

LE COURRIER

DES OPELOUSAS.

PUBLIEE SAMEDI PAR

LEONCE SANDOZ.

OPÉLOUSAS:

SAMEDI matin, : : 2 JAN., 1897.

Les timbres de poste viennent en usage en Angleterre en 1840, en Amérique en 1847.

La première canne à sucre cultivée aux Etats-Unis fut près de la Nouvelle-Orléans en 1751, la première fabrique fut construite en 1753.

Ceux qui doivent au COURRIER pour abonnements et pour impressions sont priés de venir régler le plus tôt possible, afin d'éviter la peine de leur envoyer un collecteur.

La pluralité de McKieley sur M. Bryan, à la dernière élection, fut de 593,666, sa pluralité dans les états du Massachusetts, de New York et de la Pennsylvanie fut de 718,270, soit de 124,504 de plus que la pluralité dans tout le pays. On comprend facilement pourquoi ces états désirent la nomination du choix du président à un vote direct du peuple.

L'ex-tenancier Lillioakalini était à la Nouvelle-Orléans mardi dernier, mais elle n'y fut que quelques instants, en route pour Washington et les villes de l'Est. C'était la première fois que la Nouvelle-Orléans voyait dans son enceinte, et elle reçut l'attention des reporters des journaux, mais sa majesté était de mauvaise humeur, et les acclamations ne furent pas nombreuses.

Le but de sa visite aux Etats-Unis n'a pas encore été livré au public, mais on croit qu'elle a trait à un projet d'annexion, grèce auquel l'ex-reine toucherait une pension du gouvernement. — Gazette de St. Jacques.

Un esprit plus calme semble avoir remplacé l'excitation qu'avait créée en Espagne et aux Etats-Unis, le comité sur affaires étrangères du Sénat, en décidant à un rapport favorable sur les résolutions Cameron reconnaissant l'indépendance de Cuba. Il est généralement admis maintenant que ces résolutions ne seront pas adoptées par les deux branches du Congrès, et qu'elles ne serviront qu'à fournir l'occasion à nos sénateurs et à nos représentants de donner au public un échantillon de leurs talents oratoires.

Mais ces résolutions ont soulevé un point intéressant, et si elles étaient adoptées, pourraient causer un conflit entre le département exécutif et le département législatif de notre gouvernement. Le Secrétaire Olney affirme que le droit de reconnaître l'indépendance d'une nation est un droit exclusif du président, et que le Sénat n'a rien à y voir. Ce corps semble avoir une opinion différente, et les opinions sont partagées sur la question. — Gazette de St. Jacques.

Les Académies de Longfellow.

Sous ce titre, nous lisons dans un journal de St. Louis, le Star, l'article suivant:

Il peut être intéressant pour les fumeurs de tabac péroré d'apprendre qu'il n'y a qu'une paroisse ou un comté dans le Sud dont le sol convient à sa culture: c'est la paroisse St. Jean-Baptiste, en Louisiane, dit M. E. D. Burke, de la Nouvelle-Orléans.

Cette paroisse est habitée en grande partie par des Acadiens qui descendent des Français-Américains industriels qui furent chassés de leur patrie du Nord par les Anglais il y a longtemps, ainsi que l'a admirablement raconté Longfellow dans son poème d'Evangeline.

Mais il est triste de dire que les Acadiens ont dégénéré de ces heureux et industrieux paysans décrits par le poète en un lot de "pauvres blancs" paresseux, sans ressources, que même les personnes de couleur regardent avec mépris. On les trouve éparpillés dans tout le sud de la Louisiane.

Beaucoup d'entre eux sont employés comme travailleurs de champ par les fermiers les plus pauvres. Une minorité plus fortunée possède de petites fermes sur lesquelles peut autre chose que du tabac est cultivé. Très peu d'entre eux savent lire et écrire.

