

# THE OPELOUSAS COURIER.

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## FEDERAL COURT NEXT MONDAY

TO CONVEY IN REGULAR SESSION HERE ON THAT DAY

## NEW CASES ARE DOCKETED

Federal Judge Alex Boorman and United States District Attorney Elstner Will Arrive Next Week to Hold Regular Term.

The United States District and Circuit Courts for the Western District of Louisiana will convene in regular session on next Monday, the 17th inst. Both Federal Judge Alex Boorman and United States District Attorney C. Elstner are expected here on that date, when the court will normally open and adjournment will be until Tuesday morning in order to facilitate the fixing of cases and arranging for the trial of cases docketed.

Both civil and criminal business will be considered by the court, but as both dockets are very light, it is not believed that the term will extend beyond Wednesday, or Thursday at the latest. The civil cases on the docket are not of any special interest to the public, and the questions involved are not out of the ordinary.

The few criminal cases coming before the court are mainly those which were continued over from a previous term, and will doubtless be disposed of in short order by Judge Boorman. No very serious charges of a criminal nature are expected, however, the principal cases being infractions of the internal revenue laws requiring licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors. It is said that there may be some unlooked-for arrests on this charge, but it is not known whether or not there is any substantial foundation for such a rumor, inasmuch as the St. Landry "tiger" keepers—if we have any—are doubtless cautious and far-sighted enough to provide themselves with the necessary "permit" from Uncle Sam before venturing into the enterprise. Past experience has demonstrated that they may rather fearlessly and brazenly ignore the state laws prohibiting the sale of liquors without a license, they have invariably shown due deference and respect to "Uncle Sam" by providing themselves with the necessary internal revenue license in advance.

The deputy clerk of court and city marshal are busy getting things in shape for the term, citing processes, serving notices, etc., and when the court officials arrive on Sunday afternoon or Monday morning, everything in their respective departments will have received attention and be in readiness for the starting of the judicial grist mill.

## DEATH OF MRS. LOUIS DESMARAIS.

The sad news reached here last Monday afternoon of the death in New Orleans of Mrs. Louis Desmarais, nee Alice Trainor, who had been recently sent to that city to undergo an operation for appendicitis. It is said that the operation was successfully performed two days prior to her death, but that other complications set in which resulted in her death. Mrs. Desmarais was a most estimable woman and her death was a distinct loss to the community. She is survived by an only daughter, Virginia, who is now bereft of both parents, her father having died a few months ago. The body was brought here Monday morning over the Southern Pacific Railroad, and the funeral was held Tuesday morning from the family residence here with interment in the Catholic cemetery.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 11 a. m. and will be officiated by Rev. Dr. R. T. Price.

Owing to the defective condition of the pump at the power house, the city water service has been cut off practically all the week. Only at intermittent intervals has it been possible to obtain water from the city hydrants, and this only after considerable work on the pump by the engineers. The scarcity of water resulting from this cause has worked a great hardship upon the citizens, many of whom are solely dependent upon the city for their water supply, while it is frightful to think of the consequences had a fire broken out in any portion of the city. There is no one to blame for this condition; the power plant is in bad shape, and efforts are being made to repair the defective machinery, but in the meantime, cannot the Board of Aldermen arrange to use the wells either at the ice factory or the oil mill?

## NEW STATE OFFICERS

Fourth Annual State Convention Knights of Columbus

HELD AT SHREVEPORT WITH RECORD ATTENDANCE

Besides Selection of Officers, Place of Meeting Is Chosen and National Delegates Named.

What was one of the most successful conventions of the Knights of Columbus was held at Shreveport this week, being the fourth annual state gathering of the Order. A large number of delegates were present, and the reception tendered the visitors by the citizens of Shreveport was said to have been most cordial and hospitable.

