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Once a Week, One Dollar a Year.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS.

Twice a Week, Two Dollars a Year.

New Railroad

C. W. KROTZ MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

Build Independent Connecting Line From Melville to Krotz Springs.

Capt. C. W. Krotz of Melville, and Defiance, Ohio, was in city last week with good news.

Captain Krotz has spent the few months in Defiance, Ohio, making arrangements to build a line from Melville to Latanier, Krotz Springs, a distance of five miles on the St. Landry of the Atchafalaya river, that serve as an independent connecting line, giving Krotz Springs facilities enjoyed by a town has competing lines entering

This is to afford the Krotz Springs Land and Mineral Well company, of which Captain Krotz is president and principal stockholder, a better and larger outlet for their mineral water, which they propose to place on the market as early as the Frisco has established regular service in and through Latanier, or Krotz Springs.

We have published from time to time the details of the great work that Captain Krotz has accomplished, and is still doing; how, after organizing a company to explore for oil at Latanier and sink a well, struck a flow of mineral water, that, after analysis, was found to be superior to the standard waters that are on the market today, and most of our readers are aware of the reputation Captain Krotz has as a town founder and town builder, but a brief resume of the splendid success that has crowned his efforts in eastern St. Landry in six years will not be amiss, and should earn for him the admiration and gratitude of every patriotic citizen in this entire parish.

Leaving his Defiance, Ohio, some seven years ago, he came south on the lookout for investment opportunities. After investigating the industrial conditions and opportunities of many of the other Southern States, he visited Louisiana and St. Landry parish. There his far-seeing eye told him that he had found what he sought. He searched no further, convinced that here in eastern St. Landry lay the Mecca of his hopes. Magnificent forests of hardwood timber, unknown to the ax of the woodman, was the waiting fortune of the man who had the foresight and acumen to develop it, and accept the gifts that Mother Nature had so lavishly in waiting for him.

It is an unnecessary repetition to tell again in detail all this man accomplished in Melville—how, finding it a small hamlet, the home of a few fishermen who drew their living from the mighty river by them; how he built and developed a mill and railroad center the splendid town of Melville, of which he is known as the father.

To Captain Krotz also is due the great strides in the values of land. When he came to Melville, land in that vicinity and on the west bank of the river south of Melville could be purchased for \$1 an acre, which was considered a very good price at that time. Today the same land sells readily for at from \$10 to \$25 an acre, and this is but indicated the real value, for with the coming of this new railroad, and the general growth incident to the Frisco system, and the completion of the hotel and resort that is to be located at Krotz Springs, and for all the necessary financial aid, has been put up by the Defiance, Ohio, friends of Captain Krotz, who thus evidence splendid faith in his projects, the paradise seen by the poet's eye six years ago becomes a reality and a magnificent monument to the zeal and energy of Capt. C. W. Krotz.

INVESTIGATING THE PUBLIC ROAD CONTRACTS

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Aldrich Bill Will Probably Be Passed by the Senate This Week—Other News of Interest.

The purpose of the Hearst League, or Independent League, as it prefers to be called, is still the occasion of some anxiety and some curiosity to Democratic leaders in Washington. They are at a loss to understand Mr. Hearst's purpose in spending untold sums of money to promote this movement in national politics. At one time they thought they had found the solution in the theory that Mr. Hearst purposed to hold his convention after the Republican and before the Democratic national conventions, and to endorse himself for President with the purpose of opposing Mr. Bryan at Denver. It is now officially announced, however, that the Independence League Convention will follow the national conventions of both of the other parties, and the political prognosticators in the national capital are once more at sea. There has been a rumor in circulation here to the effect that it was the purpose of Mr. Hearst to have his League endorse Theodore Roosevelt for President, irrespective of what action might be taken by the other conventions, and this rumor is no more welcome to the Republicans than to the Democrats. Those who maintain that this is the real intent of the Hearst organization say that he believes that by nominating Mr. Roosevelt his party can poll a vote so large as to make it a central figure in all future national elections, even though nothing else is accomplished this year, and in support of their theory they point to the fact that recent editorials in the Hearst newspapers have been far more flattering to Mr. Roosevelt than ever before, and that from condemnation they have changed to praise. Of course, no such action could be taken if Mr. Roosevelt could help it, as he particularly abhors Mr. Hearst, and has always refrained from inviting him to the White House, even when he was a member of Congress, while the speech of Secretary Root, which was largely inspired by the President, was probably the most potent factor in preventing Mr. Hearst from defeating Mr. Hughes in the race for the governorship of New York.

