

PERSISTENT MISREPRESENTATION.

The Shreveport Journal has said nice things about The Chief many times, and we have appreciated its compliments greatly, for the Journal is one of the best all-round newspapers on our Louisiana exchange list, and praise from such a source is praise indeed. For some inexplicable reason, however, our esteemed contemporary has fallen into an unwholesome habit of misstatement concerning The Chief's political status, and the practice is persisted in notwithstanding the fact that we have repeatedly corrected the misrepresentation and, on one occasion, at least, brought the correction to the direct notice of the Journal by mailing the editor an extra marked copy of the issue containing the correction.

Our esteemed contemporary's latest repetition of its habitual bungle occurs in an editorial published on the 7th instant, entitled "Bad Advice from a Wrong Source," in which exception is taken to The Chief's approving comment on the widely circulated report that when the time comes for the appointment of a successor to the present collector of customs at New Orleans, the choice of President Wilson is likely to fall upon Hon. Murphy J. Foster, whose term as United States senator will expire on the 4th proximo. Our present concern is not with the Journal's opposition to Senator Foster's prospective transfer to the port collectorship—evidently inspired largely by partisan and factional feelings—but with the characterization of The Chief's politics contained in the following extracts:

"The only plain, straight-outstanding Republican newspaper in the state of Louisiana, so far as we know, is the Donaldsonville Chief, and which, by the way, is one of the best weeklies in the state in every respect except political. This being a fact, however, one would hardly go to The Chief for advice upon Democratic problems. \* \* \* The appointment of Senator Foster would be highly pleasing to the Republicans of the state, for whom the Donaldsonville Chief may be presumed to speak."

When The Chief passed into the hands of its present proprietors three years ago the announcement was made that the paper under its new management would "strive to be independent, impartial, fearless and conscientious in all things, political and otherwise; that it will not be the organ of special pleader of any party, faction, cabal or individual, but will treat all with equal fairness and candor." This declaration has been reiterated from time to time, and attentive readers of the paper will bear us out in the claim that the letter and spirit of our "platform" have been scrupulously observed.

The attention of our esteemed Shreveport contemporary is again called to its violation—advertent and unintentional, we hope—of the commandment "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor," and we adjure the culprit to "go and sin no more" in this particular, at any rate. The Chief is not a Republican paper, whether of the plain or ornate variety, straight-outstanding or sinuously progressive, and the presumption that it is "presumed to speak for the Republicans of the state" is wholly presumptuous.

Commission Election Called.

Mayor Charles Maurin has issued a proclamation calling a special election to be held Tuesday, March 25, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of this city the question: "Shall the proposition to organize the city of Donaldsonville under Act No. 207 of 1912 of the general assembly of Louisiana be adopted?" The purpose of the act is to provide the commission form of government for municipalities. The petition presented to Mayor Maurin asking for the calling of this election contained more than 125 names.

Numerous articles explaining the system of government by commission and pointing out its advantages have been published in The Chief during the past several months, (notably in our edition of Nov. 12, 1912), and a further elucidation of the subject, with editorial comment thereon, will be given in forthcoming issues.

Primary for Postmaster.

Sabin Dalferes, one of the numerous candidates for postmaster of Donaldsonville, has sent a telegram to Congressman Lewis L. Morgan, of this district, asking Mr. Morgan to authorize an election to be held here for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the office. Mr. Dalferes says he has made a careful canvass of the community, which convinces him that public opinion sanctions the holding of such an election, and he says in his telegram to Mr. Morgan, "Let the people decide." It is generally considered that a preferential primary would be the fairest and most satisfactory method of choosing a candidate for the local postmastership, and Mr. Morgan's reply to Mr. Dalferes' suggestion will be awaited with interest.

Levees Ready for High Water.

The Hymelia, Fairfield and Corn-levees have been completed, and are declared by the contractors to be in shape to withstand the flood now coming down the river. At Hymelia a force of men is still engaged in topping the levee and leveling the sides, but a large number of the laborers heretofore employed there have been discharged, there being no further need of their services. The government engineers have been at work on the levee since last August, and lately over a thousand men have been toiling day and night to complete the big embankment in advance of the high water now threatening.