Among the important matters given consideration by the convention was the discrimination against certain portions of Louisiana in the matter of insurance, and a resolution was adopted protesting against certain sections of the state being barred from entrance into the insurance privileges of the Order, and the Louisiana representatives to the National Convention were instructed to call existing conditions to the attention of that body, and to show that health conditions in this state are equal to those elsewhere, and in this manner have the ban removed.

The secretary's report showed that the state council was in a most flourishing condition, and that a total increase in membership of over six hundred was made during the past year, thereby entitling Louisiana to another representative in the Supreme Council.

The following officers were elected to serve the ensuing year:

Judge L. L. Caillouet, Thibodaux, state deputy; L. L. Amoss, Baton Rouge, state secretary; W. D. Parks, Donaldsonville, state treasurer; Charles L. Wise, Morgan City, state advocate; Fred O'Donald, New Orleans, state warden; Rev. Thomas J. Larkin, New Orleans, state chaplain. Representatives to the Supreme Council: W. J. Sandoz, Opelousas, and Judge John D. Fisher, New Orleans.

Quite a fight was on for the selection of the next meeting place for the convention, Lake Charles, Alexandria and Plaquemine being the most formidable candidates. On the final ballot, Lake Charles was selected by a majority of one vote, and will, therefore, have the honor of entertaining the Knights next year. The convention was finally adjourned Tuesday evening, and the exact date of the meeting of the state organization will be announced at some time later, the precise month probably being left to the selection of the Lake Charles people and announced in due time.

## THE SUPREME COURT TO ASSIGN SEVERAL JUDGES

MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL BAR ACQUIESCE IN PROPOSITION TO DESIGNATE MORE THAN ONE JUDGE TO TRY CASES HERE

Will Insure Practically a Continuous Term and Facilitate the Clearing of the Congested Dockets

Owing to the continued unfortunate illness of District Judge W. C. Perrault, and the inability of Acting Judge W. P. Edwards of Vermilion to sit here in his place on account of an affection of the eyes, Clerk of Court Andrepost made application to the Supreme Court last week for the assignment of another judge to this district, in order that court work may be resumed, and the present unsatisfactory state of affairs regulated so as to preclude the possibility of too great an accumulation of cases on the docket.

When application was made for the assignment of a judge here some time back, and Judge Edwards was designated to sit in this district pending the illness of Judge Perrault, it was believed that court would be held with some degree of regularity, and that litigated cases could be disposed of with practically the same celerity as heretofore. However, it appears Judge Edwards has been kept very busy with judicial matters in his own district and unable to devote any time to the trial of cases here, and, besides, has recently been suffering with an affection of the eyes which renders it quite impossible for him to assume the burdensome duties which would confront him as acting judge of this court. Therefore, when he was about to be re-assigned to duty in St. Landry, he addressed a letter to the Supreme Court stating the condition of his eyes, and suggesting that he be relieved of some of the extra work by the assignment by the Supreme Court of several judges to sit here, each taking his turn, which plan, if adopted, would relieve him of the hardship of having to do all the work of this district in addition to that of his own, and at the same time assure the members of the bar here of practically a continuous term of court. He stated that he had been informed that it would require a nine months' term in which to dispose of the cases on the dockets of this court, and it was obviously impossible for him to undertake to do the work single-handed and alone.

The proposition of Judge Edwards was incorporated in a letter written by the clerk of the Supreme Court to the local chairman of the Bar Examining Committee, with the request that the matter be laid before the members of the local bar, and if the plan met with their approval, to so notify the judges of the Supreme Court with-

out further delay, and the assignments of the judges would be made accordingly.

This letter of the clerk of the Supreme Court, with an appended statement of approval and acceptance to be signed by the lawyers here, was circulated among the members of the bar and very generally signed, the consensus of opinion being that the proposed plan would prove infinitely more satisfactory than having to depend upon only one judge to come here to try cases, especially since past events have demonstrated that when one judge only is assigned, the local court must remain practically closed owing to the preoccupation of the acting judge with legal matters in his own district.

