

The Opelousas Courier.

55.

OPELOUSAS, ST. LANDRY PARISH, LOUISIANA, MAY 30, 1908.

NO. 47

One Week, One Dollar a Year.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY OF OPELOUSAS.

Twice a Week, Two Dollars a Year.

CHANGES IN THE PRIMARY LAW

COMMISSION OFFICERS COMPELLED TO SERVE

PROVIDE FOR COURT REVIEW

Deadline Participants to the Party of Their Declared Affiliation

These will be the features of the amended primary bill, which is introduced this week:

The bill will be given to the State Central Committee to be the primary for nomination of the Supreme Court. The committee assumed jurisdiction in the case of the nomination of Justice Monroe. The fact that the Governor is to be elected to Justice in November makes necessary that the authority to the primary shall be clearly defined.

The second primary will be held except in the case where necessary to nominate the Governor. Where the Governor is chosen in the first, the other nominations will be by plurality. Those who are framing the bill believe that where the head of the bill must be run over, a square will be assured minor candidates. Where only minor candidates have interests at stake in the second there is a temptation to lead through lack of interest to result.

To insure the conduct of second primaries by the same election officers who served in the first the bill will make it a misdemeanor for any commissioner of clerk to serve in the second.

The bill is charged with a contest of the State Central Committee authorized to enter on investigation and will be empowered to appoint a sub-committee to hear evidence and report on the conduct of the primary by the candidates may claim to be qualified. No time will be allowed in the bill within which a contest must be disposed of, as in the present statute, but the committee will be left the discretion to conduct the investigation with as much delay as possible before the primary, if the charges are first, or before the time which the tickets for the election era required to be printed if they affect the second.

The bill was at first suggested to the court review entirely, having been inserted in the bill years ago, and Justice in his recent decision declared that complaint of the limited time allowed for the inasmuch as the Legislature was fully authorized to review altogether. There is disposition still to make a change in the bill, and the court feature of the board when the bill was up in committee.

The omitted lines have been placed. The last primary thousands of Republicans voted, while serious was threatened in different parts of the State through the Democrats to keep Republicans from doing so in the primary, a demand has been made for a change in the law to confine future primaries to members of the party holding office. At the meeting of the State Central Committee in New Orleans, John F. Watson, of the committee, practically

continued on page 5.

PARISH DIVISION TO BE SUBMITTED TO VOTERS NEWS OF THE

STILL CARVING ON CALCASIEU

Everybody Wants to Propose a New Parish.

ANOTHER NEW PARISH FORMED FOR CALCASIEU

DeQuincey Raises the Projected Number to Four--Citizens to Make Canvas.

At a mass meeting held in DeQuincey on the 12th, the following resolutions were adopted:

We the delegates of the eastern part of Calcasieu parish, in convention assembled, do offer these resolutions to our representatives and senator in the state legislature and the citizens of Calcasieu parish as our wishes in the matter of parish division.

1st. We are in favor of dividing Calcasieu parish into as many parts as can be permitted legally. 2nd. We are opposed to being cut off into DeRidder parish, but desire a parish comprising the following territory: Commencing on Sabine river on the line between townships Eight and Nine and run said line to the Calcasieu river, thence up Calcasieu river to township line between townships Four and Five, thence west to Sabine river, thence south along Sabine river to point of beginning.

The committee also recommends that a permanent executive committee be appointed to present our claims to our senator and representatives and ask them to protect our interests in the general assembly; to call conventions of our people as they deem necessary and to report from time to time the progress of their work.

F. T. Smith then made a speech urging that each citizen get busy and make a strong united campaign in the rural districts, educating the people in facts and figures, as no doubt the matter would be finally settled in the next session at Chicago, Louisiana.

The public buildings bill recently passed by Congress provides an appropriation of \$55,000 for a public building at Crowley.

GEN. S. D. LEE DIED THURSDAY

Death Caused By An Attack of Acute Indigestion

WAS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS

News of His Death Mourned by Confederates and all Who Knew Him.

The news dispatches from Vicksburg, Miss., Thursday announcing the death of Gen. Stephen D. Lee, commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans, caused great regret among the members of the various U. C. V. chapters generally, and everywhere, the news was received with such expressions of sorrow over the death of the notable soldier-citizen. Those name has for years been a household word in the South, and who in the twilight of life was honored by being appointed by the national government one of the commissioners of the National Military Park at Vicksburg, thus emphasizing the esteem in which he was held quite beyond the bounds of any sectionalism.

The logical successor to General Lee as the head of the U. C. V. is General W. S. Cabell, who as head of the Department of Texas is the ranking officer in the organization, and will undoubtedly be elected to the position. General Cabell's headquarters are at Dallas, Texas.

The Hughes boom seems to be mostly gone to whiskeys.

Will Also Decide Whether the Boundary Will Be Straight or Crooked; So Decides the House Committee

Baton Rouge, La., May 27.—Amending the measure so as to leave the question of a border line to a vote of the people, the House Committee on Parochial Affairs to-night ordered a favorable report on the bill introduced by Representative P. L. Fontenot, providing for the cutting in two of the Parish of St. Landry and the creation of out of the western portion a new parish, to be known as Evangeline.

