The Opelousas Courier.

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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.

A PLEASANT DAY IN LAKE CHARLES

The special train which left Washington and Opelousas last Sunday morning for Lake Charles, arrived close to schedule time, having on board fully one hundred Knights of Columbus, many of whom were accompanied by their wives or daughters. They were met at the railway station by a committee and taken to the center of the city in street cars, the ladies of the party being taken in charge by a committee of ladies of that city. A march was taken to the Knights and candidates from the Order, all attending in a body. Rev. Father Kramer, the pastor, was celebrant of the mass, the sermon of the day being delivered by Rev. Donnelly, president of the Boys' school at Laporte, Tex. Inspiring music was rendered by the church choir during the services, which were well attended by people of the city.

Following the ceremonies, a lunch was served to the candidates and knights, the initiation beginning about two o'clock. Opelousas Council's team had the honor of conferring the first and second degrees on the class, composed of thirty well-known gentlemen of Lake Charles and Calcasieu parish, and the third degree was exemplified by the Vicksburg team. The large delegations of Knights from New Orleans, Lafayette, New Iberia, Crowley, Opelousas and East Texas, who assisted the members of Calcasieu Council and the visiting teams in exemplifying the degree work, expressed the greatest satisfaction with the manner of its accomplishment. This is the third class to be initiated at Lake Charles, and the members of that Council are enthusiastic at the progress made during the short time since the Order was established in this thriving little city.

At night the ladies of the city tendered a banquet to the Knights and their ladies, the spacious hall decorated with the national colors being filled with their guests. The menu was excellent and was served by the hostesses themselves this feature contributing most to the delight of the occasion. District Deputy Sandoz, of Opelousas, was called to preside as toastmaster, the address of welcome being delivered by D. A. Leveque, of Calcasieu Council. The following speakers were introduced in the order named: P. J. Chappuis, G. K., Crowley; Rev. Donnelly, Laporte; C. O. Mouton, G. K., Lafayette; L. A. Goudeau, Lake Charles; Rev. Kelly, Port Arthur; Rev. Gassler, Iota. The fraternal and patriotic sentiments expressed by the several orators were enthusiastically received. Music interspersed the toasts.

Most of the visitors departed on the special train at 10:30 p. m., delighted with their brief stay in the city by the lake. The trip home was speedily accomplished, the train arriving here at about 2:30 Monday morning.

AN ENTERTAINMENT AT THE CONVENT

On next Sunday week, the 6th of December, an entertainment and bazaar will be given at the Convent of the Immaculate Conception for the benefit of that worthy institution of learning. We are requested to announce that the Sisters have gone to considerable trouble to provide everything which will make this affair a success from every point of view. The delicacies of the season, including chicken salad, oyster gumbo, ice cream and cakes, will be served at reasonable prices. Everybody is cordially invited to come and spend an enjoyable evening and to bring the children along. We bespeak for the institution, and the ladies who have kindly consented to assist a large attendance on this occasion, assuring them in advance that the proceeds will be devoted to a most deserving cause.

Now is the time to fill in the holes and ruts in the streets and public roads, before the heavy winter rains set in.

GRAND JURY REPORT

TRUE BILLS

Tony Graffino, carrying concealed weapons.

Victor Fusilier, carrying concealed weapons and hoodlum act.

Artemon Foret et als., malicious mischief.

Denus Lafleur, atsault and battery.

Will Higginbotham, carrying concealed weapons.

H. L. Butler, carrying concealed weapons.

Jimmier Teer, carrying concealed weapons.

J. J. McGee, cutting with intent to kill.

Sidney Fusilier, carrying concealed weapons.

Thomas Bell, burglary.

Mederick Mallet, cow stealing.

Alcine Lewis, alias Tite Walker, manslaughter.

Henry Collins, horse stealing.

Oleus Not et als., boodlum act.

Adraste Guidry, et als., hoodlum act.

Edward Thomas, cow stealing.

Louis Celestin, killing hog with intent to steal.

Alexandre White, violating act 326 of 1908.

Lucius Weatherall, cow stealing.

Cleophas Tate, manslaughter.

Julius Perrault, murder.

Maurice Sias, murder.

NOT TRUE BILLS

Octavius Moreau, assault and battery.

Joseph Soileau, malicious shooting.

Arvilien Gobert, abduction.

Paul Hebert, cutting with intent to kill.

Walter Delahoussaye, assault and battery.

Biods Ardoin, hoodlum act.

Allen McCoy, shooting with intent to kill.

