

The Donaldsonville Chief

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JAS. VON LOTTEN & G. DONNAUD BENTLEY
Publishers and Proprietors

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28, 1912.

ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT.

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 second Democratic primary election to be held for the nomination of a candidate for that office on October 8, 1912.
ROBERT R. REID.

AN INEXCUSABLE DEPRECIATION.

Our attention has been called to a very serious breach of good manners committed last Sunday by a party of picknickers from this city and other places in the neighborhood, who forced their way into the Sacramento schoolhouse, in the second ward, and proceeded to turn the interior of the building topsy turvy. Ink was spilled on the desks and floor, school books were thrown around and torn, chalk was broken up, erasers scattered about, and other acts of vandalism were perpetrated. A fine piano, which had just been tuned, was among the furniture damaged. Next morning, when the principal and teachers of the school arrived, they and the pupils of the institution had to clean up the litter left by the mischievous marauders of the day before and repair as well as they could the damage to the school room furniture and appliances, before the lessons for the day could be begun.

Such conduct as this is inexcusable, and were it not for the fact that the picnic party was composed of children, drastic action would be taken by the school authorities to punish the perpetrators of the outrage. The parents of these young folk, among whom are some of the most prominent and respected residents of this community, should make it their duty to investigate this reprehensible occurrence and take steps to apply such corrective measures as will insure against a repetition of such unseemly conduct on the part of their offspring.

Principal of Local High School Promoted.

Supt. J. L. Rusca has not yet succeeded in engaging a principal for the local high school to succeed Prof. A. J. Dupuy, who was recently elected superintendent of the public schools of St. Martin parish. Mr. Dupuy came to Donaldsonville from Breauville, after serving some time as principal of the high school of that place, and since his arrival here he has been elected by the St. Martin school board as superintendent of that parish. The public schools of St. Martin are scheduled to open next Monday and Mr. Dupuy is anxious to report for duty. It is not the desire or intention of the Ascension school board to stand in Mr. Dupuy's way, or to hold him to his contract to serve as principal of the Donaldsonville high school this session, and he will be permitted to leave just as soon as some competent teacher is engaged to succeed him. The co-operation of State Superintendent Harris has been solicited, and some way out of the quandary is hoped for within the next few days.

Cumberland Company to Rebuild Its Lines Here.

A large amount of material is being received here by the Cumberland Telephone Company for the rebuilding of its lines in this city, and the work will be undertaken within the next few weeks by a construction crew which is now on its way to Donaldsonville for that purpose. The present wires will be taken down and replaced with an overhead cable, from which the individual drops will be connected with twisted pairs. Many of the poles now in use will be discarded, and shorter poles will be erected. The improvements will cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000, including material and labor, and will result in a marked betterment of the service through the local exchange. Manager E. P. Rabalais has striven long and earnestly to have this improvement effected, and it is largely due to his persistent efforts, as well as to the commercial importance of the Donaldsonville office, that the Cumberland Company has finally decided to have the work done.

Levee Contracts Awarded.

The Lafourche Basin Levee Board met in New Orleans Wednesday, with Commissioner J. F. Wigington presiding in the absence of Chairman E. G. Swartz, and awarded contracts for levee building as follows: Fairfield levee, Jefferson parish, to J. S. Brady, for 25 cents per cubic yard of earth; Southside levee, Jefferson parish, to Lang & Freret, for 29 1/4 cents; Amesville levee, Jefferson parish, to Lang & Freret, for 28 3/4 cents; Concession levee, Plaquemines parish, to Frey Brothers, for 18.93 cents; Magnolia levee, Plaquemines parish, to A. Brandt, for 20 1/2 cents.

It is announced that the next meeting of the board will be held in Donaldsonville Thursday, Oct. 10, at 11 o'clock a. m.

"Something doing all the time" at the Catholic fair.

A SETTLED QUESTION.

There would seem to be no further room for question or controversy concerning the legal status of Donaldsonville as the domicile of the Lafourche Basin Levee Board, inasmuch as Attorney General Pleasant has fully concurred in and affirmed the opinion on this subject given to the new board at its first meeting, August 26, by District Attorney Gilbert. The attorney general had previously declined to pass on the matter at the request of the board, because the district attorney is made by law the board's legal adviser, and the attorney general has no right or power to intermeddle with the affairs of the board or render opinions over the head of the board's legally constituted adviser. When Mr. Gilbert asked for the opinion of the attorney general, however, it was promptly accorded, for the reason that the law authorizes district attorneys to call upon the attorney general for advice.

