

# Ascension's Choice for the Supreme Court, Edward Nicholls Pugh

## The Donaldsonville Chief

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1912.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT.

**EDWARD NICHOLLS PUGH** hereby announces himself as a candidate for the office of associate justice of the supreme court of Louisiana, from the fourth supreme court district, subject to the action of the Democratic primary election to be held for the nomination of a candidate for that office in August or September next.

**JOSEPH A. BREAUX** hereby announces himself as a candidate for re-election to the office of associate justice of the supreme court of Louisiana, from the fourth supreme court district, subject to the action of the Democratic primary election to be held Tuesday, Sept. 3.

**To the Voters of Ascension Parish:** I hereby announce that I am a candidate for the office of associate justice of the Supreme Court of the state, from the fourth supreme court district, of which the parish of Ascension forms a part, at the Democratic primary election to be held for the nomination of a candidate for that office, in the latter part of August or the early part of September next. I can only say that, if nominated and elected to that office, I will endeavor to discharge the responsible duties of it to the best of my ability.  
**WALTER GUION.**

#### FOR CONGRESS

**New Roads, La., July 19, 1912.**  
To the Democratic Voters of the Sixth Congressional District of the State of Louisiana:  
Believing that I am competent to fill the position and that the assurance of support I have received throughout the district make my chances of election good, I announce my candidacy for member of congress for the sixth congressional district of the state of Louisiana for the term beginning March 4, 1913, subject to the action of the Democratic party.  
Respectfully,  
**FRED. C. CLAIBORNE.**

#### FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE

**JUDGE PAUL LECHE** of Ascension hereby announces his candidacy for judge of the Court of Appeals, Second District of the First Circuit, and solicits the kind, support of the Democratic voters of said district in the Democratic primary election to be held the latter part of August or the beginning of September next.

#### FOR DISTRICT JUDGE.

**R. J. CHAUVIN** hereby announces his candidacy for the office of judge of the Twenty-Seventh Judicial District Court, comprising the parishes of Ascension, Assumption and St. James, and solicits the support of the Democratic voters of the district in the Democratic primary election.

**CHARLES T. WORTHAM.**  
To the Democrats of Ascension, Assumption and St. James:  
At the personal solicitation of numerous friends, and to gratify what I hope will be deemed a pardonable ambition, I announce myself a candidate for judge of this judicial district to succeed Hon. Paul Leche. My candidacy is subject to the action of the Democratic primary. I realize the responsibility of this important position, and if you honor me with election, I will endeavor to discharge, diligently, faithfully and conscientiously, all the duties of the office.

**CHAS. T. WORTHAM.**  
Napoleonville, La., Mar. 20, 1912.  
**FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY.**

#### PHILIP H. GILBERT

hereby announces himself as a candidate for re-election to the office of district attorney of the Twenty-Seventh Judicial District, comprising the parishes of Ascension, Assumption and St. James, and solicits the support of the Democratic voters of the district in the Democratic primary election.

Every patriotic Ascensionite should vote for Pugh and Chauvin next Tuesday.

Judge Charles A. O'Neill, of Franklin, addressed a small crowd at the courthouse last night in the interest of his candidacy for associate justice of the supreme court. Judge O'Neill is a gentleman of attractive personality and an interesting speaker, and his auditors were favorably impressed with the manner in which he stated his qualifications for the high office to which he aspires.

#### No General Delivery of Mail on Sunday.

In accordance with the law recently enacted by congress, Postmaster J. J. Lafarge announces that hereafter there will be no general delivery of mail at the local postoffice on Sunday. Mail arriving here on the Sabbath will be received and distributed as usual, but the postoffice windows will not be opened during the day, and the only persons who will enjoy the privilege of obtaining their mail will be the holders of lock boxes. Of course, delivery will be made of all mail carrying special delivery stamps, and postmasters will be instructed, on application, to sort out on Sunday, in emergency cases, letters of special importance.