"Baby Mine" is one uproarious joke, a tornado of harum-scarum fun. Be sure and see it at the Grandran Theatre next Thursday night.

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High School Notes.

The Senior and Junior literary societies held their regular meetings Friday of last week. Impromptu programs were rendered, as the regular literary programs were not carried out on account of examinations. The senior society has posted the following program to be presented at the next meeting, Friday, Feb. 21, at 1:40 o'clock p. m., in the high school auditorium:

Current events, Miss Nita Duhon. Recitation, Miss Irma V. Cox. Dialogue, "A Happy Family"—"Mr. Topp," Conon Babin; "Mrs. Topp," Eunice Chandler; "Sammy," Carlton Guillot; "Fanny," Anne Curran; "Johnny," Alton Poche. Instrumental solo, Miss Mabel Wutke.

Debate, "Resolved, that the gradual abolition of the tax on sugar would be to the best interest of Louisiana." Affirmative, Misses Leah LeRoy and Nerrisa Warrick. Negative, Misses Florence Taddiken and Lucille Vives.

Vocal solo, Miss Eva Norris. Editor's report, Wilbert Rieger. Critic's report, Miss Edna Buvens.

The Junior society has posted the program to be presented Feb. 21, in the society room, as follows: Roll call, each tell what he wants to be and why.

Declamation, Nolle Deltussey. Debate, "Resolved, that Louisiana should have compulsory education." Affirmative, Sidney Sclar, Lucille Richard, and Grace Duke. Negative, Henry Hakenjos, Marion Miller, and Mildred Suquet.

Story, Pauline Bloomenshtiel. Editor's paper, Ed. Cox. Talk, Mr. Vickers.

Carnival came at a very opportune moment to furnish a rest to the weary pupils, after the strain of semi-annual examinations. The returns from said examinations have not yet been given out, and the students are anxiously awaiting the outcome. However, the Carnival vacation was enjoyed to the fullest extent, many pupils having gone to New Orleans for the occasion.

Although the fifth regular school month ends this week, no regular monthly tests will be given, owing to the fact that their coming is so near the mid-term examinations.

Several of Miss Rosina Singer's fellow students were participants at a "judge spread" at her home in Opelousas street last Sunday night, the occasion being her birthday. A very agreeable evening was spent with Miss Singer as hostess, and all who had the good fortune to be present have vouched the same opinion of a general good time.

The play "Treachery of the Wells," given by the L. S. U. dramatic club at the Grandran Theatre on the 30th of January, proved a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The club was entertained at a dance after the performance. Taken from a financial, artistic and social point of view, the affair was a great success. The high school's share of the proceeds amounted to \$30, a neat little sum, which will be put to good use at school. To the patrons and friends who helped to make the occasion a success, we wish to extend our sincerest thanks for their interest and co-operation.

Through the efforts of our principal, Mr. Vickers, we will have some of our able town gentlemen and passing celebrities to make little talks at morning exercises. This will no doubt prove to be of great interest and benefit to the students.

The high school students are welcoming a new pupil, Stanny Sobral of New Orleans, who is taking a special course preparatory to entering the mechanical course at L. S. U.

Miss Kate E. Perkins, of the high school faculty, was ill for a few days last week. However, her friends will be glad to hear that she has regained her normal health and is back at her post.

Among the many students who went to New Orleans for the Carnival festivities were Misses Eunice Stephenson and Louise Betz, and Wilbert and Frank Rieger.

Miss Lillian Bourgeois spent the holidays at her home in Convent.

Miss Rosina Singer made a short trip to Baton last week.

SCHOOL BOARD PROCEEDINGS.

Interesting Meeting of Parish School Directors—Spelling Day Fixed—Transfers and Appointments of Teachers—Colored Schools Begin Session Feb. 3.

