making a better start than in the past, and are working with renewed energy and determination of purpose. If good weather prevails for a month to come much will be done to overcome past delays, and good crops may yet be made. All depend upon the weather, and we will watch it with interest, and we believe they will make it so.

STRICTLY.—On last Saturday evening about 230 o'clock, Mr. Jacques Jager committed suicide by shooting himself through the temple with a .32 caliber pistol, producing death almost instantaneously. The deceased had been one of our leading grocers here for several years past, and was from New Orleans—and to all appearances was doing business in the most successful manner. He was a man of about 40 years of age, was a pleasant and amiable citizen, and his death is a great loss to the community. He was buried at the Catholic cemetery on last Monday morning. His wife and children are in a state of great affliction, and we hope that the merciful God will comfort them in their bereavement. Let the mantle of charity be thrown over the dead, and let the living be reminded of the vanity of life and the certainty of death.

A Plain Duty.

The fact that a Reform newspaper here and there throughout the State is guilty of the bad taste of keeping up the contest which was settled by the Baton Rouge Convention, is an invidious thing at friends of Gov. McEnery, is not a sufficient justification for the latter to become lukewarm in the cause of Democracy. The editor of this paper has no objection to his advocacy of the present Executive, because he believes in his integrity of purpose and had faith in his ability. He held during the canvass and the last week or two he was unjustly persecuted and outrageously misrepresented; that his highest ambition was to do his duty as a citizen, and to secure the greatest good for the greatest number.

On the other hand, we distrusted the extreme conservatism of General Nichols. In the heat of the campaign, we never penned a word that could be distorted into a reflection upon his high personal character; upon his military record; upon his patriotism; or upon his integrity. We desired to promote what we might conceive to be the best interests of the State.

Whether our estimate of General Nichols was correct or not, we do not know, and we do not discuss. Suffice it that the paper was against us. A strict party man, because of the conviction that the integrity of no party can be maintained if each member thereof arrogates to himself to either desert or desert or desert his ranks, we sacrifice no pride of opinion in bowing to the legitimately expressed will of the majority. Our conscience or party fealty could not justify us in failing to support the ticket nominated by a convention in the creation of which we had been a participant, even by the firm conviction that our friends, the Reformers, had found themselves in a minority they would have bolted. Our political convictions are our own and we cannot afford to measure them by those of others.

So much for the past. As regards the future, there is only one course for the true friends of the State to pursue, only one plain duty to perform, and that is to bend every effort to the election of the Democratic ticket; it were midsummer night madness to do otherwise. It would be to favor the party of the day, and not the party of the future. General Nichols has believed or believes now that his election will at all militate against the interests of the State, and that he can do so without the approval of the people. He has, however, strenuously opposed his nomination, was that his extreme conservative views and opinions might be put before the people, and that by active in carrying elections from taking the same interest in his. There was never any danger to be apprehended from North Louisiana—the only question was, whether the State would roll up a majority large enough to overcome an adverse one that would likely come up to the month of February. But whatever the result, the State would be better off with a Democratic administration than with a Republican one. The publication of all laws of a local nature in the local paper is a plain duty, and it is a duty that should be performed by every citizen who is a citizen of the State.

Personal.

A. J. Lafargue, Esq., the talented young editor of the Opelousas Bulletin, was here last Thursday, on business connected with the next meeting of the Louisiana Press Association, as a member of the Executive Committee.

Mrs. Remi Mornhiney has returned home after an absence of several months in California.

Miss Yetta Randall of New Orleans, who has been in the city for some time, is here on a visit to her mother, Mrs. P. Price of the Crescent City on last Sunday.

Miss Anna Williams, accompanied by her mother, left last Sunday for Mississippi where they will reside in future.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press does not like the tone of the Southern newspapers upon the political situation, and has written a long article, and flings back by saying that the malaria in the South during the summer months is due to the malarial fever, and that the weather charged against the Northwest. Now, if the editor of that paper would only travel through the South during the summer months, he would find that the malarial fever is in no more northern latitudes, and that his bugbear—malaria—is confined to a comparatively few districts of our country and is not a general pest of the South.