President Roosevelt's intense feeling against Mr. Hearst dates back to the time when, as Governor of New York, Mr. Roosevelt felt constrained to refuse a pardon to a woman who had been sentenced to death for a most revolting murder. Numerous frenzied appeals for pardon had been forwarded to Governor Roosevelt, and he had appointed a commission of eminent jurists to investigate the case and advise him. The commission advised that a pardon would be a defeat of justice, and he abided by its decision. The Hearst newspapers were leading the propaganda for a pardon, and when the Governor refused, they printed lurid editorials in which they said, among other things, that it would be their unchanging purpose to prevent Mr. Roosevelt's wife and children from ever forgetting that their husband and father was a "murderer of women." Mr. Roosevelt never forgave the reference to his wife and family.

There is a peculiar situation in the Senate Committee on Military Affairs. When the final vote on Brownsville was taken last week, only two members had the courage to vote for a resolution declaring that it was their conviction that the negro soldiers of the Twenty-fifth Infantry did not shoot up the town of Brownsville. These were Foraker and Bulkeley, both of whom are intense haters of the present administration. Now, however, some of the Republicans who voted as they thought, saying that the evidence showed that the negroes did the shooting, are hearing from the negro voters in their States, and

Grand Jury To Get After Road Contractors

Shabby Condition of Roads in Some Sections Due to Negligence—Not to a Lack of Funds—The Jury Makes a Report to Judge Lewis

The Grand Jury, in its recent written report to Judge Lewis, has touched upon a subject that ought to be near and dear to every St. Landrian. It has called the attention of the Court to the fact that the public roads in some sections of the parish are in a deplorable condition, and this in face of the fact that there are ample funds with which to carry on the work. In truth, the funds are utilized all right, but the results are not at all commensurate with the cost, that is, in some portions of the parish.

The Grand Jury has undertaken an investigation of this matter, and proposes to bring before the bar of justice all who feast on the public road fund without giving the necessary quid pro quo in the shape of work. The Jury, in its report, somewhat tersely, but truthfully asserts that the road contractors should be taught that the public pay taxes for other purposes than to support them in idleness, and we trust that this very salutary lesson will be administered should the investigation develop the necessity of it.

The people of St. Landry are

they are becoming scared. One of them, Senator Warner of Missouri, who practically conducted the prosecution and examined the negro witnesses, as well as the white ones, has decided to introduce a bill providing that the President may restore to the army and give back pay to any negro soldier who can prove his entire innocence of having had a part in the assault, to the satisfaction of the War Department. This is, of course, a far better measure than the Foraker bill which provides that the President must restore all the discharged negroes, innocent and guilty alike, but then Mr. Foraker knows perfectly well that his bill will never pass, will never even be reported from the Committee, and he is merely seeking to vent his spleen against Roosevelt and Taft. Incidentally, the fact that the Republican State Convention of Missouri, which instructed its delegates for Taft, elected four negroes as alternates to the convention, may have also been the result of Mr. Warner's anxiety.

Senator Owen of Oklahoma made a splendid impression in the Senate last week when he debated the Aldrich bill, which, by the way, will probably be passed by the Senate this week. Mr. Owen exhibited a perfect command of language and a fine presence when he made his maiden speech. Later, however, he, unfortunately, advocated an amendment to the Indian Appropriation bill which would operate to remove all the restrictions which Congress has placed around the transfer of his lands by the Indian, legislation based on the idea that the Indian is not yet competent to deal with white men and part bloods without getting cheated. Mr. Owen took the ground that inasmuch as the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes had been absorbed by the State of Oklahoma, they were no longer Indians, but citizens of the United States. The unfortunate feature of the affair was that Senator Owen has secured options on about three thousand acres of the finest land in Oklahoma which he is seeking to purchase from the Indians at prices which the Secretary of the Interior maintains are merely nominal. Under these circumstances, the new Senator lost in one day