#### MR. PUGH'S POSITION INDORSSED.

The attention of the Democratic voters of the fourth supreme court district has been heretofore directed to the fact that Edward Nicholls Pugh, the Ascension aspirant for associate justice, was "the only judicial candidate in the field with a platform—the only one who bases his application for the people's favor on a specific desire and pledge to elevate the character of the state's highest court by insuring the proper consideration of appeals and the participation of more than one judge of the tribunal of final resort in the examination of the law and evidence upon which decisions are based and promulgated."

In connection with the announcement of his candidacy Mr. Pugh stated that under the existing practice in the supreme court "the litigant obtains the opinion of only one judge on the law and the facts, whereas he is absolutely entitled to the judgment of all five." He added: "If further legislation is necessary to correct this evil it should be enacted at once. I trust my candidacy will direct attention to this state of affairs and bring about the desired results."

That the issue was a live one was demonstrated by the fact that soon after its injection into the campaign by Mr. Pugh an act was introduced in the general assembly to cure the defect and require the study and decision of all cases before the supreme tribunal by at least three of the five judges.

Further indorsement of the position assumed by the Ascension candidate was furnished by the editorial comments of a number of the leading Louisiana newspapers, and among those not heretofore reproduced or quoted from in these columns is the following from the Minden Signal-Democrat:

"The evil Mr. Pugh refers to is recognized and criticized by the lawyers and litigants all over the state. In this criticism no personal reflection is intended upon any member of the court, but it is the serious defect in the system of handling cases and rendering decisions that the criticism is aimed at. "In making his announcement as a candidate for the supreme court vacancy in this district, Judge L. K. Watkins also referred to this defect and promised to do all in his power to correct it, provided he was honored with the office. He said: "If elected, I promise solemnly under my oath of office to decide all cases impartially, and to perform all the duties of the office faithfully and conscientiously, and will do all in my power to expedite the work of the court, but will render no decision not concurred in by a majority of the members of the court. In all those cases where the court is required by the constitution to review both the law and the evidence a concurrence of the members of the court on all disputed points of fact is as essential as a concurrence of points of law, and each associate justice should ascertain the facts in the case before rendering his concurrence in any decree. I promise in each case presented to find out for myself all the essential facts for his decision."

The Claiborne Guardian-Journal said the views of Judge Watkins would meet with "the favor of the bar at least," which is tantamount to general public approval, for litigants are even more concerned in the proposed reform than are the lawyers.

The suggestion of this wholesome change in judicial procedure is only one of many considerations in Mr. Pugh's favor which ought to influence voters in expressing their choice for the supreme judgeship at the primary election next Tuesday. He is in every essential particular admirably well qualified for the high office. In legal ability and successful practice he stands in the first rank of Louisiana's attorneys. As a patriotic and public-spirited citizen his standing is equally high. He has never before sought public office and in the only offices he has held—mayor of Donaldsonville and president of the parish school board—he has contributed more than he has received. It should not be taken as a reflection upon his competitors to contend that from this point of view his merits and claims are superior to theirs. Comparisons are unnecessary, however. Mr. Pugh's ability and fitness are so conspicuous and unquestioned that no voter in the district needs further justification for stamping the ballot opposite his name.

#### Applicants for Teachers' Certificates.

The following applicants for teachers' certificates took the examination conducted at the courthouse on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week under the direction of Supt. J. L. Rusca: Misses Victoria Chambers, Octavie Melancon, Alma LeBlanc, Josephine Gonzales, Rosalie Allen, Doreline Ourso, Nancy Profit, Elsie Brand, Fabian Daigle, Ada Landry, Rosa Gauthreaux, Ida Muller, Adele Michel and Genevieve Snee, and Ellis Landry. Maria Oslin and Clara Condoll colored, also took the examination. Under the new law, the examination papers will be graded by a special committee of teachers appointed by the State Board of Education for that purpose.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE NEW LAFOURCHE BASIN LEVEE BOARD.