Donaldsonville, La., Feb. 11, 1913.

The Board of School Directors of the parish of Ascension met this day in special session, with President W. B. Stuart in the chair and the following members present: F. E. Babin, George Bergeron, Emile LeBoeuf, J. F. Saxon, Henry Dugas and Louis Bourgeois. Absent—Walter Lehmann.

The reading of the minutes of the last proceeding meeting was dispensed with and the minutes approved.

The superintendent submitted the following report: Donaldsonville, La., Feb. 11, 1913. To the Honorable President and Members of the Board of School Directors of Ascension Parish.

Gentlemen:—Since your last meeting on Dec. 31, I have visited the following schools: Donaldsonville, Gonzales, Dutchtown, Oak Grove, St. Amant, Cornervise and Donaldsonville (colored). I found the work in these schools well organized, the discipline good, and an apparent desire on the part of teachers and students to secure results.

Notwithstanding unfavorable weather and roads, the attendance at the country schools was particularly gratifying. I found in the Cornervise school, presided over by Miss Kernan, on a cold, bleak day, fifty-two children present. This speaks well for both teacher and patrons.

My visit to Gonzales was mainly to look after new conditions in the high school at that place, necessitated by the installation of a new principal, Prof. William Boone, who accepted a government position, and also to look after the transfer of Misses Chambers and Bertin to that school to replace Misses Gauthreaux and Allen, transferred to other schools.

My visit to Oak Grove was for the purpose of investigating the domestic science and home economics department in an effort to meet the state requirements, with a view to securing the appropriation of \$500, and also to arrange for the proper seating of the auditorium with the folding chairs recently ordered for that school with your authority.

While at Dutchtown it was my pleasure to note the progress made on the new high school building being erected there. The foundation was almost completed and is being laid with choicest lumber. This building promises to be one of the most modern as well as one of the largest and prettiest country school houses to be found anywhere, and, when completed, will be a monument to the educational zeal of the people of that community.

My visit to St. Amant was made in company with Eddie Schaff, of Donaldsonville, and at the request of Mr. Bourgeois, member of the board from the seventh ward, who had been instructed to look after the repair of the roof of the school building there.

I beg to report that a number of the schools were closed for the Carnival holidays in order to convene those teachers and students who desired to visit New Orleans. Carnival Monday was allowed those who taught on January 8, which was a legal holiday in the schools. Mardi Gras day was given as a holiday, and in cases where the schools asked for Wednesday, that day was given as a holiday also, on condition that it be made up at the end of the school session; this action subject to your approval.

Having failed in my efforts to secure a teacher of proper qualifications to fill a vacancy as reported in the high school department of the Oak Grove school, I have engaged as substitute teacher for this work Mrs. Oscar Webb, a Normal graduate who until recently did this work at Dutchtown and at Oak Grove. In order to assist her in caring for the music and some other work, I have secured the services of Miss Carry Brown, also as a substitute, who will work under the direction of the regular teachers. I believe this plan will insure satisfactory service and will add practically nothing to the expenditures. I trust it will meet with your approval.

Several changes in the teaching force and several transfers have been made necessary by some of the teachers failing to take the recent examinations as provided by law. Miss Gauthreaux has been transferred to Sacramento school. Miss Allen has been transferred to Galvez school. Miss Giraud will replace Miss Stevens at Belle Helene. Miss Puckette will replace Miss Mathieu at Burnside. Mr. Ewing will replace Miss Braud at Melancon. Miss Rodriguez has been engaged to fill the vacancy at Sacramento caused by the transfer of Miss Chambers to Gonzales, all subject to your approval.

On Jan. 17 a very interesting and profitable teachers' institute was held in Donaldsonville, with all teachers except one in attendance. The colored schools of the parish were opened Monday, Feb. 3, as follows: Donaldsonville, D. C. Nelson, principal; Louisa Chaney and Clara Conolly, assistants.