The acceptance of the proposition by the local lawyers will cause the Supreme Court to act in accordance therewith, and it is now quite certain that a judge will be sent to Opelousas at a very near date. Just what judges will be assigned or which will be the first to sit here under the new order is not known, but it is not improbable that Judge Edwards will occupy the bench at the opening term, to be followed by Judge O'Neil of Franklin or Judge Campbell of Lafayette.

The plan as proposed will work very satisfactorily where it is possible to try the case in its entirety before the same judge, and he is compelled to leave before it is finally submitted to him, but if he is assigned for only a definite period and is compelled to try the case piece-meal, it is not believed results will be altogether pleasing. However, as one member of the bar remarked, "It will be better than no judge at all."

In connection with the above, it is said that Judge Perrault's health is much improved, and that he hopes to resume the bench before many weeks. Under strict orders from his physicians, he will refrain from the slightest mental or physical exertion until such time as he has recovered sufficiently to safely venture upon a performance of his duties. He is still in New Orleans undergoing treatment and hopes to be able to return home soon. By refraining from work during the hot summer months, and pursuing the course of treatment prescribed for him, it is believed he will be able to resume the bench in the fall in splendid condition to cope with the arduous duties before him.

## TWO INTERESTING SUITS.

Two cases of interest to local people were heard in the Supreme Court at New Orleans last Tuesday, one being a damage suit against the Colorado Southern Railroad filed by G. W. Kelley, and the other being the suit of W. C. Dejean & Bro. versus Robert E. Lee involving the homestead exemption. In the Kelley suit, Miller, Dufour & Dufour and D. L. Guilbeau represented the railroad company, while Lewis & Lewis were counsel for Kelley. In the suit involving the homestead exemption, Dejean & Bro. were represented by Garland & Harry, and the defendant, R. E. Lee, was represented by Peyton R. Sandoz. Decisions in the above suits will likely be handed down next week.

It begins to look as if those senators favoring free lumber will have to be content with something like free knotholes.

## NEGRO SHOTS HIS WIFE.

At the hour of going to press Friday evening the Courier was informed of a killing which took place near Washington shortly after noon on that day. The sheriff's office was notified by telephone that Oscar Allen, a negro, had shot his wife with a double barrel shot gun, from the effects of which she died shortly after. The negro escaped after committing the crime but as a posse is hot on his trail it is probable that he will be shortly captured and landed behind the bars. When sheriff Swords and his deputies arrived on the scene the negro had already pulled out, but information was received as to the direction taken by him and the pursuit continued without delay.

Public franchises belong to the people—not to the corporations that pay nothing for them.

Mayor Halphen, acting City Health Inspector, has been making a careful round of the city the past week, inspecting premises and directing such improvement in their sanitary condition as were warranted. The citizens should bear in mind that the hot summer months are coming on, the time when disease and sickness are most apt to become prevalent, and that the best methods of precaution against them are the rigid observance of sanitary regulations and constant vigilance in that regard. It is a duty the citizens owe to themselves and to the community to keep their premises in a cleanly condition, not only from a standpoint of pride and decency, but to minimize the chances of spreading contagion in the community. Clean up, disinfect; the inspector has his eyes on you!

## MANY MEN WORKING

Frisco Officials Are Rushing Improvements on Line.

ONE HUNDRED MEN WORKING TO COMPLETE BALLASTING

Placing Roadbed in Good Condition for Through Service Between New Orleans and Houston June 1

C. A. Emory, local agent of the Frisco railroad, in an interview with a Courier representative last Thursday, declared that June 1st would mark the date of the inauguration of through service over the Frisco railroad between Houston and New Orleans, which will afford Opelousas a new double daily service between those points. "The company has just put out one hundred men on the line between DeQuincey and the Atchafalaya river," said Mr. Emory, "who will complete the work of ballasting the road and otherwise improving its condition. All the employees laid off during the period of inactivity will be given back their positions at once, and many more men will be employed to act as agents, operators, etc., along the line. The company means business, and will inaugurate the finest equipped passenger service in the South between Houston and New Orleans, with double daily trains and fast schedules. Just keep your eye on us," said he with a smile.

