

VOLUME XXI.

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RICHEST IN THE WORLD.

Noted Engineer Says Louisiana's Wonderful Alluvial Lands Have the Greatest Supporting Capacity of Any Equal Area Occupied by the White Rice.

(New Orleans Item.)

The great body of alluvial lands known as the wet prairies of south Louisiana, of which so much has been said during the past few years, is the largest single body of natural alluvial lands in the world, the richest body of agricultural lands in the world, and has the greatest supporting capacity of any equal area occupied by the white rice, is the statement made by John E. Kruse, the noted engineer, who, familiar with the lands of all parts of America and the most of Europe, is now engaged in several immense reclamation projects in this same alluvial section.

"There are but three great alluvial deposits, or rather, great coastal marsh areas, known in the world," said Mr. Kruse, "and that of south Louisiana is the greatest. The other two are those including Holland and Belgium as one, and the second is the east coast of England, directly across the North sea from Holland and known in England as the fens, or marshes. The combined area of these two districts is about 725 square miles, while that of Louisiana is approximately 25 per cent greater than both of these together—the area being about four and one-half million acres.

First Reclamation in Holland.
"The reclamation of swamp lands," said Mr. Kruse, "was begun, through necessity, in the first centuries, of the Christian era, and the work has never ceased, up to the present. The first work was done in Holland, where the high lands were extremely poor and the people were forced to use the low rich sections to gain subsistence. The first step was the shutting out of the sea. Then came the taking off of surplus water, for which purpose the old-fashioned wind mills were used. Thus do we get the strange associations that we have of windmills with the old Dutch country.

"At present the draining of the lowlands in Holland is under the supervision of the government, the swamp lands being government lands, which after reclamation are sold to the people. There is, perhaps, no area of land in the world so intensively cultivated as Holland. The lands have a value of from \$100 to \$300 per acre, and the population of the reclaimed area is at present 943 to the square mile. Holland is one of the richest if not the richest country in the world according to population. For centuries it has been famed for its truck gardens, its field crops and its fruit. Its cattle are famed throughout the world. Despite the fact that the reclaimed portions of Holland are below the level of the sea it is noted for being one of the most healthful countries in the world.

"The alluvial sections on the east coast of England are of much smaller area, containing only about 500,000 acres. It is said that the work of reclaiming these fens was begun by the Romans some time during the second or third century of the Christian era. There still remain nearly 150 miles of dikes along the Weald river and the North sea that were constructed during this early period.

"The area reclaimed in England embraced a goodly part of what are now known as Lincolnshire, Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, the richest portions of England. Like Holland these sections are famed for their productions of great crops of wheat and other grains, fine fruits, vegetables and truck crops and the finest of sheep and cattle. Like Holland, too, it is noted for its splendid health and climatic conditions.

Louisiana Greatest in World.
"Right here in Louisiana, though, is the greatest of the alluvial sections of the world. Known as the lower delta of the Mississippi, this section has an area of about 4,500,000 acres, practically all of which is capable of most perfect reclamation and the highest state of cultivation.

"In many respects the wet prairies of Louisiana are much easier to reclaim than are those of Holland, owing to the fact that they are very little, if any, lower than sea level. The immense dikes used in Holland, the average of which are 33 feet in height, are absolutely unnecessary here, we do not have the peat beds to contend with as in Holland, and the area of the alluvial sections is so large that in many cases the reclamation districts are many miles from the sea, so that even the tides do not reach them.

"The geology of the Louisiana marshes is much like that of the fens of England. A vast alluvial deposit is brought down from the drainage basin of the Mississippi and built up from the rock floor of the Gulf of Mexico. In some places this deposit reaches a depth of 3000 feet, though the average is about 1000 feet. This deposit is made up of the very finest particles of silts brought down by the river, the heaviest sediments having been precipitated in the upper courses.

Reclamation Work is Old.
"The first work toward the reclamation of the real marsh lands of Lou-

S. J. C. I. Notes.

The September test was completed last Wednesday, and the following pupils obtained perfect markings in the different branches:

First B Grade.
Alphabet—M. Marshall, L. Giscard, E. Landry, A. Schroeder.
Counting to 20—L. Giscard, A. Gauthreaux, E. Hebert, A. Schroeder, A. Veron.