In another part of today's Chief the opinion of the attorney general is reproduced in full, and reference to its text will show that Mr. Gilbert's questions were put in the following direct and simple form:

1. Where is the domicile of the Lafourche Basin Levee District located?
2. Has the said board the right to change its domicile by resolution?
3. Has the board the right to rent an office in the city of New Orleans in order to facilitate its business?

Attorney General Pleasant is equally as clear in replying to the questions, quoting the decision of District Judge Leche in the suit of Dehon et al. vs. the Board of Commissioners of the Lafourche Basin Levee District et al. as having settled the first two propositions, thus:

1. That Donaldsonville is the domicile of the board.
2. That the domicile could not be changed by resolution of the board.
As to the third interrogatory, the attorney general says:

"The said board cannot hold any of its meetings and perform its corporate acts as a board at any other place than Donaldsonville, its domicile. If the board, however, should find it necessary to rent a room in New Orleans or elsewhere for the purpose of aiding in carrying on the business of the levee district, exclusive of the corporate acts of the board, I believe that it would lie within the discretion of the board to do so. But it could not hold any of its board meetings at such place, or keep its office, records or archives there. See sections 3 and 7 of Act No. 13 of 1892, and section 741, R.S., the latter section being persuasive."

There was really no controversy in the new board, nor between that body and its legal adviser, over the propositions that Donaldsonville was regularly selected as the legal domicile of the original Lafourche Basin Levee Board and that the subsequent change to Gretna by a successor of the original board was made without warrant of law. The sole point of difference was as to the right of the commissioners to maintain an office in New Orleans for the sake of convenience in the transaction of routine business.

This practice has prevailed for years, not only with the Lafourche Basin board, but also with the Pontchartrain district board and perhaps others, it having been the custom to formally ratify, at subsequent meetings within the districts, the actions taken at the meetings held in the New Orleans offices.

In view of the attorney general's emphatic affirmation of the district attorney's opinion that the Lafourche board cannot legally transact business at any meeting place save its domicile, it is to be presumed the commissioners will arrange to conform to this requirement henceforth.

There was considerable heat engendered in the discussion of this question at the August session, and District Attorney Gilbert's feelings were much ruffled by the exceptions taken to his official opinion on the subject. He can well afford to "forgive and forget," now that his position has been approved by the state's chief law officer, and certainly the members of the board of commissioners are too solid and sensible men to allow the incident to interfere with the amity and good feeling that should prevail in their own councils or the harmonious relations that should subsist between themselves and their legal adviser.

Ungrateful Tramp Printer.

A printer of the itinerant or "hobo" type dropped in to The Chief office recently and asked for something to do in order that he might earn the price of a meal. The Chief had gone to press and the only work which could be given the man was that of folding papers, to which he was assigned. Upon completing the task he was handed a few dimes, and shortly afterward took his departure. Some time during the night, however, the man returned and stole from the office one pair of shoes, a pair of trousers and two hats belonging to employees of The Chief, with which he made away, leaving in their stead his old shoes, trousers and hat. He lost no time in shaking the dust of Donaldsonville from his feet, since next morning, when the theft was discovered, the light-fingered visitor had disappeared and no trace of him could be found. He is about fifty years of age and gave his name as Billard.

TAX REFORM CAMPAIGN ORGANIZATION.

The conference of citizens of Louisiana called by Gov. Hall to prepare for a systematic and vigorous campaign in favor of the pending tax reform constitutional amendments, took place at Alexandria last Saturday, and fully justified the expectations of the governor and other friends of the movement as to the number and character of the men who responded to the summons, and also as to the effective and harmonious action taken in furtherance of the object in view.

Permanent organization was effected by the election of the following officers: President, ex-Gov. Newton C. Blanchard; vice presidents, John T. Michel and Col. Theodore S. Wilkinson. Executive committee—Gov. L. E. Hall, chairman; Edgar H. Farrar, W. O. Hart, Mortons A. Aldrich, Joseph Voegtli, J. Zach, Spearing, Martin Manion, New Orleans; L. E. Thomas, Leon R. Smith, Shreveport; D. C. Scarborough, Natchitoches; Jeff Snyder, Tallulah; Henri L. Guaydan, Gueydan; Walter Burke, New Iberia; R. B. Butler, Houma; Leon Leche, Lake Charles; S. M. McLawson, St. Francisville; C. W. Egan, Mansfield; Robert Roberts, T. W. Robertson, Minden; George Westley Smith, Rayville; W. C. Barnette, Arcadia; C. C. Pritchard Harrisonburg; J. W. Joffron, Avoyelles; Bertrand Weil, Alexandria; Delos R. Johnson, Washington; Marion Swords, Opelousas.