The Grand Jury made another report on Monday morning, returning true bills against practically every saloon man in the parish for violating the Sunday law. This is the first indictment on this charge for quite a while. Three indictments wre also returned against as many couples under the concubinage law, the new statute which prohibits co-habitation of persons of different races.

THE ATCHAFALAYA BRIDGE COMPLETE

It has now been authoritatively stated that the great iron and stone bridge over the Atchafalaya river, where the Colorado Southern railroad crosses that stream, is complete, and that trains were run over it for the first time this week. No definite announcement has yet been made as to just when the company will run trains into New Orleans, but though earlier dates have been mentioned for beginning through traffic, it is unlikely that it will be inaugurated before Jan. 1st. It was stated only a short time since that the company would probably not run into Baton Rouge and from thence into New Orleans over the Mississippi Valley road as originally proposed, but that the Colorado Southern trains would leave its track at Livonia, a short distance beyond Melville, and go into the city from there over the Texas & Pacific railroad. Our idea is that the original route will be used, and that traffic will not commence until Jan. 1st.

The report of George R. Sheldon, Republican national treasurer, shows that the campaign fund was $1,700,000. Charles P. Taft was the largest contributor with $160,000. President Roosevelt gave $1,000. Among the heaviest contributors were J. P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, Wm. Nelson Cromwell and Whitelaw Reid, who gave $25,000 each. D. O. Mills, Adolphus Busch, R. C. Kerns and W. C. Dickey gave $5,000 each.

It is said that a colony of Poles is negotiating for a large tract of land in Louisiana on which to settle and make homes. They are the kind of people we want, homeseekers and not mere job seekers. We want settlers who are ambitious to own a strip of soil and to become citizens and respectors of the law, builders of schools and churches, and makers of a commonwealth.—Crowley Signal.

NEWS OF A WEEK AT WASHINGTON CITY

The National Grange after a session of a week in Washington has adjourned. Toward the end of the meeting it adopted a resolution demanding the introduction of the parcels post on rural routes and also of its universal extension. Another resolution was adopted asking for the establishment of postal savings banks for the benefit of farmers. These are measures that have been recommended by Postmaster General Von Meyer and by his predecessors for twenty years. The parcels post has long since been in use in European and even in Asiatic countries. If the United States were an effete monarchy or an oppressed despotism we would long since have had the parcels post here but being a free and independent Government of Senatorial, Congressional and other bosses in the pay of the interests, and having a Senator from New York, representing the Express Companies of which he is President, on the floor of the Senate, and having a powerful Express company lobby with its pockets bulging with ill gotten gains ever present at the Capitol, we must be content with our vaunted superiority in name over the effete monarchies and despotisms. The recent post office deficit was seventeen millions. The post office establishment, spending nearly two hundred millions, brings the country in debt seventeen millions a year. The establishment, well managed in a business like way and doing the profitable work that the Express company filches from it, would bring the Government yearly enough money to build a half a dozen Dreadnoughts and would at the same time furnish all of the people of the United States a vastly superior service. With thirty thousand rural routes, nearly all of them supplied with a horse and wagon, the small amount of fifty five pounds a trip would wipe out the deficit. The National Grange has passed a resolution to oppose Senators who oppose the parcels post delivery.

During the past week it has been definitely settled that Secretary of State Root will transfer his activities from the premiership of President Roosevelt's Cabinet to, I was about to say, the leadership of the Senate. But Senatorial etiquette and tradition demands that new Senators however distinguished shalll be seen not heard—sitting in modest silence. There have been recently some conspicuous recalcitrants against this iron rule. Senator Beveridge made himself heard soon after he entered the Senate. Senate La Follette also found it impossible to keep still and it is possible that the passing away of old things and the introduction of new may have begun and is ringing changes in the Senate. Senator Aldrich from the little state of Rhode Island has long been called by the newspaper men the "boss of the Senate" and he deserves the soubriquet although Senator Hale of Maine is himself something of a boss. A comparatively new Senator Crane of Massachusetts, has been very influential in the counsels of the majority of that august body, while his colleague, Lodge, is looked upon as the mouth piece of the President. It cannot be otherwise than that the entrance of so conspicuous and so intellectually potent a man as Root will have its influence on the American House of Peers as well as a salutary influence in the affairs of the country. President elect Taft, it is said, desired him to remain at the head of his Cabinet but he will be able to assist the Administration from the Senate floor and his counsel will doubtless be indirectly felt in the Cabinet Chamber.