First A Grade.
Reading—S. Boudreaux, Jno. Maher, M. Marchand, A. Mattigny, P. Mistretta.
Spelling—L. Fontana, R. Gaudin, M. Marchand, P. Mistretta.
Arithmetic—S. Boudreaux, L. Cassard, R. Gaudin, Chas. Maher, Jno. Maher.

Second Grade.
Reading—L. Braud, C. Brou, I. Giancloni, L. Macgala, E. Melancon, F. Randazzo, A. Richard, D. Schexnaydre, Ed. Zimmmer, G. Schexnaydre.
Spelling—D. Schexnaydre.
Arithmetic—H. Brou, J. Esneault, I. Giancloni, F. Hebert.

Third Grade.
Reading—F. Cannon, Jos. Constantin, Jos. Fontana, B. Foley, S. ert.
Landry, C. Mollere, R. Smith.
Spelling—C. Mollere, Roland Robert, Arithmetic—M. Brou, Jos. Fontana, S. Landry, C. Mollere, R. Robert.

Fourth Grade.
Reading—E. Hanson, E. Ohlmeyer.
Spelling—G. Cox, L. Justice, E. Hanson, F. LeBlanc, A. Martinez, G. Melancon, V. Solito, F. Zimmmer, G. Hebert.
Arithmetic—L. Fontana.
Geography—G. Cox, L. Fontana, L. Justice, C. Graffelo, E. Hanson, F. LeBlanc, E. LeBlanc, J. Ayraut, F. Landry.

Fifth Grade.
Reading—L. Falcon, J. Melancon.
Spelling—A. Cassard, E. Dugas, L. Falcon, J. Melancon, O. Lorio, M. Rauliez.
Arithmetic—L. Falcon, M. Ramirez, R. Robert.
Geography—A. Cassard, E. Dugas, C. Braud, E. Esneault, E. Landry, J. Melancon, O. Lorio, R. Robert.

Sixth Grade.
Spelling—J. Acosta, G. Blum, P. Maniscalco, G. Maurin, A. Messina.
Arithmetic—G. Blum, P. Maniscalco, V. Maurin, A. Messina.
Grammar—G. Blum, P. Maniscalco, A. Messina, L. Rogge.
U. S. History—G. Blum.
Bible History—J. Acosta, G. Blum, R. Ore.

Seventh Grade.
Reading—J. Lavigne, F. Mistretta.
Spelling—A. Courreges, L. Eggers, F. Mistretta, L. Robertson.
Arithmetic—C. Charlet.
Grammar—A. Courreges, L. Eggers.
Geography—A. Courreges, L. Eggers.

Eighth Grade.
U. S. History—C. Charlet, A. Courreges, L. Eggers, L. Fortier, F. Mistretta, L. Robertson.
Bible History—P. Bradford, J. Blanchard, C. Charlet, A. Courreges, L. Eggers, K. Giancloni, J. Lavigne, F. Mistretta, L. Robertson.

Ninth Grade.
Arithmetic—R. Delatte, P. Thibodeaux.
Grammar—R. Delatte, C. Guillot, S. Selser, P. Thibodeaux, H. Waguespack.
Commercial Law—S. Selser, P. Thibodeaux, H. Truxillo, H. Waguespack.
Geometry—R. Delatte, S. Selser, P. Thibodeaux, H. Waguespack.

Tenth Grade.
Commercial Law—J. Richard.
Algebra—L. Brun, E. Landry.
Geometry—L. Brun, E. Landry.
Physics—R. Blumenthal, E. Landry, J. Richard.

Eleventh Grade.
Ancient History—D. C. Mattigny, W. Rodriguez, Octave Robert.
Rhetoric—C. Brou.
Algebra—C. Brou, A. LeBlanc, A. Michel, W. Rodriguez.
Arithmetic—C. Brou, J. Ciro, A. LeBlanc, D. Mattigny, A. Michel, W. Rodriguez.

Physics—C. Brou, J. Ciro, D. Falcon, A. LeBlanc, D. Mattigny, A. Michel, W. Rodriguez, O. Robert.