It was decided to hold a meeting of the executive committee in the Grunewald Hotel at New Orleans, Thursday, Sept. 26, at noon. The committee will have active direction of the campaign, and is empowered to raise funds, prepare, print and circulate literature, obtain desirable publicity and arrange for meetings and stumping tours in behalf of the amendments. It will organize subcommittees throughout the state, probably naming one in each parish to manage the campaign locally. It is authorized to increase its membership at will and to select headquarters, appoint a secretary and maintain an office force. The headquarters will be located in New Orleans.

The conference lasted six hours, convening at noon and adjourning at 5 o'clock p. m., and its proceedings throughout were of a harmonious and business-like nature. No disposition was manifested to attack the amendments, and while many questions were asked, they were always propounded with a view to seeking light and securing pertinent information on various features of the proposed revision of the taxing system.

Among those who took part in the discussion and made brief addresses were: Prof. Morton A. Aldrich, II, H. White of Alexandria, Governor Hall, Thos. W. Robertson of Minden, Senator Walter Burke of Iberia, Senator Leon Smith of Caddo, Col. T. S. Wilkinson, Representative Manion of New Orleans, Dr. Charles E. Coates of the Louisiana State University, Prof. James H. Dillard of Tulane University, and Judge Lawason.

At night Governor Hall, Speaker Thomas, Representative Butler, Prof. Aldrich and a number of others addressed a meeting of business men and prominent citizens of Rapides parish at the Alexandria city hall.

The Colonial Sugars Company will entertain its employees and their friends at a dance to be given in the company's raw sugar warehouse at Gramercy on Saturday evening, Oct. 5. The committee on arrangements is composed of D. G. Jackson, chairman; Geo. B. Robert, secretary; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Irving, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Richarme, Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Menuet, and Robert Brunias.

Take dinner at the Catholic fair tomorrow.

Big Closing Out Sale of Men's and Boys' Pants

Come to our store TODAY, NEXT MONDAY OR TUESDAY and make your selection of a pair or more of the Trousers which we are closing out at ONE-THIRD THEIR VALUE. Here are the prices:

98c. \$1.98 \$2.98
28c Boys' Knickerbocker School Pants 42c

During these three days we will offer our entire line of Boys' Straight Suits and Straight Pants Suits at HALF PRICE. Call quick; they are selling fast.

J. A. DALFERES
Mississippi Street

Annual Contests of Corn, Pig and Canning Clubs.

The annual contests and exhibits of the boys' corn and pig clubs and the girls' canning clubs of Ascension parish will be held at the Oak Grove schoolhouse at Hope Villa Saturday, Oct. 19. Results accomplished during the past year in corn and pig raising and the canning of farm products will be displayed by the boys and girls who are members of the various clubs throughout the parish, and prizes will be awarded to the students and schools making the best showing. There will also be contests in corn and pig judging among the members of the boys' corn and pig clubs. The girls' students of the Oak Grove state agricultural high school will prepare and serve refreshments. Addresses will be made by several school officials and patrons, and a representative of the agricultural extension department of the State University will be on hand to judge the various contests. The public is cordially invited to attend, and it is hoped a large crowd of school patrons and citizens of the parish generally will be present to participate in the pleasures of the occasion, and incidentally, by their presence, lend encouragement to the commendable movement embraced within the project of the corn, pig and canning clubs.

Prof. W. C. Abbott, the zealous principal of the Oak Grove school, is working hard to make the affair a success, and Supt. J. L. Rusca and the parish school board are co-operating with him in every way possible. It is assured that the exhibits this year will be much larger in number and finer as to character than those displayed at previous contests, and spirited competition is promised in all the events which make up the interesting program.

Following is a partial list of the valuable prizes donated by various organizations, business firms and individuals, in Ascension and elsewhere, to be awarded to successful competitors in the several contests: Ascension Parish School Board, \$50; J. N. Delaune, \$5; Bank of Ascension, \$5; People's Bank of Donaldsonville, \$5; Bank of Donaldsonville, \$5; McLemore & Melton, registered pig; Oak Grove State Agricultural High School, three registered pigs; M. J. Mayer, registered pig; Fort Worth Packing Co., registered pig; A. V. Osterberger, steel beam plow; F. Edw. Bablin, steel beam plow; X-Ray Pharmacy, imported extract; J. L. Rusca, three fountain pens; Charles Maurin, Queen Anne cultivator; Adolphe Netter, umbrella; Palace Drug Store, one dozen boxes talcum powder; J. A. Dalferes store, one Eagle shirt; B. Lemann & Bro., side harrow.