For some time past the rumor has been going the round that the Frisco would inaugurate through service to New Orleans by June the first. It now appears that these rumors are well founded, and that the long looked-for trains will really be running by that date. It is said that Eunice will be made one of the divisions for the time being, though it is asserted that it has not been definitely concluded to make that a permanent division, and that it is not at all unlikely that Opelousas may get the prize in the end.

Gravel is being used to ballast, and the crew doing the work is composed almost entirely of Opelousas negroes under the supervision of Roadmaster Henry Owens of the Frisco, with T. B. Ashworth as general foreman and Henry Mornhinveg of this city as time-keeper. The hundred men employed are divided into two crews of fifty each, one crew working east from DeQuincey and the other working west from the Atchafalaya river. It is thought the two crews will meet at Eunice by next Monday.

Five large passenger locomotives and seven freight locomotives, all of the most modern type and enormous capacity, are now on their way to Beaumont to be ready for the formal opening of the road, and while it is said that the service may be inaugurated before that date, it is not believed that the actual running of trains will be begun before that time.

## OIL OPERATIONS AT PINE PRAIRIE

NEW ORLEANS COMPANY ACQUIRES PLAISANCE OUTFIT

## GEN. F. F. MYLES HEADS MOVE

Active Operations in Northern St. Landry Commenced, and the Prospects Are Said to Be Bright for Abundant Oil.

Repeated efforts have been made to locate an oil field in St. Landry, and thousands of dollars have been expended in prospecting and developing, but nowhere has success crowned these efforts even to a small degree, except in the Eunice section, where the best results thus far have been obtained. But even there oil has not been produced in paying quantities, though the prospectors are sanguine that the greasy fluid is there, and in abundance, too. While all of this prospecting has been confined to the southern portion of the parish, it is only recently that any effort has been made to explore the northern section of St. Landry where the indications, it is said, are really superior to those elsewhere in this territory.

Gen. F. F. Myles of New Orleans is at the head of a company which has just commenced operations near Pine Prairie, and well being located some two miles southwest of the station and very near the limestone quarry in that corner of the parish. Last week, General Myles purchased the entire outfit of the Plaisance Oil Company, engaged the same driller that had been working for that company, and transported the whole "lay-out" to the scene of activities in the pine hills.

The Plaisance Company, after heroic efforts and the expenditure of quite a sum of money, threw up the sponge, though it is said that until the very last the well gave indications of developing into a first-class gusher. The soil formation and gas ebullitions, with an occasional strong showing of petroleum, kept the drillers and the well owners on the qui vive all the time, and it was not until the well had been sunk to the maximum depth that the work was abandoned; and even now there are many who confidently believe that the Plaisance field will yet be developed, and will take its place among the important oil fields of the state.

At Pine Prairie the work is going merrily on. Mr. Hugh Blacksher, who had the contract for hauling the machinery from the Plaisance field to the site at Pine Prairie, has delivered at its destination every piece of machinery and every foot of pipe needed at the present time, and the drills were started this week. From now on the drilling of the first well will be accomplished with all speed possible, and unless unforeseen accidents intervene, the citizens of the parish will be definitely informed within a very few weeks whether or not northwestern St. Landry will be able to boast of a real, oil-producing, money-making field.

## HOTEL SILVERWARE ARRIVES

The show windows of the up-to-date Main street jewelers, R. Mornhinveg & Son, were literally filled the early part of the week with a magnificent display of silverware which was recently received by that firm for the new Lacombe Hotel. Mornhinveg & Son were the successful bidders for the contract to furnish this silverware over many competitors, including firms from the larger cities, which is a demonstration of the fact that Opelousas enterprise can cope with any.

Service in the Episcopal church on Ascension day, Thursday, May 20th, at 10 a. m. Strangers cordially invited.