assessed with a vehicle and per capita tax, the proceeds of which go exclusively toward the maintenance and repair of the public roads. The tax yields quite a handsome sum annually, and is entirely adequate to put and keep the public roads in thorough good order. It is, therefore, but natural to expect our roads to be in at least a passable condition, yet from many sections of the parish come the reports that bog holes, dilapidated bridges and imperfect drainage have rendered them well nigh impassable. This condition should not be, and the Grand Jury has done well to look into the matter. But, gentlemen, let the investigation be an investigation; the subject is an important one, and worthy of consideration, and if we can't ferret out the Sunday law violators, the gamblers, the blind tiger keepers, all the slot machine operators (not a chosen few), a modicum of the white pistol toters, the violators of the law against selling liquor to minors, and a host of other flagrant transgressors of the laws, why let us, by all means, get the public roads grafter.

all the ground he had gained in the Senate on the day previous.

The President has sent to the Senate thirteen treaties framed at the Hague convention. Eleven of them, it is said, will be ratified without objection, but two will meet with strong Democratic opposition, and possibly with opposition from the majority. The two which are found objectionable are that dealing with prize courts and that practically enunciating the Drago doctrine.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

Among the opinions of the State Supreme Court last Monday, are found the following of local interest:

Opelousas National Bank vs. Jules Perrodin. In re Jules Perrodin praying, etc. It is ordered adjudged and decreed that the judgment of the Court of Appeal here made the subject of review be annulled, avoided and reversed and that the judgment of the District Court be amended, in that it is now adjudged and decreed that the boundary line between the property of the plaintiff and that of the defendants be, and the same is, hereby fixed upon the line of the present fence now dividing said properties, say 193 feet, 4 inches from the Southwest corner of the square No. 11, in which said property is located. It is further adjudged and decreed that the costs of the appeal and of this application be paid by plaintiff and that those of the District Court be divided in the proportion of one-half to plaintiff and one-half to defendants.

Opelousas, Gulf & Northeastern Railway Co., vs. St. Landry Cotton Oil Company. It is ordered that the verdict and judgment appealed from be amended by increasing the amount awarded to the defendant to the total sum of twenty-one hundred and ninety-six dollars (\$2,196.) and that as thus amended said verdict and judgment be affirmed at the cost of the plaintiff and appellee. It is further ordered that the parish of St. Landry pay all costs occasioned by its appeal as a third party.

Joseph and William Jefferson in "The Rivals" at Sandoz Opera House on Friday, March 13th.

ST. LANDRY HORSE FOR GOVERNOR SANDERS

Local Friends and Admirers of the Democratic Nominee Are the Donors.

Judge L. J. Dossmann on Monday shipped to Lieutenant-Governor J. Y. Sanders at Franklin, a handsome saddle horse, the gift of a number of St. Landry friends and admirers of the Democratic nominee. The animal is a magnificent specimen of horse flesh, and had been ridden by Governor Sanders on the day of the reception accorded him at Eunice last October and greatly admired by him. The horse was purchased by the donors from special Police Officer Harry Williams of this city, who raised him from a colt. The animal is of a beautiful dark bay color with black mane and tail and is a splendid saddle horse.

The following is Judge Dossmann's letter accompanying the gift:

"Your friends and admirers of St. Landry parish have delegated to me the pleasure of presenting to you 'Van R.', the horse which you rode in the Eunice Sanders parade.

"They beg me to assure you that it affords them much pleasure in tendering to you this slight token of the high esteem in which you are held by them, and on my part, I consider it an honor to serve as the intermediary.

"I ship the horse to Franklin today.

"Hoping that 'Van R.' will prove an object of usefulness as well as a source of remembrance of the confidence and esteem of your friends in Empire St. Landry, I am, as ever, Your friend,

"L. J. DOSSMANN."

Governor Sanders has accepted the horse with many thanks and will take it to Baton Rouge after his inauguration, and will keep it during his incumbency as Governor.