There are numerous indications also, that the National Republican Committee is taking no little interest in the present campaign in our State, and it is not unlikely that it will supply the Republican State Executive Committee with funds adequate to carry on a serious campaign.

The mere thought of a Republican triumph in Louisiana, should remove the last vestige of the rancor created by the recent factional fight and impel every good Democrat to come forward and support the ticket of the Reform and Warmoth and his followers.

A Great Newspaper.

The London Times recently celebrated its centennial in a manner befitting such an anniversary of the leading journal of Europe, if not of the world. There are many very interesting things connected with its history, and it is a pleasure to read of it in its preparation, with the exception of paper and ink, is manufactured in the United States. Its press is composed of machinery and apparatus constructed on the grounds. The proprietor, Mr. John Walter, invented the press now used by the Times, and they are carried on by printing 75,000 copies per hour at the office, and the most approved construction and arrangement, designed with special attention to the comfort of the army of employees.

Being in his 83d year, Mr. Ferdinand de Lesseps can look around him and see very few men of anything like equal eminence who are as old as he. The German Emperor is 90; Dr. Dollinger is 88; Melcher and Baneroff, the two great astronomers, are 90 and 92; Prof. Owen is 83; it is not easy to extend the list. Yet it is astonishing to note the large number of living great men who have passed the age of 70. Of statesmen, Mr. Gladstone is 77; Mr. Bright is 79; Prince Bismarck is 72; Jules Ferry is 74; M. Leon Say and M. Lenoir are each 71; Lord Selborne is 75 and Lord Cairnes is 72. Of generals, McMahon is 79; Lebon is 78. Of poets, Lord Tennyson is 78; Browning is 77; Keats is 75; and finally, of musicians, Verdi is 73. Of engineers, Lord Armstrong is 77 and Sir John Hawkshaw is 76. Of painters, Millais is 74, and finally, of novelists, Dickens is 71.

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The Duties of Our Next Press Convention.

Winona Advance. The Mississippi Press Association at its last session struck the key note on several matters which it will present to the State Legislature, being of vast importance to the people and the press.

The resolution asking the Legislature to pass a law authorizing the publication of all laws of a local nature in the local papers, every body is bound to admit is a good one, for then a average reader familiarizes himself with the laws of his country, when on the other hand if they are published in the official journal, but comparatively few people of the several counties ever see them and in bond form still fewer have the benefit of them. To publish them in the local papers means for the poorest and blindest man in the county to have the same opportunity that the rich man has of knowing the laws as they become laws.

The second one requiring all sales of property made under a deed of trust to be published in the local papers is a good one, for the reason that it will give every citizen an opportunity to see said sale, which would of course draw more bidders, and consequently the property sold would bring a better price.

The third one requiring insurance companies to publish annual statements in each county where they have an agency, is for the protection of the public against frauds, and will meet the approval of all good companies, and should be recognized by the Legislature in the interests of the people.

The fourth one, the protection of a local paper in matters of legal publication where the printer's fee is not secured. In some cases every bill of cost save the printer's fee is lost, and that the most important part has to be taken the chances. Very much important because action cannot be taken in the premises until the printer's cost of publication is made, and still his cost is not provided for.

Below are the four resolutions as passed by the Press Association which we commend to the careful attention of the Legislature and the public at large.

Resolved, That the chair appoint a committee of three whose duty it shall be to prepare a bill or bills to amend the laws relating to the publication of laws, and the same presented at the next meeting of that body, embodying the following provisions, which we believe to be just and should become a law at its next meeting:

1st. The publication of all laws of a local nature in the local paper.

2d. The publication of all sales of property made under a deed of trust.

3d. Requiring insurance companies to publish annual statements of their respective assets in every county in which they have local agents.

4th. Securing to newspapers their fees for legal advertising either by a deposit, or by bond, to be filed with the clerk of the court.

The Boss Texas Ranch.