The newly appointed Board of Commissioners of the Lafourche Basin Levee District held its initial meeting in this city last Monday with all the members present, and organized by electing E. G. Swartz of St. James as president. There are several candidates for secretary, but it was decided to let Secretary McCune of the former board hold over for a time, because of his familiarity with the records and affairs of the district.

A full account of the proceedings of Monday's session is given in another part of today's Chief, and it is unnecessary to go over the same ground editorially. We cannot refrain, however, from noting the high character of the new board's personnel and the excellent judgment shown in selecting a presiding officer and outlining the important work in prospect.

Commissioner F. B. Lemann of Ascension, whom The Chief had of its own motion suggested for president of the board, was not an aspirant for the place and himself put Commissioner Swartz in nomination. It was plain from the start that no mistake had been made in the unanimous choice of this gentleman as the official head of the organization. His general business capacity was of course well-known, but he manifested a special aptitude for the duties of presiding officer and a grasp of the functions and work of the levee board that quickly stamped him as the right man in the right place. The way in which he tackled the matters awaiting the board's consideration and mapped out a program of meetings and levee inspection, indicated a marked degree of executive ability that will be particularly valuable to the occupant of such a position as he is now called upon to fill.

The other members of the board—R. E. Perez of Plaquemines, Charles Viering of Jefferson, George Lorio of St. Charles, A. Champaigne of St. John, Robt. Martin, Jr., of Assumption, J. F. Wigginton of Lafourche, P. B. Thaggard of Jefferson, the last named representing the railroad interests of the district—are all intelligent, conscientious and substantial citizens, with no selfish purposes to subserve, but all imbued with a desire to fulfill their duties in a manner insuring the best results to the levee system and the people of the Lafourche basin district.

It is particularly gratifying to observe the unanimity which prevailed in recognizing the status of Donaldsonville as the legal domicile of the board, thus undoing a wrong and correcting an error of which our city had been made the victim. There was some acrimony developed in a discussion with the legal adviser of the board as to right of the organization to maintain an office in New Orleans for the more convenient transaction of business, but as this question will doubtless be settled by an official opinion from the attorney general, further agitation of the controversy may well be deferred until that opinion is rendered.

The commissioners began on Wednesday a series of inspections of the district levees which will be completed before the next meeting of the board, to be held in New Orleans next Thursday. The practical knowledge of conditions gained by the members on these inspection trips will aid them materially in the performance of the important duties upon which they have entered with such commendable diligence and earnestness.

#### A PRETTY GOOD PLATFORM.

Almost any man in this neck of woods, whether he calls himself Democrat, Republican, Progressive or Socialist, can approve most of the planks in the platform upon which Col. T. Sambola Jones stands in the pending congressional campaign. The structure is composed of the following ten planks:

1. Protection and preservation of sugar, rice and lumber—paramount issues in this district.
2. National control of levees and mastery of the problems incident to the Mississippi river by the national government.
3. Initiative, referendum and recall.
4. Good roads.
5. Drainage and reclamation of swamp and low lands.
6. Federal, state and district support and local control of schools.
7. Direct vote for United States senators.
8. The recognition of organized labor and its proper protection.
9. Compulsory arbitration.
10. An army and navy commensurate with our position as the greatest nation of the world.

The Chief is indebted to J. S. Cooke for a sample of the improved new yam potatoes, of the crop of 1912, raised by Mr. Cooke on his truck farm in the fourth ward. Like everything else grown by Mr. Cooke, these potatoes are of unusual size and delicious flavor, and are highly praised by Donaldsonville housekeepers.

#### EXTRA SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENDED.

The general assembly of Louisiana concluded the work of its extra session last Saturday, having consumed only twelve of the fifteen days which Governor Hall specified as the limit of time for consideration of the tax reforms proposed by the tax commission for submission to the people in the shape of constitutional amendments.