It is rumored this morning that the old gang in New York has gotten together to defeat Root for the Senate, but he is so conspicuously fit and necessary that the gang will probably not succeed better than they did against Gov. Hughes.

It is said that the President has already begun his editorial work on the magazine called The Outlook and that the coming number will have an article from his pen on the Awakening In China. Doubtless the President has gotton much information on this subject from books, missionaries and the public press but it is questionable if he will write as well on the subject now as he might write after he has made a study of that country on the ground. There is no doubt that China is awaking but so long and so profound has been her slumber and so impervious is she, owing to physical and psychological conditions, to modern thought that it is doubtful if even our grandchildren will be able to say she is awake China has no language, her immense population estimated by guesses (and nothing more) to be four hundred millions have no common lingual medium of communication. The denizens of cities and villages twenty miles apart cannot talk to each other. They have no expression for patriotosm, public spirit or progress and in these respects are impervious to the sentiments and influences which aroused their neigbors, the Japanese and launched them on their conquering career. The CRisese are by far the most enigmatical and puzzling great aggregation of people on the planet They are more industrious, more patient and more honest, yes and more intelligent than the Japanese, and are, without question, physically and intellectually superior to them. President Roosevelt's article in the Outlook will be read in at least a dozen languages and many chinamen in the Flowery Kingdom will read it in English and translate into Mandarinate. when it will be read by the numerical,y large but proportionately to the population small of Cninamen capabie of understanding it

NECROLOGICAL

Mrs. Charles Lafleur, born Cora A. Lacombe, died at the family residence here on Wednesday night, aged fifty-five years. Deceased had been ill for many months past, and all that a devoted husband and family could provide proved unavailing. The funeral took place from the Catholic church, of which she was a devout member, on Thursday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock, many friends of the family being in attendance. We extend our condolences to the bereaved husband and sons in their sad affliction.

The Rowland & Clifford Amusement Co. will present "Thorns and Orange Blossoms" at the Sandoz Opera House on Monday, Nov. 30th, with a strong cast of players and an exceptional scenic equipment. The production is the same as when in Chicago during its recent run.

TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS

The following, addressed to Superintendent C. J. Thompson of our parish, has been handed us for publication:

Dear Superintendent: Please announce to your teachers through your local papers that the next regular teachers' examination will be held Dec. 3d, 4th and 5th. Those wishing to take the examination for State Teachers' Certificates will be given the opportunity at this time to do so.

T. H. HARRIS.

An exchange has discovered that a poor girl has to be awfully good looking to be pretty, and a rich girl has to be awfully homely to be ugly. It might be added that a poor man has to be awfully smart to be intelligent, and a rich man almost a blockhead to be ignorant.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION

A question of vital importance to farmers generally, and particularly to the "small farmer," who is not the owner of land, was decided in the district court here on Friday of last week by Judge E. T. Lewis in the case of W. C. Dejean & Bro. vs. Robt. E. Lee. In this suit a motion was filed by defendant, asking the dissolution of writs of attachment and sequestration issued in the case, on the ground that the property seized and sequestered thereunder was exempt therefrom under the Homestead laws.

The court held that the property so seized and requestered was exempt from seizure and sale as contended by defendant, and the plea sustained, with damages. Defendant set up that his horses and corn were exempt from seizure under the Homestead law, and this view was upheld by the court. R. Lee Garland and Robt. Harry represented Dejean & Bro. in the suit, while Peyton R. Sandoz was the attorney for Robt. E. Lee.

THE NIGH-RUTLEDGE SAWMILL SHUTS DOWN

Owing to apprehension among the mill hands to the effect that the company was unable to meet its pay-roll, they quit work a few days ago, forcing the company to close down. Ever since the financial stringency began last fall, the company has had great difficulty in selling its output, and that sold did not bring a fair price, so that the stockholders had to put new money into the business to keep it going. Revival in business, however, being slow, the additional investment could not keep the plant in operation, and being unable to meet its obligations, the stockholders resolved to let the company go into the hands of receivers.

Application having been made to that effect by some of the creditors, the Court on Monday last appointed Russell Myrick and Kent Williamson, the officers up to that time in charge of the business, as receivers. It is understood that the mill will not be run by the receivers for the present, but it is perfectly solvent and with returning prosperity it is believed will soon be in operation again, and probably be restored to the management of the company within the next few months. We hope that the temporary embarrassment of the company will be tided over, and that it will soon be in operation again.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Laitas Franchebois to Nap. Franchebois. 17.25 acres near Opelousas. $600.