N. O. City. The 3,000-acre Texas gave to an Illinois syndicate, as full payment for a state capital site, has been turned into an enormous stock ranch, and is now known as the Parandale of Texas, and extends through and takes in a part of ten counties. This vast extent of country is bounded on the north by the Red River, and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico. It is one of the largest ranches in the world. Within this area several farms have been fenced off and numerous stock pens have been built. The ranch is owned by Hockley, Lamb, Deaf Smith, Oldham, Hartley and Dallas; one farm in each. Their cultivation has proved the falseness of the old-time belief in the fertility of the State. Without irrigation, no new ground, these farms last year produced, per acre 30 bushels of corn, 40 of oats, large crops of millets, sorghum, and other crops. The ranch is now in the hands of a syndicate of men, and is being developed into a great stock ranch.

Republican Activity.

Capitolian-Advocate. Numerous letters have been received here from reliable sources in various parts of the State, denouncing the activity of the Republicans in displaying unusual activity in registering and to bring their entire strength to the polls on election day. In view of these reports, it is believed that the Democrats will make counter preparations to overcome the large vote that the Republicans will surely cast for their State ticket.

Times-Democrat.

When the Russian colony or possessions of Alaska was purchased by the United States, the colony was a barren, desolate, and almost uninhabited land. It was thought that the government had given too much for it. It paid half as much, those people complained, as it did for Louisiana, when Alaska, before the purchase, was a more fertile and productive land than Louisiana. The results have been eminently satisfactory. The advantages of annexation to the United States were soon made conspicuous. During the many years since the purchase, it had made no advance in wealth or population, and the government pronounced it worthless. Russia congratulated itself when the colony was sold, and the people of the United States were taken in.

Capitolian-Advocate.

The present condition of Alaska proves it a mistake. The colony has made a net revenue of 5 per cent on the purchase money, and as it can get all the money it wants at less than three per cent it is actually deriving a good profit from the purchase.

Under this government.

Under this government, the population of the country has increased. There are now over 2000 white settlers in Alaska and 7000 natives. The soil is fertile and the resources of Alaska are rich in fish and minerals. There is an abundance of coal; the forests will afford great quantities of lumber, and the process of extraction is not expensive, and it is thought the vein extends for miles the whole length of the Douglas Island. The deep sea fisheries are rich and the process of extraction is not expensive, and it is thought the vein extends for miles the whole length of the Douglas Island.

Being in his 83d year.

Being in his 83d year, Mr. Ferdinand de Lesseps can look around him and see very few men of anything like equal eminence who are as old as he. The German Emperor is 90; Dr. Dollinger is 88; Melcher and Baneroff, the two great astronomers, are 90 and 92; Prof. Owen is 83; it is not easy to extend the list. Yet it is astonishing to note the large number of living great men who have passed the age of 70. Of statesmen, Mr. Gladstone is 77; Mr. Bright is 79; Prince Bismarck is 72; Jules Ferry is 74; M. Leon Say and M. Lenoir are each 71; Lord Selborne is 75 and Lord Cairnes is 72. Of generals, McMahon is 79; Lebon is 78. Of poets, Lord Tennyson is 78; Browning is 77; Keats is 75; and finally, of musicians, Verdi is 73. Of engineers, Lord Armstrong is 77 and Sir John Hawkshaw is 76. Of painters, Millais is 74, and finally, of novelists, Dickens is 71.

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Our Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 27, 1888.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE COURIER:

Congress is disposed to act upon all public bills with as much dispatch as possible so as to take up the tariff and the local tariff bill before the session convenes. Legislation for public buildings is receiving more attention than at any time before, and the bill for the erection of the new building for the National Conventions, which will not be until August, but the meeting of the Democratic convention in June and the Republican convention shortly afterwards makes systematic legislation get away to the day of the meeting has been fixed. The Ways and Means Committee will press forward the bill for the erection of the new building for the National Conventions, which will not be until August, but the meeting of the Democratic convention in June and the Republican convention shortly afterwards makes systematic legislation get away to the day of the meeting has been fixed.