Smoke Bend, Bertissa Robinson, principal; Louisa Hill, assistant. Darrow, Major Todd. Elise, Evelyn Pierce. Burnside, Dicy Short. Prairieville, Emma West. Burnette, Rosa Chaney. Moore's Bridge, R. B. Butler.

The following teachers took the regular examinations held Jan. 30 and 31 and Feb. 1: White teachers—Wilton Braud, Severin Babin, Emory Walker, Misses Ola Lee, Annie P. Dodd, Victoria Chambers, Blanche Nolan, Jeanne Rodriguez, Dorestine Ours and Rosa Gauthreaux.

Colored teachers—D. C. Nelson, Major Todd, Emma West, Rosa Chaney, Louisa Chaney, Evelyn Pierce, Louisa Hill, Clara Conolly, Dicy Short, Robert Butler, Bertissa Robinson.

The colored school building in Donaldsonville is badly in need of a new roof. I have found it necessary to order two bundles of shingles in order to patch the largest leaks.

There are several leaks in the roof of the high school building that should receive immediate attention. I respectfully recommend that your honorable body set apart the second day of May to be known as "spelling day" in all the schools of the parish, the object being to stimulate interest and better work in this practical subject of the curriculum.

I recommend that a list of several hundred every-day, practical words be distributed to all the schools, and that a certain number of these words be selected as the spelling test to be given on the above date in all the schools and in grades that will be designated. I recommend further that complete returns of this contest be made by each school to the superintendent, and that the results be published, the various grades and schools being given their proper place in an honor roll.

I wish to report that I was absent from the parish for two days in attendance at the convention of superintendents and school board members held in Baton Rouge.

Respectfully submitted, J. L. RUSCA, Supt.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Babin and seconded by Mr. Bourgeois, was adopted: Resolved, That the following changes be made at this time in the insurance on school buildings: That tornado insurance on the Donaldsonville high school building be fixed at \$1000, and fire insurance be fixed at \$2000; that fire insurance on the Sacramento school building be fixed at \$2000; that insurance on the Oak Grove school building be fixed at \$200, and that insurance on the Belle Helene school building be fixed at \$200, and that insurance on the Dutchtown school building, expiring April 8, 1913, be not renewed.

On account of sickness in his family, Prof. W. C. Abbott, of the agricultural department of Oak Grove school, tendered his resignation. The following resolution, offered by Mr. Babin and seconded by Mr. Bourgeois, was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That in accepting the resignation of Prof. Abbott of the Oak Grove agricultural school, we express our appreciation of his efficient services to the parish during the past three years, and extend to him our best wishes.

The following resolution, offered by Mr. Dugas and seconded by Mr. LeBoeuf, was unanimously adopted: Resolved, That in order to stimulate the work in spelling in all the schools of the parish, and in order to secure the best possible results in this most practical and important subject, Friday, May 2, of each school year, or such part of the day as the superintendent may deem necessary or advisable, be set apart

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Prize Winner in States Contest. We are pleased to note that Miss Alice Ramirez, of this city, was one of the winners in the Daily States subscription contest, which came to a close last Saturday night. Miss Ramirez, who is the courteous and obliging chief operator of the telephone exchange, polled 544 votes and captured fourth prize in district No. 5, being awarded a diamond ring said to be valued at \$150. First prize in this district, a \$1925 touring car, was won by Octavie Maurin, of Laplace.

Miss May Prejean, of Napoleonville, received 333,495 votes and captured sixth prize, a \$50 merchandise certificate. Another popular Donaldsonville girl, Miss Ida Hancock, was a competitor in the contest, and although she did not succeed in winning one of the prizes, she made a most excellent showing, polling 304,270 votes. Candidates with fifty thousand or more votes, who did not win one of the other prizes, were presented with a \$5 merchandise certificate.

Messrs. Wilmer Grayson and Wiley Stephenson, of the State University, spent the past weekend here as guests of Miss Nita Singer at her home, guest, Miss Catherine Blackman, of Alexandria.

Miss Jamie Moseman was a visitor to Napoleonville and Thibodaux during the Carnival holidays.