The change is in the first section of the proposed law, and was suggested by Mr. Friedman, of Natchitoches. It is as follows: "That the bill be so amended as to submit both the lines defining the parish, whether it be the one defined in the bill or the township line between range two east and range three east, together with the question of the creation of the new parish, to the voters of St. Landry Parish."

Thus the committee disposed of the question of whether a straight or crooked mark as separation should divide the old from the new. This is the matter that was so acrimoniously fought out by the two rival delegations that were given hearings last night and this morning.

The discussions did not seem to hinge on whether or not there should be a new parish, but just where the separation should be. Even those opposing the Fontenot bill as originally framed conceded that there to the widespread sentiment in favor of breaking old St. Landry. They declared, however, that the line propose was not what the people want; that it gave more territory to Evangeline than a new parish was compelled to have by the Constitution, and completed against Eudenville in the P. Ville Platte.

Mr. Fontenot on the other hand contended that with representatives of the Evangeline Club, he had gone along the proposed line of demarcation and had put a section of country "in" or "out" of the old parish just as the majority desired.

The very existence of a crooked line, he contended, evidenced a respect for public sentiment.

Quite a discussion took place before the Committee as to when the election would take place to decide for or against the new parish. The Fontenot bill fixed the date as the same for the congressional primary next fall. Some thought a special election preferable so that the question might be separated from other political issues to come up before the people at that time. It was pointed out, however, that special elections cost a great deal and that the voters could be better gotten out for a primary than at any other time. Because of this a majority favored letting this feature of the law stand as it is.

To draft the bill as amended and report it direct to the House, Chairman O'Brien appointed himself and Messrs. Polk, Fontenot and Nettles. The Fontenot measure puts Evangeline in the Sixteenth Judicial District. The third Supreme Court District and the Fourteenth Senatorial and Seventh Congressional Districts of the State. It provides that after being created, the parish shall be temporarily provided with officials appointed by the Governor until an election may be held and in other respects it conforms to similar measures of the past that have created new parishes.

THREE SEATS IN QUESTION

St. Landry Fight Causes Charge About Legality of Election.

Baton Rouge, La., May 27.—A sensation was sprung this morning before the House Committee on Parochial Affairs, when it was

declared by J. J. Lewis, Cashier and Manager of the Bank of Eunice, and President of Lafayette and Eunice Railway Company, and that four of the St. Landry delegation in the lower body of the Legislature, except Wm. Clark, had not been properly elected to their positions, but had been given their positions through a mistake of the Parish Executive Committee.

The statement created consternation among the big crowd present at the session. Exclamations of surprise were heard on all sides. It was like throwing a bombshell into the large assembly.

But one of the four Representatives from St. Landry was nominated by a majority in the primary, and that was Mr. Clark," declared Mr. Lewis. "The other three, P. L. Fontenot, Y. L. Fontenot and H. F. Curry, were declared nominated by the Committee through a mistake."

In explaining his remarks on the subject, Mr. Lewis says that there were between 3,800 and 3,900 votes cast in the primary. Mr. Clark received something over 2,100, which was a majority on the total number of ballots. The other three who stood highest in the primary received less than 800 votes.

But the Committee, he contends by dividing the total vote cast by the number of candidates, of which there were ten, and then dividing this by the number that there were to be elected, declared all four nominated.

Mr. Lewis strongly hints that this action was taken in order to avoid a second primary.

Those who were running for Representatives from St. Landry, in addition to those who now hold the offices, were John M. Oge, J. H. Harmanson, Dr. H. S. Joseph, A. J. Goschen, J. W. Bass and Mr. Sandoz.

Mr. Lewis further charged that Assessor L. J. Dossman, who is prominently mentioned as a probable successor to Mr. Gondron on the Board of Control, told him the morning after the prohibition election last April, when St. Landry went dry, that he would be glad to have the western portion of the parish cut off and made into Evangeline, because most of the prohibition vote was polled here, and that the eastern part would vote whiskey back in.

Representative P. L. Fontenot, when questioned regarding Mr. Lewis' charges on the election, declared that he had always supposed that he had been properly elected. He did not know exactly by what method the Executive Committee had arrived at the nominations. The other two members whose seats have been questioned expressed similar sentiments, and were surprised that the legality should have been placed in doubt.

Dr. W. D. Lewis is the only member of the Committee who is here, but as he was not present at the meeting when the returns were polled he can make no definite statement regarding the method there adopted. However, he understood that the way of arriving at nominations had been that which Mr. Lewis had said. Sheriff Marion Swords also verifies this, as also Colonel Thos. Lewis.

Hearing Before Senate Committee
Baton Rouge, La., May 27.—The Corporations Committee of the Senate held a very interesting session this afternoon in hearing the Lazo bill providing for a division of St. Landry Parish and the creating of the Parish of Evangeline.