Ce n'est guère flatter pour nos voisins, mais ils sont habitués de pareils compliments de la part d'étrangers qui ne savent même pas ce qu'est un "Cadien." Ce M. Burke, qui a si généralement fourni ces renseignements au journal de St. Louis, ne se sait pas mieux que beaucoup d'autres probablement, et son ignorance est caractérisée par la méchanceté qui accompagne généralement la bêtise. Nous ne le connaissons, mais nous sommes bien tentés de croire qu'il n'est pas le fruit d'une contrée très éclairée. Il ignore même que le tabac péroré ne se cultive pas à St. Jean-Baptiste.

Les descendants des Acadiens sont de braves, honnêtes et courageux citoyens qui s'occupent de leurs affaires et ne vont pas faire l'âne en parlant de choses qu'ils ne connaissent pas. Ils n'ont sans doute pas l'activité et l'énergie qui caractérisent l'Américain; ils sont parfois timides et généralement peu avisés, mais ils sont tentés de saisir les occasions qui leur offrent un avantage, et de ce qu'ils ont. Sont-ils indigènes ou pas, par conséquent, nous ne le savons pas. Non. En bons citoyens, ils ont des propriétés et ils aiment leur pays et leur liberté. Il y a des "Cadiens" instruits, et il y a des "Cadiens" qui sont de bons soldats de la Confédération!

Mais ce M. Burke parle sans savoir même ce qu'il dit. — Meschacébé.

Les personnes en retard pour le paiement de leurs contributions au COURRIER, sont instamment priés de régler l'arriéré.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICE JURY.

OPÉLOUSAS, December 11, 1896.

The Police Jury met in regular session at 12:30 o'clock a. m.

Present: E. H. McGee, president; Messrs. Prescott, Durio, Chachere, E. T. Lafleur, Quebedeau, Burleigh, Manuel, R. Lafleur.

On motion of Mr. E. T. Lafleur— The Police Jury adjourned until 2:30 o'clock p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

The Police Jury met at 2:30 o'clock p. m.

Present: E. H. McGee, president; Messrs. Prescott, Fontenot, Durio, Chachere, E. T. Lafleur, Quebedeau, Burleigh, Haas, Manuel, Guidry and R. Lafleur.

On motion of Mr. E. T. Lafleur— Moved to take up from the table the

petition from free-holders of Bayous Marie Croquant, Carron and Courtableau, relative to the Hog Law.

Motion carried.

Mr. E. T. Lafleur— Moved to table the petition indefinitely.

Mr. R. Lafleur— Moved to refer the petition to a committee of three years and nays on tabling the motion indefinitely.

Messrs. E. H. McGee, E. T. Lafleur, Quebedeau and Manuel, voting yes; Messrs. Prescott, Fontenot, Durio, Chachere, Burleigh, Haas and R. Lafleur, voting no.

Motion to table lost. Mr. Prescott— Moved to leave it to a vote of the land owners within the limits of the petition as moved for, in the following territory, to-wit: Commencing at the upper line of the Citizens Bank Plantation on the bayou Marie Croquant, up said bayou to the bayou Carron; thence down said bayou to the bayou Courtableau; thence down the bayou Courtableau to the north-west corner of the property; thence on a straight line to the upper line of Citizens Bank property.

Motion carried. On motion of Mr. Durio—

The Tax-Collector of the parish, is hereby instructed to re-imburse to Estate of L. A. Breaux, the sum of \$320 (three and 20/100 dollars), amount collected through double assessment on parish taxes for years of 1891 and 1892.

On motion of Mr. Durio— The Tax-Collector is hereby instructed to re-imburse to Onezime Fontenot the sum of \$120, amount collected in excess of land owned by said Onezime Fontenot.

On motion of Mr. E. T. Lafleur— Armand Forest was ordered credited with the sum of \$250.00 of internal improvement funds, 7th ward, for fixing a mud-hole on road from Ville Platte to Opelousas.