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Announcements for district judge, district attorney, sheriff, clerk of court, assessor and coroner, \$15.
Announcements for state senator and representative, \$10.
Announcements for ward offices, \$5.
Addresses to voters, platforms, etc., 10 cents per line.

Introductory notice at time of announcing, complimentary.
All political matter must be paid for in advance, and as no exception will be made to this rule in any instance candidates are requested to pay for their announcements at the time they are banded in for publication. Positively no carry over for political matter will be inserted unless paid for in advance.

TAX LEVY CONTESTED.

Residents of New River Drainage District Declare \$175,000 Bond Issue Would Not Have Carried Had There Not Been Gross Irregularities in Election.

Suit was filed in the district court of Ascension parish on Friday, Sept. 22, to set aside the special election held in the New River Drainage District Aug. 1 last, at which a proposition was voted by a majority in number and amount of the property taxpayers participating therein to issue bonds to the amount of \$175,000 bearing five per cent interest and payable within 40 years, said bonds to be secured by a 5-mill ad valorem tax on all property subject to taxation within the district, and an 11-cent acreage tax on all lands situated within the district. The majority in favor of the proposition was 16 in number and \$24,405 in amount.

The nominal plaintiffs are W. J. Ficklin, Thomas C. Parker, Vincent Babin, Belone Babin, Ernest Young, John Moore, W. R. White and Alfred Braud, who charge in their petition such gross irregularities and illegalities in the conduct of said special election by the officers, commissioners and clerks as to amount in law to a fraud, and as to have prevented a fair and free expression of the desire of those property taxpayers, qualified to vote, who were opposed to said tax and the issuance of bonds.

The petitioners further charge that legally qualified voters were deprived of the right to vote; that numerous persons were illegally permitted to vote; that persons were illegally left off the pretended poll lists and deprived of the right to vote; that a large majority of the property taxpayers were and are opposed to the levying of said tax, and that but for such illegal frauds, illegalities and irregularities and the denial of the right to vote to a large number of duly qualified property taxpayers, the result would have been against the levy of said drainage tax. It is averred that officers of election refused to permit persons to vote whose names did not appear upon a poll list furnished by the registrar of voters; that the list was incomplete; that the list contained the names of persons not qualified, and that the registrar of voters did not furnish the commissioners of election a proper list of taxpayers, together with the valuation of each taxpayer's property as shown by the assessment rolls made and filed prior to said election.

It is charged that Mrs. Vital Babin and Mrs. Ozeme Bourque, property taxpayers, voted against the tax, but their votes were not counted; Alfred Braud, Alice Babin, J. C. Mine, Elle Diez, J. J. Babin, Solly Boudreaux, J. A. LeBlanc, Edouard Poche and Isidore Triche voted for the tax, it is averred, and are not qualified voters; likewise, L. P. St. Amant and Misses Etta and Winnie St. Amant, who are not property taxpayers.

The petition further alleges that W. R. White, Alfred Braud, A. White, Harrison James, Belone Babin, Vincent Babin, Thomas C. Parker, W. J. Ficklin and John C. Moore, of the eighth ward, and Joseph Alfred Bourgeois, Cyrille Gautreaux, John B. Deozaun, Ernest Young, P. Christophe Braud, James Woods, D. R. Rogers, D. H. Freeman, G. W. Rice and James Lanoux, of the seventh ward, all property taxpayers and duly qualified voters and electors residing within said drainage district, offered to vote against the tax and were refused the right to cast their ballots, as were also Mrs. Zepherin Cambre, Mrs. R. M. Babin and Mrs. A. J. Kluhner, women taxpayers residing within the district and entitled to vote at said special election.

Judgment is prayed for to set aside said "pretended special election," said New River Drainage District, and the petitioners further ask that the list furnished by the registrar of voters, and all the returns of said election, and that there be a recount by the court; that all illegal ballots be rejected; and that said special election, proclamation, special tax and pretended promulgation of said special election be declared illegal, null and void.

The case will come up for trial at the regular civil term of district court to be convened next month, attorneys B. J. Vega, of Donaldsonville, and George E. Guion, of Napoleonville, will represent the plaintiffs and petitioners, and Attorney C. C. Weber, of this city, will defend the suit in his capacity of attorney for the board of commissioners of the New River Drainage District.

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(Continued on page eight)