

The Donaldsonville Chief

JAS. VON LOTTEN and G. D. BENTLEY
Publishers and Proprietors

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SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1914

REMOVAL OF THE STATE BANK EXAMINER.

Alleging that the work of the state bank examining department "has not been satisfactory, giving rise to persistent and general complaint," Governor Hall on the 1st instant addressed a letter to W. L. Young of Shreveport, requesting his resignation as state examiner of state banks. Mr. Young replied on the 5th instant, denying that any basis existed for just complaint against the management of his department; intimating that such complaints emanated from men of prominence in Louisiana banking circles whom he had been reluctantly compelled to call to account for violations of the state banking laws; declining in effect to retire under fire, and claiming that his is a constitutional office like the governor's from which the incumbent can only be removed by due process of law.

If Mr. Young holds to this attitude a contest in the courts for possession of his office is in prospect, as the governor will doubtless commission another bank examiner within the next few days. It is stated that both the state treasurer and the auditor of public accounts will recognize the action of the chief executive in connection with the removal and appointment, in which case Mr. Young will not be able to draw any salary until such time as a final judicial decision is rendered maintaining his contention that he cannot be removed by executive order, and contingency that suggests the coup d'etat from an old ballad, "It may be for ye, and it may be for ever."

The Chief is not prepared to "take sides" in this controversy to the extent of unqualifiedly condemning or defending the bank examiner, but it is a fact that he has been the subject of widespread and vigorous criticism in connection with a number of recent bank failures and suspensions in this state.

The sensational denunciation in the case of the Teutonia Bank at New Orleans, where the already defrauded depositors and creditors were awarded a second time by a sporty and extravagant liquidator, afforded occasion for impugning the judgment and vigilance of the bank examiner, and many of the victims were not slow to take advantage of the opportunity to vent their feelings.

It is generally believed in the communities most affected that the examiner waited too long before closing the Bank of Donaldsonville and the St. Francisville bank, and that he was too precipitate and premature in forcing the temporary suspension of the latter.

We incline to the opinion that Mr. Young is a well-meaning, conservative and upright official, seeking always to be impartial in doing the right thing at the wrong time and in his estimate of some of the men chosen to help him in the work of his office.

Under existing circumstances it would seem to be advisable to have a change of personnel and system in the state bank examining department, and public sentiment is likely to approve the efforts of Gov. Hall to bring about such a reformation.

LOUISIANA'S SUGAR SUIT.

A petition was filed in the supreme court of the United States on the 2nd instant asking that the secretary of the treasury be enjoined from carrying into effect instructions issued to collectors of customs to admit Cuban sugars after March 1 at a reduction of twenty per cent from the schedule of duties imposed on imports by the Underwood tariff law.

The proceeding is taken in the name of the state of Louisiana as owner of three sugar plantations and factories operated by convict labor, and the petition bears the names of Attorney General Pleasant, ex-Senator Bailey of Texas and Paul Christian as counsel for plaintiff. The document alleges that the state will be irreparably injured by the allowance of the preferential reduction complained of, and that such action is in conflict with the article of the treaty of December 11, 1902, between the United States and Cuba, which provides that the preferential allowance to Cuba shall be computed on the rates fixed by the Dingley tariff law.

The difference in duties amounts to twenty-five cents per hundred pounds of 96 test sugar.

The secretary of the treasury based his order to the customs collectors upon an official opinion from United States Attorney General McReynolds, and this opinion is characterized in the injunction petition as erroneous.

The supreme court permitted the filing of the application for an injunction, and it is expected the matter will be passed upon at an early day.

Two more regiments of United States troops are being sent to the Mexican frontier, not with any view of possible invasion of Mexico, it is announced, but to prevent Mexicans from invading the United States. We can breathe freer now, since there is promised protection from the onslaughts of the hungry hordes who are eager to cross our southern border and eat us out of house and home.

Be Fair.

When sending to a mail-order house you enclose the money with the order without having seen the goods. Do you treat the local dealers as well?