Further contributions are solicited and will be gratefully received.

Vacancy on Municipal Light and Water Commission.

Dr. John S. Thibaut, chairman of the commission of five citizens appointed by the city council to supervise the proposed improvements to the municipal power plant, and to assume the management of the electric light and waterworks systems for a term of several years, last Tuesday tendered his resignation to Mayor Charles Maurin. A meeting of the commission will be held shortly for the purpose of deciding upon some representative citizen to be recommended to the council for appointment as Dr. Thibaut's successor.

The matter of financing the contemplated improvements to the power plant is now receiving attention, and elsewhere in today's Chief will be found an advertisement to the effect that sealed proposals will be received up to 12 o'clock noon Tuesday, Oct. 15, for furnishing the commission with funds approximating \$40,000 to be used in installing modern machinery and apparatus and making general improvements in the light and water plant. The loan is to be payable in equal annual installments extending over a period of ten years, more or less, and will bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent, payable annually. It will be secured as follows: 1. By a lien and privilege on the improvements to be made; 2. By dedication of the net revenues of the plant, and 3. by an annual appropriation from the town of Donaldsonville amounting to \$2500.

G. A. Gondran, of New Orleans, was a business visitor to Donaldsonville during the early part of the week, and his host of friends were delighted to have him among them, though regretting the briefness of his stay.

LEVEE BOARD'S DOMICILE.

Attorney General Pleasant Rules that Lafourche Board Cannot Hold Meetings and Perform Its Corporate Acts at Any Other Place than Donaldsonville—District Attorney Gilbert Sustained.

The New Orleans Times-Democrat of Sept. 25 says:

Again the domicile controversy of the Lafourche Levee Board has been referred to Attorney General Ruffin S. Pleasant for an opinion, this time from the board's legal adviser, Philip I. Gilbert, and Mr. Pleasant has held that Donaldsonville is the legal domicile of the board and the only place at which business can be transacted.

The opinion of the attorney general upholds that originally made by Mr. Gilbert. Not feeling satisfied apparently, the board recently appealed to the attorney general over the head of their attorney, but the former declined to take part in the controversy, stating that the board had no legal right to appeal from their legal adviser's opinion. Since then, Mr. Gilbert himself has asked Mr. Pleasant to render him an opinion in the matter, and the attorney general yesterday complied with the request.

Following is the opinion rendered: "The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge receipt of yours of the 14th instant, and to advise you relative to the matters about which you express a desire for an opinion.

"You ask me: "1. 'Where is the domicile of the board of commissioners of the Lafourche Basin Levee District located?' "2. 'Has the said board the right to change its domicile by resolution?' "3. 'Has the board the right to rent an office in the city of New Orleans, in order to facilitate its business?'"

"These questions were propounded to me a few weeks ago by the board of commissioners, but, having been informed that you, as their legally constituted adviser, had already rendered an opinion thereon, I declined to pass on the points presented. However, as you have now joined the board in its request for an opinion, and as the district attorneys have a right, under section 131 of the revised statutes, to call on this office for advice, I am pleased to transmit to you my views in this letter.

"Questions one and two, above presented, were decided by the district court in and for the parish of Ascension, in the case of Dehon et al. vs. The Board of Commissioners of the Lafourche Basin Levee District et al., No. 1374 of the district court docket.

"The court held: "1. 'That Donaldsonville is the domicile of the board,' and 2. 'That the domicile could not be changed by resolution of the board.'"

"The following are excerpts from the able opinion of Judge Paul Leche in the aforesaid case: "The question of jurisdiction ratione personae demands consideration at the outset. Act No. 13 of the general assembly of 1892, creating the Lafourche Basin Levee District, and providing for the organization of a board of commissioners to superintend and control the affairs of said district, first repeals Act No. 33 of 1879, creating the Third Levee District, and creates a new levee district to be styled 'The Lafourche Basin Levee District,' defines its territorial limits, and specifies the property therein subject to taxation.