GRATIFYING PROGRESS

Grand Knight W. J. Sandoz of the Knights of Columbus returned from New Orleans Wednesday, where he had been for the past week on business and pleasure. One of the objects of his visit to the Crescent City was to purchase a portion of the furniture for the new Knights' Columbus home. We are informed that he purchased a thousand dollars' worth of furniture to be used in fitting out the reception room at the home, and that as funds are materialized the other apartments of the Council's quarters will be provided with the necessary furnishings. The local council purposes to equip its home as elaborately as possible, and will leave no stone unturned to do so. Its new building will be completed and ready for occupancy by the first of May, and with imposing ceremonies, the Knights will take possession of the structure about that time.

A SHOOTING

On last Monday afternoon, following a quarrel, Mrs. E. M. Turner attempted to kill her husband, E. M. Turner, by shooting at him with a pistol at the corner of Bellevue and Union streets, but, fortunately, for him, all the shots went wild, and he escaped unscathed.

Turner was arrested and charged with disturbing the peace, but paid his fine Tuesday morning and was released.

Mrs. Turner was arrested, but no charge was made, and consequently was released in a few moments.

An agreement of parties the criminal prosecution was suspended on the condition that Mrs. Turner leave town within ten days.

Mr. Turner is a conductor on the Frisco lines, and bears an excellent reputation among the railroad men and others who are acquainted with him. It is said that he will bring suit for a divorce at an early date.

Lewis Gets Damages

RAILROAD RESPONSIBLE FOR DEPRECIATION

Suit Brought By Lewis et al vs. the Frisco is Decided in Favor of Plaintiffs

A case of more than ordinary importance was decided by Judge ad hoc W. C. Perrault, in the district court last Wednesday morning. The suit was one by W. B. Lewis, et als., against the Colorado Southern, New Orleans and Pacific Railroad, for damages growing out of the alleged illegal exercise of the company's franchise to construct its railroad along Cheney street. The plaintiff alleged, among other things, that the company had illegally appropriated to its use the whole of Cheney street, when it had not been accorded, and could not have legally been accorded, the exclusive use thereof. That the use of said street by the company served to utterly destroy its usefulness as a public thoroughfare, and absolutely deprived plaintiff of the means of egress from or ingress to his property. That by reason of these and other elements of damage the saleable and rental value of his property was greatly diminished, if not wholly destroyed, and the monetary consideration demanded for the injuries imposed was fixed at \$3,000.

In an exhaustive written opinion Judge Perrault held that the railroad company was legally entitled to the use of the street, same having been authoritatively granted to it by the Board of Aldermen of the city of Opelousas, but that in the exercise of this privilege by the company due regard must be had to the rights of the public in general, and whatever damages that may be inflicted upon them in the exercise thereof must be compensated. The court reviewed the evidence tending to establish the amount of damages sustained by the plaintiff and held that the proper measure was the difference between the actual market value of the property before the construction of the railroad along Cheney street, and the present value thereof, which, in this instance, in the opinion of the court, could be equitably estimated at \$1000. Judgment was accordingly rendered in favor of plaintiff for that amount.

The above case is the first of a series of suits filed against the railroad company by the property owners along Cheney street, all predicated on the same right and cause of action.

The Police Jury on Tuesday voted down a resolution offered by Capt. Samuel Haas of Chicot, providing that the rate of parish taxation for the year 1909 be fixed at ten mills on the dollar, two and one-half mills of the levy to be set aside in aid of the proposed new State Normal School in the event same is established in St. Landry. The resolution contained the alternative provision that should the Normal School be not located in this parish, the rate of taxation should not exceed eight mills. The purpose of the resolution was to pledge material aid in support of the school should our parish be fortunate enough to secure the institution, and, on the other hand, to guarantee a reduction of the parochial taxes should the excess stipulated be not required in aid of the Normal School, which would be the case if St. Landry failed to secure it. It appears that the Jury rejected the proposition on the ground that it was too far in advance to attempt to fix the rate of taxation for next year, and preferred to leave the matter to the members of the new Jury who will assume the duties of office next May.