On motion of Mr. E. T. Lafleur— The report of committee appointed to sell contract to build bridge near Gustave Bellair Fontenot, was accepted, committee discharged and Octave J. Fontenot ordered credited with the sum of \$187.50, out of internal improvement funds, 7th ward.

On motion of Mr. E. T. Lafleur— The report of committee appointed to build bridge on John Tonsien's gully, was accepted, committee discharged and the sum of \$375 ordered credited to Onezime Fontenot, out of internal improvement funds, 7th ward.

On motion of Mr. Prescott— The report of committee appointed to sell contract for building and turning iron bridge at Washington, was accepted, committee discharged and Otis Lunt, was ordered credited with the sum of \$80.00, out of internal improvement funds, 5th ward.

On motion of Mr. E. T. Lafleur— The petition of the citizens of Blue Cove, relative to the changing of the road on land of Florence Johnson, was granted as moved for, to-wit: The new road prayed for to run on the lines and land of said Florence Johnson, between the lands of E. M. Boagni and Florence Johnson, and to be done at the expense of said Florence Johnson, and the old road not to be closed up until the new road is accepted by road overseer, and in

the event of his refusal, the old road to be closed up. The committee appointed to examine the statement of the Washington State Bank, fiscal agent, report same correct, and recommend that a warrant be issued against contingent expense funds, in favor of the fiscal agent, for \$147.34, covering salary from Oct. 12th to Dec. 7th, 1896.

Wm. M. Prescott, Jules Quebedeau, Committee.

On motion of Mr. Guidry— The report of committee appointed to examine the statement of the Washington State Bank, fiscal agent, report same correct, and recommend that a warrant be issued against contingent expense funds, in favor of the fiscal agent, for \$147.34, covering salary from Oct. 12th to Dec. 7th, 1896.

On motion of Mr. Haas— A committee was appointed to sell contract to build bridge over Gum Point Slough, by the following committee to the lowest bidder: Justin Johnson, M. L. Fontenot, Wm. Clark, Jas. Man, Sam Haas.

On motion of Mr. Haas— The report of committee appointed to sell contract to build bridge near the Singletary gin, was accepted, committee discharged and Wm. Johnson ordered credited with the sum of \$85.00, out of internal improvement funds, 4th ward.

On motion of Mr. Guidry— The Police Jury adjourned until tomorrow at 9:30 o'clock a. m.

December 8th.

The Police Jury met at 9:30 o'clock a. m.

Present: E. H. McGee, president; Messrs. Saizan, Haas, Durio, Prescott, Fontenot, Chachere, Guidry, E. T. Lafleur, Burleigh, Manuel, R. Lafleur.

On motion of Mr. R. Lafleur— A committee of three was appointed for the purpose of framing a budget for the year 1897. The chair appointed Messrs. R. Lafleur, Durio and Burleigh.

On motion of Mr. Guidry— Mr. E. B. Dubuisson was added to the above committee appointed for framing budget of 1897.

On motion of Mr. Manuel— The report of committee appointed to investigate the Fruge bridge, was received, committee discharged and Mr. M. Vincent ordered credited with one hundred and forty-five dollars (\$145.00), out of internal improvement funds, 8th ward, and that the sum of ten dollars be appropriated out of same funds for the purpose of framing a budget for the year 1897. The chair appointed Ernest Fruge and Theodore Fruge.

On motion of Mr. R. Lafleur— Sheriff Deshotels and President McGee were appointed a committee to ascertain the probable cost of having built an additional iron cage, within the limits of the probable cost of separating the whites from the blacks.

On motion of Mr. Durio— A committee of two was appointed to ascertain the probable cost of bridging a piece of road which is in an impassable condition on the Durio road. The chair appointed Eraste Durio and Onezime Landry.

On motion of Mr. Guidry— Mr. D. Durio was added to the above committee.