"The time and place for the first meeting of the commissioners and the manner of organizing the board, the manner of removing and filling vacancies, and the salaries of commissioners. * * * Section 7, in addition to the powers already conferred, constitutes said board into a political corporation invested with the power inherent in said corporations, with authority to sue and be sued, directs that process be served upon the president or secretary, and contains the further provision, 'The board shall at its first regular meeting elect a domicile for the purpose of being sued and keeping its office and archives, etc.'"

"The board at its first meeting, held under section 3, on the 4th of August, 1893, at Donaldsonville, elected Donaldsonville, in the parish of Ascension, as its domicile, under the authority delegated to it in section 7. On the 8th of July, 1897, the board, by resolution, changed its domicile from Donaldsonville to Gretna, the change to take effect from Aug. 1, 1897.

"The question presented is whether the board had the authority under the act creating it to make this change.

"I do not believe that the act conferred that authority.

"If the general assembly had intended that the commissioners were to forever exercise the right of fixing the domicile of the board, it would have done so, considering how extraordinary and unusual such a privilege would be, in language that could not be misunderstood. If the domicile once fixed could be changed by the board on one occasion, it could be changed twice, it could be changed yearly, monthly or weekly. Can anyone seriously contend that the legislature ever contemplated any such possible condition of affairs?"

"I am of the opinion that the legal domicile of the Lafourche Basin Levee Board is still at Donaldsonville, in the parish of Ascension."

"From the foregoing quotation it will be seen that the levee board's exception to the jurisdiction of the court was overruled, and that its previous resolution in which it had attempted to change its domicile to Gretna was declared to be illegal and of no effect.

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Make sure your game—Shoot the speed shells
In Remington-UMC Arrow Shells, the steel lining puts all the force of the explosion behind the shot. That mile-a-minute "on-comer" can't beat out the pattern driven by a steel gripped charge.
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CHAS. MAURIN

THE BEST GROCER

to the board on this point, and its domicile must be and remain in Donaldsonville.

"As to the third question, I advise you that the said board cannot hold any of its meetings and perform its corporate acts as a board at any other place than Donaldsonville, its domicile. If the board, however, should find it necessary to rent a room in New Orleans or elsewhere for the purpose of aiding in carrying on the business of the levee district, exclusive of the corporate acts of the board, I believe that it would lie within the discretion of the board to do so. But it could not hold any of its board meetings at such place, or keep its office, records, or archives there. See sections 3 and 7 of Act No. 13 of 1892, and section 741 R. S., the latter section being persuasive."

After spending several days here as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Fortier, Mrs. T. B. Booksh and children, of Plaquemine, returned home Friday of last week.

JURY VENIRE.

State of Louisiana—Parish of Ascension—Twenty-Seventh Judicial District Court.

LIST of thirty (30) petit jurors drawn to serve at a special session of this court for the week beginning the second Monday of October, 1912, all in accordance to and in compliance with an order issued in open court by the Honorable Paul Leche, judge of said court, of date July 18, 1912, and according to law, as follows:

Name	Ward
Felix Blunt	6
W. L. Tearney	2
Walter T. Dyer	9
G. D. Bentley	4
Henry Goette	4
Albert Melancon	6
E. D. Melancon	5
Albert Daigle	7
Lazar Rodella	4
Louis Morin	10
Lawrence Gauthroux	6
Louis J. Wild	4
Moses Baird	8
Theophile Michel	6
Robert Lee	9
Lucien Acosta, Jr.	9
S. E. Dicharry	2
Guy Landry	2
Joseph Guedry	2
E. P. Delaune	10
C. H. Landry, Jr.	5
Henry Dugas	2
Robert L. Fridge	9
Ed. V. Floud	6
P. R. Zimmer	6
Joseph Lecheuc	5
Henry Giroir	3
Armand Braud	9
Percy Lemann	2
W. W. Barron	5

I, clerk, do hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true and correct list of the petit jurors drawn to serve at a special session of this court, beginning the second Monday of October, 1912, of the twenty-seventh judicial district court, for the parish of Ascension, Louisiana, this 19th day of September, 1912.

J. S. BARMAN,
Clerk of Court.

Have You Seen the KNOX HATS for Fall and Winter?

You ought to!

Just take a look at the display in our Show Window. They're the finest lot of Hats you have ever seen. You'll vote them so.

We have secured the exclusive agency in this territory and are now showing this fine line of Hats for the first time.

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Donaldsonville, La.

FOR RENT.
WOODSTOCK PLANTATION, on west bank of Mississippi river in Ascension parish. No cultivation for three years. Fine place for rice. Address L. E. H. DUFFEL, M. D., N. poleonville, La.