Capitolian-Advocate.

Had rules for the government of the Democratic party been adopted, four years ago, as the Capitolian-Advocate has suggested, the preliminary State Parish Executive Committees would have been prevented and the numerous divisions, bolts, etc., averted, and the Democratic party in many parishes. As matters now stand, aspirants for office feel justified by precedents to look out for themselves in what bids fair to become a free-for-all struggle for the places. This condition of affairs will continue until the danger of common defeat is fully realized, and the public welfare imperiled.

It will be remembered that Lafayette was, perhaps, the most enthusiastic Nichols parish in the recent contest for the gubernatorial nomination, and from that fact it would naturally be inferred that the State ticket would be carefully looked after there. Much to our surprise, however, we find in the case, for, in the last issue of the Advertiser, we find the following note of warning, which is called from a communication signed "Vil-lager":

Mr. Editor—Will you not join your voice and influence to that of right thinking and feeling people, so that an end may be put to the glorious election now going on in this State? The fact is, the planting of crops has been demoralized, the planting of crops and bargains made by men who will be unable to make a cent out of it, and it is a plain fact that the State ticket is being carried by the Democrats.

There is another reason to change methods which commends itself to all true Democrats, and that is the fact that the Democrats are being carried by the Republicans in the State. The man who puts a ten dollar advertisement in his paper, flatterer himself that he is a liberal advertiser, will be surprised that a yearly advertisement of one column in length in the Times-Democrat will cost him only \$25.00. The New York Herald receives for the lowest column \$36.25 and for the highest \$38.00. The New York Tribune charges \$25.00 for the lowest column, and \$30.00 for the highest. These papers, it is stated, are never at a loss for advertisements to fill their columns.

Democratic Parish Committee.

OPELOUSAS, Feb. 30, 1888.

A quorum present. On motion of Jones P. Smith for executive committee for a Democratic convention are to be held on Saturday, March 17th, 1888, to select delegates to assemble at a Democratic nominating convention to be held at the city of New Orleans, Louisiana, on the 30th of March, 1888, the said convention to assemble for the purpose of reorganizing the Executive Committee and for the purpose of doing any and all things which may be necessary to the interest of the parish of St. Landry.

On motion of Willis Prescott, duly seconded, the polls are to open on March 17th, at 8 o'clock, at the residence of Mr. J. P. Smith, on the corner of the main street and the street leading to the depot. On motion of Willis Prescott, duly seconded, all known Democrats being citizens of the parish of St. Landry, will have the right to vote at the polls, and all male residents who will be attained the age of twenty-one years at the next general election, provided they pledge themselves to support the nomination of the Democratic ticket.

An Outlying Province.

When the Russian colony or possessions of Alaska was purchased by the United States, the colony was a barren, desolate, and almost uninhabited land. It was thought that the government had given too much for it. It paid half as much, those people complained, as it did for Louisiana, when Alaska, before the purchase, was a more fertile and productive land than Louisiana. The results have been eminently satisfactory. The advantages of annexation to the United States were soon made conspicuous. During the many years since the purchase, it had made no advance in wealth or population, and the government pronounced it worthless. Russia congratulated itself when the colony was sold, and the people of the United States were taken in.

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Items of Interest.

The National Democratic Nominating Convention has been called to meet at St. Louis on June 5th.

Those of our subscribers who are in arrears on by subscription, we respectfully request to call at the head of our local columns that is of special interest to them. Read it.

Mr. Massie, of the Ohio Legislature, has offered a bill making the 28th and 29th of February one day—the 28th—for legal purposes in every year in which February has twenty-nine days.

Another big strike took place on last Monday. This time it occurred on the Burlington and Quincy Railroad System—the employees demanding higher wages and several other important concessions.

The Tilly Hotel at Shreveport was destroyed by fire last Sunday morning at about 2 o'clock. R. C. Craig, a commercial traveler, was cremated in the building. Loss about \$50,000; covered by insurance.