On motion of Mr. R. Lafleur— Robert Pitt, J. H. Baldrige, M. P. Saizan and Dr. H. C. Wilburn were appointed a committee of five to buy the lowest bidder to build the following bridges: Two on front of Mrs. Durio's plantation; two on front of Mrs. Saizan's; one on the Cumberland front.

On motion of Mr. Haas— Mr. R. Lafleur was added to the above committee.

On motion of Mr. Haas— Rebecca West was placed on the indigent list.

On motion of Mr. McGee— Domestique Gabriel Fontenot, widow of John Roy, was placed on the indigent list.

On motion of Mr. E. T. Lafleur— Melia Desmarais was placed on the indigent list.

On motion of Dr. Saizan— A committee of three, composed of Jas. O. Chachere, chairman; Henry Lasbreaux and Lucien Dupre, were appointed to ascertain the probable cost of lumber to build large and small bridges on the Lastrapes road.

On motion of Mr. Burleigh— Whereas, a petition from the citizens of Big Cane, Rosa and Morrow vicinities, praying for a repeal of the hog law passed by this body on July 24th, 1891, be granted, and that hogs be allowed to run at large within the following territory, viz: Commencing at the south-west corner of Section 32, T. and N. 3, S. R. 5, E.; thence north to the line of the bayou, following said bayou to Section 20, Township 2, S. R. 4, E.; thence north to the southeast corner of Section 8, Township 3, S. R. 4, E.; thence north to the southwest corner of Section 7, Township 3, S. R. 4, E.; thence north to the parish line of Avoyelles; thence west to

the southeast corner of Section 23, Township 2, S. R. 5, E.; thence south to south-east corner of Section 23, Township 3, S. R. 5, E.; thence south to southeast corner of Section 32, Township 3, S. R. 5, E.; and that the following shall constitute a lawful fence within the above described territory, to-wit: Three rails, three planks, and two wires, or four planks and one wire on posts, not more than 10 feet apart—said planks or rails to be at least 2 inches wide, and the posts to be not more than four inches from the ground.

President McGee in the chair.

On motion of Mr. Quebedeau— Widow Emile Emonead was placed on the indigent list.

On motion of Mr. R. Lafleur— The sum of one thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, out of contingent funds, was appropriated, to defray the expenses of the election; and the commissioners, clerks, and other officers of the election, are hereby instructed to submit their claims to the Board of Supervisors of Election for approval, said claims to be presented to the Board of Supervisors at the next regular meeting for ratification.

On motion of Mr. R. Lafleur— The Police Jury adjourned until 2:30 o'clock p. m.

EVENING SESSION.

The Police Jury met at 2:30 o'clock p. m.

Present: E. H. McGee, President; Messrs. Fontenot, Guidry, Quebedeau, R. E. Burleigh, Haas, Saizan, Manuel, R. Lafleur, Prescott, E. T. Lafleur and Durio.

On motion of Mr. R. Lafleur— A committee of two was appointed to examine the statement of the Washington State Bank, fiscal agent. The chair appointed Messrs. Prescott and Jules Quebedeau.

On motion of Mr. Guidry— Whereas, Mr. A. Delorme, road overseer of public road leading from the corner of Robert Smith, Wm. Brinkley and M. C. Cloutier, as established by resolution of this body of June 10th, 1896, as per petition and donation of the proprietors through whose lands said road is to be run, and who have a right in said road, the fence of Mrs. Marcellite G. Smith, owner of the land on the west side of said road, encroaches upon the right of said road, and is hereby resolved, that said Mrs. Marcellite G. Smith be notified by the said A. Delorme, road overseer, to remove the same fence as to give the full distance of 17 1/2 feet from the middle of the old road, this being the quantum of land donated to the said road, by the said Robert Smith, for said public road—within ten days, and in case of her default or refusal so to do, that the said road overseer be authorized to have the said fence removed, and in the event of his refusal to do so, that the said road overseer be authorized to have the said Mrs. Marcellite G. Smith notified by the said A. 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