The main bill embodying the proposed change in the state's methods and system of taxation was passed by the house of representatives on Thursday of last week by a vote of 90 to 14, and the seven exemption amendments went through by votes ranging from 80 to 94 yeas against 1 to 10 nays.

The senate reached a final vote on the main bill Saturday forenoon, the tally standing 26 yeas to 3 nays, Senators Jones, Louque and Rivarde being the only members of the body who stood out against the measure to the last. There were two absentees, Senators Amacker and Barham. Barely a half hour was occupied in securing the signatures of the speaker, lieutenant governor and governor to the eight bills, and at 1:30 p. m. the extra session was a thing of the past.

The tax commission has been continued in existence without compensation to assist in a campaign of education to familiarize the people with the merits of the proposed reform.

Governor Hall, Lieutenant Governor Barret, Speaker Thomas and prominent members of both houses of the general assembly were unstinted in their praise and indorsement of the new legislation. The governor said:

"I regard the tax plan adopted as the greatest progressive step ever taken in Louisiana in this direction, and I am confident that it will meet with the favor of the people, and that in time Louisiana will be looked upon as having the best system of taxation and assessment enjoyed by any state in the Union."

And, if anybody should ask you, that's just what The Chief thinks also.

#### THE NEXT DISTRICT JUDGE.

The Chief avails itself of the pleasant privilege of speaking a last word of commendation in behalf of a worthy aspirant for judicial honors whose claims are to be passed on by the Democratic electors of the twenty-seventh judicial district at next Tuesday's primary.

Hon. R. J. Chauvin of Ascension is one of the two candidates for the district judgeship, his competitor—a very excellent and capable gentleman against whom there is not a word to say in personal criticism or derogation—being from the same parish that furnishes the district attorney, who has been renominated without opposition. Mr. Chauvin has practiced law in this community for a number of years, besides which he has edited local newspapers and served a four-year term as representative in the general assembly. The knowledge and experience gained in these positions have naturally qualified him for efficient and satisfactory service in the important position of district judge, and his fitness is augmented by the possession of a conservative and judicial mind and a measure of personal poise and dignity always to be desired in an occupant of the judicial bench.

The election of Mr. Chauvin as judge will redound to the credit of the people of all the three parishes forming the twenty-seventh district—St. James, Assumption and Ascension—and his friends are confident that the popular appreciation of this fact already assures him a substantial majority in the primary election to be held Tuesday, Sept. 3.

#### Shreveport Shots at Morgan.

Evidently the northwestern corner of the state is not as solid for a certain candidate for congress from the sixth district as the northwest corner of St. Tammany parish is claimed to be. Otherwise the Shreveport Journal would scarcely have fired these two pellets at the certain candidate aforesaid:

"Hon. Lewis Morgan of St. Tammany, one of the candidates for congress from the sixth Louisiana district, refers to Colonel T. Sambola Jones as 'the animated photograph.' However, we'll wager a penny that Colonel T. Sambola plays a tune up on Mr. Morgan's exaggerated ego when the ballots begin to drop in the box on the 3rd of September."

Lewis Morgan, candidate for congress from the sixth district, says if he were in the legislature today he would attempt to have two laws passed. One to abolish half the laws on the statute books, and the other to enforce those remaining. If we remember correctly, Mr. Morgan was in the legislature a few years ago, and didn't undertake any such program.

#### THE SUPREME COURT OF ILLINOIS AND ITS METHOD OF WORK.

That the issue now raised by Edward Nicholls Pugh in the present contest for associate justice of the supreme court has been raised in other states, and the issue met and solved, is shown by a series of articles published in the Chicago Legal News wherein are set forth by the members of the supreme court of Illinois the methods used by that court in reaching decisions.