Same to Jos. P. Cormier. Five lots in Lewisburg. $125.

J. ... Deuran to R. B. Sloane The east half of the south half of Block 56, improved, in Eunice. $599.

Heirs of Suzan Keller to Dr. L. Lazaro. 50 arpents in Bayou Chicot. $250.

Same to Quirk McCaffery. Lot, improved, in Washington. $395.

Same to Mrs. Estelle Keller. Lot, improved, in Washington. $400.

Same to themselves. 150 acres at Bayou Chicot, $575. Lot, improved, in Washington, $1,600. Lot, improved, in Washington, $800.

Mrs. D. P. Saizan to Mrs. Carmeline Devilliers. Lot in Port Barre, 50 by 142 feet. $125.

Philip Fall to Arcade Fall. 54 arpents, improved, near Sunset, $1,000, and 25 arpents near Sunset, $300.

Jos. C. Guillory to Mrs. Julia Bello. One arpent in Mallet. $10.

Estate Wm. Young to Emeline E. Childs. 30 acres, improved, in Plaquemine; 30 acres same neighborhood; 24 acres in Mallet woods. Adjudication.

Alcee Nerault to Chas. F. Boagni. ¾ of an acre in Opelousas. $120

Valsin Dupre to Dr. F. C. Shute. Lot in Port Barre, 45x358 feet. $200.

Hyp. Jeannis to Paulin Jeannis. 40 acres on Sandy Bayou. $125.

Jos. A. Dejean to Chas. O. Dejean. One-third interest in seven arpents, improved, at Port Barre. $1,475.

THE COL. SOUTHERN TAX SUIT

Interest was renewed this week in the question as to whether the Colorado Southern Railroad Co. had forfeited its right to the special tax voted by the taxpayers of this city in aid of the construction of this road, by its failure to complete and have in running order its railroad from DeQuincy to Baton Rouge within the time fixed in the ordinance. The railroad company had filed a suit here against the city of Opelousas demanding that this tax be collected and paid over to the company under the provision of the ordinance, Collector Hayes having discontinud the collection thereof under orders of the Board of Aldermen, who passed a resolution declaring that the tax had been forfeited by the failure of the road to comply with its obligations under the ordinance before March 20, 1908, and on Monday last the city filed the answer to this suit, basing its defense in line with the action of the Board. On Tuesday an intervention was filed by a number of taxpayers who joined the city in resisting the collection of the special tax in aid of the railroad, adopting the defense set up by the city, in their own behalf, and also joining the defendant in its prayer for a trial by jury.

The case has not been fixed for trial, but it is probable that it will be in the near future, and that it will likely qualify by the end of this week, and a jury to be specially selected. The city is represented by its attorney, P. R. Sandoz, the intervenors by Lewis & Lewis and E. B. Dubuisson, and the plaintiff company by Dufour & Dufour and D. L. Guilbeau. The fight promises to be an interesting one.

Public sentiment here is divided on the question as to whether the collection and payment of the special tax should be resisted. Some hold as do the city and the taxpayers who intervened in the suit, that as the tax was voted under the express provisions of an ordinance to the effect that unless the road was completed and in operation between the points named therein by March 20, 1908, it should be forfeited, and as it is unquestionable that the road is not "complete" and in "running order" with trains actually running thereon, even yet, some eight months after the time stipulated, that the railroad company is not entitled to the tax money. On the other hand, many hold to the opinion that as the railroad is actually constructed between the points named, saving and excepting only the big bridge over the Atchafalaya (delay in the completion of which is due to high water in that river during a great part of the time when work should have and would have progressed thereon), that the tax is justly due. Most of these admit that a strict construction of the provisions of the ordinance leyving the tax would relieve the taxpayers of its payment, but they consider that as they have the railroad in operation over a part of the distance, and will soon have trains operating all the way, they are morally and legally bound to pay it.

The legal fraternity is also divided on the question as to whether the collection and payment of the tax can be enforced. Some hold that the failure of the railroad company to complete their road and have trains running on it by March 20, 1908, as stipulated in the ordinance, constitutes under its terms a forfeiture of the tax. Others believe that the failure of the company to complete its bridge over the Atchafalaya being due to conditions over which they had no control—a high stage of the water for several months—that an equivalent in time should be allowed the company to complete the bridge and put its trains into service. In other words, that the flood conditions existing in that stream for a considerable time and which prevented work on the bridge, being a fortuitous event—"an act of God," as the law says—relieves the company from the effect of the forfeiture clause in the ordinance.