L. Lazaro, the author of the measure, was the first witness. He said that a majority of the people wanted the crooked line in

Continued on page 5.

CADDO ELECTION IS NOT ILLEGAL

The Supreme Court Upholds the Lower Court.

ELECTION ORDINANCE WAS NOT ILLEGAL

Time Between Calling of and the Holding of the Election Not Fatal.

Judgment was affirmed Monday by the Supreme Court in the suit of J. T. Hagan and others against the Police Jury of Caddo Parish, which means that Shreveport will remain in the "dry" column. It was sought to annul the election which was held some time ago, at which prohibition was voted by the people of Caddo and Shreveport. The city people were outvoted by the prohibitionists in the parish.

The syllabus of the decision follows, Justice Breaux being the organ of the court:

1. There is no statute authorizing plaintiffs to contest an election held to decide whether or not liquor license shall issue in a ward or parish.

2. The counting of votes is a judicial function only insofar as made such by special statute.

3. The right asserted is a public right, it does not fall within the class of rights referred to in the Constitution, Art. 109, "civil or political rights" that are personal.

4. An election must be held. To the extent steps are taken to hold the election, the court will entertain jurisdiction; no further. It is a question of authority to hold the election. The ordinance under which the election was called was not illegal.

The time allowed between the date the election was ordered and the date of the election was not fatally insufficient.

The other questions relate to the conduct of the election. The counting of votes and other similar details of election—as relate to the local option law—left under present law to the respective localities. The judgment is affirmed.

SHIP SUBSIDY IS DEFEATED

Republican Leaders Angered at Williams' Tactics

BILL ESTABLISHING BUREAU OF MINES PASSED

Committee Concludes the Treaties With Japan to Protect Patents and Copyrights.

The defeat of the Ship subsidy provision of the post office appropriation bill caused the greatest excitement in the House. The outburst of wild applause following the announcement of the result of the vote was led by the solid Democratic side of the House and was heartily joined in by those Republicans who had voted "No." As a result the post office appropriation bill is returned to conference, but the advocates of the ship subsidy have not lost all hope.

Those Republican leaders who were at first disposed to treat with levity the obstructionist tactics of John Sharp Williams and his lieutenants, are now angered at them, and there is perceptible a feeling of dissatisfaction in the ranks of the minority. All of the legislators are anxious to get away from Washington as soon as possible and the expectation is that considerable pressure will be brought to bear upon Mr. Williams to induce him to desist further from further obstruction in order to permit of adjournment by Monday at the latest.

In the House this week a bill was passed establishing in the

Continued on page 4.

STATE CAPITAL

W. W. HEARD SUCCEEDS COL. C. HARRISON PARKER

WARRANT FOR INGRAM'S ARREST

Bill Providing for an Assistant Attorney General--Other Bills of Interest.

The resignation of Colonel C. Harrison Parker, president of the penitentiary board of control, reached Governor Sanders Monday. It was purely formal. The governor sent to the Senate Monday the nomination of ex-Governor William Wright Heard to be Colonel Parker's successor.

MORE RESIGNATIONS

Senator C. V. McVea has resigned as a member of the board of the Southwestern Industrial Institute. Other resignations include B. Michel, a bar pilot from the Oyster Commission, Senator Provosty, from the Atchafalaya River Board Representative Leon Smith, from the Office of Attorney to the Tax Collector of Caddo; and Representative Clinton from the Board of Supervisors of the Louisiana State University.

Strong confirmation was given Tuesday to the report that Dr. John N. Thomas, former quarantine physician and now connected with the Marine Hospital service, is likely to be the next superintendent of the Insane Asylum of Jackson. It is said that Mr. Clarence Pierson, who was in Baton Rouge Monday, will retire from the superintendency. Along with that information comes the information that Dr. G. A. B. Hays, the present head of the asylum at Pineville, is also to resign. It is intimated Dr. Hays has already indicated to the Governor his intention voluntarily to surrender his position, though he was a Sanders supporter during the campaign.

WARRANT ISSUED FOR ARREST OF MAJOR INGRAM

The affairs of the State Board of Health took a sensational turn today. Traveling State Auditor Smith charged Major W. S. Ingram, former secretary-treasurer of the board, with embezzling \$482.02 of the funds of the board. The charge was in the form of an affidavit sworn to before the first city criminal court.

Attached to the affidavit was a canceled check for \$482.02, which Auditor Smith charges Major Ingram wrongfully converted to his own use. The check was made out to the order of the state board of health by the Waters-Pierce Oil Company of Shreveport.

This is only one of the several checks made out by the same company which have gone astray. Speculation is now going the rounds as to whether each of the other checks will be made the grounds for more charges.

Auditor Smith arrived in the city Saturday and, acting under orders from Governor Sanders, immediately took charge of the books of the state board of health with the intention of untangling the accounts of the board and finding out just where the several thousands of dollars which are missing went to.

TO CREATE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Senator McCulloh today gave notice in the Senate of an amendment to the constitution which, if adopted, will eliminate all the

Continued on page 5.