Justice Orrin N. Carter upon the subject says: "The members of the supreme court of Illinois are desirous of adopting the best methods of work. Their reputations for all time to come will rest upon the opinions written. No matter how great the quantity of work done, if poor in quality the reputation of the court necessarily suffers. The members of that court believe that under the present method of work there is as little danger of one-man opinions as there is under the method or plan in vogue in any other state in the Union. They believe further that their plan of work, under which the opinions are printed and copies given to every judge to be examined and looked over in connection with the briefs and abstracts, tends to make the final opinion that of all the court more than would result if they followed the usual plan of other courts; that is, to have a typewritten copy of the opinion read in conference by the author—the listening to its reading being the only opportunity the other judges have to learn its contents."

Every judge of the supreme court is desirous of having the lawyers understand their methods of work and are more than willing to receive suggestions as to change in rules of procedure."

Chief Justice Vickers in discussing the same subject said:

"The method of considering opinions is as follows: Commencing with the junior member of the court, his first opinion is taken up. Each member of the court examines his printed copy of the opinion together with the notes he has made with reference to it. An unlimited time is allowed for each member of the conference to express his views and argue for or against the opinion. If necessary, authorities are brought in and read to the conference. The merits of the opinion are open for full and free discussion. The effect of such discussion is usually to put the writer of the opinion on the defensive while the other members of the court are attacking it. After all have expressed their views and there is no further discussion, the chief justice calls the roll, commencing with the junior member of the court and ending with himself, and records the vote in the conference docket. Every member of the court understands fully what the opinion is. He knows what the questions are and how they are decided, and casts his vote according to his own view."

Mr. Justice Cartwright of the same court, in commenting on the old system in vogue in Illinois, said: "Each one of the judges would read three of his opinions in turn and soon some judge would be asleep or paying no attention. Another thing I found was that when a point would attract my attention as doubtful, I would think about it and not listen to what was read afterward for a time, so that I was missing something else."

Thus will it be seen that the comments made by Edward Nicholls Pugh regarding the state supreme court have been made regarding the highest court of Illinois. The justice of the complaint has been recognized by the members of that court and they have with a refreshing frankness taken the public into their confidence and set forth in detail the methods they pursue in reaching decisions.

As this campaign draws to a close, too much cannot be said in commendation of the stand Mr. Pugh has taken in directing public attention to the system which now prevails in the supreme court. He has shown himself to be specially fitted for the important duties of an associate justice of the supreme court. His entire lifework linked with the study of the law, Edward Nicholls Pugh stands prepared to undertake what President Taft has rightly termed "a labor of love," and his whole career stamps him as a judge who will approach every question for decision with indifference to every consideration except to reach a right and just conclusion."

#### Lafourche Board Inspects Levees.

Assembling at Donaldsonville Tuesday night, the board of commissioners of the Lafourche basin levee district left here early the following morning in automobiles to inspect the levees on the west bank of the river between this city and Hymelia. They were accompanied by Assistant State Engineer Joseph W. Monget, who pointed out the defective embankments and indicated what work is needed on the levees all along the line in the way of repairing washes, digging out rat and crawfish holes, and constructing revetments. Yesterday the party made an inspection of the levees between Hymelia and New Orleans, starting from the latter city in the morning, and today they will go over the embankments in the lower end of the district.

When the start of the tour was made Wednesday morning, all the commissioners were present, except Robert Martin, Jr., of Assumption, who joined the board in New Orleans yesterday.

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#### FOR CONGRESS Sixth Congressional District



T. SAMBOLA JONES OF EAST BATON ROUGE

#### Morgan Meeting a Success.

A fair-sized crowd attended the open-air Morgan rally held in Louisiana Square Tuesday night, there being present perhaps 100 voters and a number of ladies and children who had gathered earlier in the evening to listen to the band concert which preceded the speaking. Mr. Morgan and his campaign manager, C. C. Weber, did not arrive until nearly 9 o'clock, after having crossed the river in a skiff from Larrou, opposite his city. The gentlemen were escorted to the park by members of the Riverside Club, who occupied seats in the bandstand from which the addresses were delivered.

Wilfred Guigon called the meeting to order with a felicitous little talk, and Clinton Chambers officiated as chairman. Mr. Weber was introduced as the first speaker, and in a brief speech replied to the assertion made by Amos L. Ponder in his address here Sunday night, to the effect that "Mr. Morgan's man Friday, Keeble Weber, had misrepresented him by declaring that he (Ponder) was a free trader in the cotton parishes, and a protectionist in the sugar district." Mr. Weber denied ever having made any such statement, and asserted that what he did say was that in 1911, while attorney for the game commission at a salary of \$3600 per year, Mr. Ponder had stumped the state in behalf of J. Y. Sanders' candidacy for the United States senate, and in a speech at Greensburg, St. Helena parish, had made a vicious attack on Robert P. Broussard and declared that if Mr. Broussard were sent to the senate, he would represent nothing more than 400 sugar barons. To prove this charge, Mr. Weber read a clipping from the St. Helena Echo giving an account of the Greensburg meeting and summarizing Mr. Ponder's speech. He then devoted his attention to Col. T. Sambola Jones, who had facetiously dubbed him "C. Calliops 'Weber,'" and concluded by refuting the charges which had been made against Mr. Morgan concerning the non-enforcement of the Gay-Shattuck and Sunday laws in St. Tammany parish. During his verbal assault on Mr. Ponder, Mr. Weber referred to "Cousan Bob" Broussard as the "greatest Democrat in Louisiana," which elicited applause.

#### Tent Show Coming.

Commencing Monday, Sept. 2, the Jordan Hays Stock Company will open a week's engagement on the empty lot in Mississippi street near the Nichols Cafe. The show comes here very highly recommended, having played to capacity in various Louisiana towns during the past twelve weeks. Everybody will remember the high and noble leading man, Mr. Murphy's Comedians, who appeared in this city a year or two ago. It is the same Gordon, who is coming to Donaldsonville, every one of whom is said to be an artist. There will be a change of plays and specialties each night, and assurance is given that all the productions are up-to-date and clean, and moral in every respect. The opening bill will be the popular southern love story in four acts, "The Sweetest Girl in Dixie," with five big cut-throat acts. The general admission price will be 10 cents to all.

Miss Ellen Joubert, of New Orleans, is spending some time at the guest of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent's Institute, at which institution she received her education. Her many friends are glad to hear her visit.

#### STILL FLEEING PUBLIC.

Alleged "Walker" Works Same Trick at New Roads Pulled Off Here—Buncoes Mayor for Board and Lodging While Waiting for Automobile.

A despatch from New Roads which appeared in the New Orleans papers last week read as follows: "W. H. Chapman, who claims to have fulfilled the conditions of a 12,000-mile walk from Denver, Colo., for which he will receive a dollar for each mile walked, arrived here Tuesday, and on his representations Mayor Joseph Lejeune saw that he was provided with a room at the hotel and something to eat, until his referees, who, he said, were following him in a car, should arrive and Chapman stated that their delay was due to their car having broken down, making traveling further impossible before a day or two."

"Thursday morning Chapman left the hotel before anybody was up, and since then no one here has heard anything of him or his referees, who, he claimed, were following him. There is a strong suspicion that Chapman's claims have little real basis."

This alleged pedestrian paid for a ranch in Wyoming, and left a song and dance story to the effect that on May 31, 1911, he and several young men started to walk from Denver to Pittsburg, under the auspices of the Humane Society of Colorado. All the other contestants, he says, have abandoned the tour, leaving him the sole competitor. He declares that men on motorcycles follow him to see that he adheres to the terms of the contest by walking every step of the way, and that representatives of the associations above named, traveling in an automobile, meet him at every place at which he stops to supply him with expensive money. Pending the arrival of the machine, he "borrows" small amounts from gullible citizens and secures meals and lodging on credit. Of course, the automobile never shows up.

Chapman is about six feet tall, with a florid face, white hair and mustache, wears a wide-brimmed black hat, and affects the manner and bearing of a westerner. He claims to be 63 years old, and is a roady talker.