The police jury of Richland parish has fixed the license for the sale of near-beer at \$2500. Wonder if they are trying to raise the frothy stuff to the dignity of bubbling champagne?

FALCON'S DOOM SEALED, SLAYER OF MOTHER AWAITS IGNOBLE END



Flashlight photo by Albert H. Landry, Donaldsonville.

PAUL FALCON, UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH FOR MATRICIDE

Leaning dejectedly against the cold iron bars of his prison cell, staring with unseeing eyes into the beautiful little park outside where happy children romp and play in the tender clover, watched over and guarded by loving mothers, Paul Falcon is awaiting the passing of the days that separate him from eternity, into which by decree of the law he will be plunged at the end of a hempen noose. The crime for which he must pay this fearful penalty, the most severe exacted by the stern mandate of organized government, is the murder of his own mother, whom Falcon slew in a fury of passion only a few days before the world's greatest feast, commemorating the birth of the Saviour of mankind was last celebrated throughout all Christendom.

In a little cabin on the St. Emma plantation on Bayou Lafourche, about five miles from Donaldsonville, lived Mrs. Rags and her two sons, John Rags and Paul Falcon, the latter the offspring of a perfunctory marriage. The men were employed in the St. Emma sugarhouse, and one Saturday, the 13th of December, had worked until late in the evening at their respective duties. Falcon preceded his brother home and was partaking of his frugal supper when the latter arrived. Rags' clothing was soiled from contact with the syrup juice in which he worked, and he asked his mother for a change of apparel before going to the table. At the same time Falcon, who had about finished his meal, requested a cup of coffee.

Mrs. Rags had already left the room to assist her other son to dress himself of his soiled garments, and she called to Paul to help himself to the coffee, which was on the kitchen stove. This imagined slight in favor of his half-brother aroused Falcon's quick temper, already kindled to a white heat by copious libations of cocaine-drugged claret in which the man had indulged before coming home, and he arose from the table with a curse, remarking that he would take his time about serving himself to the coffee. He followed his mother into the room where she was ministering to her other son, and walking up behind her fired a shot from his revolver into her gray-haired head at close range. The bullet penetrated the skull just below the right ear, severing the spinal cord and causing instant death. As the body of his mother fell in a heap to the floor, Falcon turned to his half-brother, commanded him not to make any attempt to restrain him, passed out of the house and disappeared.

He was arrested a short while after the tragedy at the home of his brother on the Avon plantation in Assumption parish, and was brought to Donaldsonville and placed in jail.

On March 3 he was arraigned before the bar of justice, to answer to the foulest crime a human being can commit. Attorney Richard Melancon defended him by appointment of the court, and strove to show that the prisoner was out of his mind at the moment the fatal shot was fired. Witnesses were introduced to prove that Falcon was addicted to strong drink, and that

he was not only intoxicated on the day of the tragedy, but had been in an insubordinate condition for several days previous. The corner of the parish and one of Donaldsonville's leading physicians examined the man to determine his degree of mentality, and reported him to be of a low order of intellect, but capable of distinguishing right from wrong. The accused himself, on the stand in his own behalf, called upon God Almighty to witness that he would not wilfully murder his old mother, the best friend he had in the world, and declared that his mind was a blank concerning the awful affair, made so by the powerful fumes of drink, which had rendered him for the time being an insensate demon. Every artifice known to the law was employed by the prisoner's attorney in an effort to mitigate the degree of punishment to be meted out to him, but to no avail. A fair and impartial trial the jury of twelve declared the accused guilty as charged, and in due time the pitying judge sentenced him to be hanged by the neck until dead, and may God have mercy on his soul!

Fighting against hope, Falcon's attorney filed a motion for a new trial, advancing the formal plea that the verdict was not in accordance with the law and the evidence, and alleging further that the physicians appointed by the court to examine into the man's sanity did not have time to make a thorough examination and reach a positive conclusion. With the overruling of this motion Falcon's fate was sealed, and at the expiration of the delay allowed by law he will be taken to Baton Rouge, where the last chapter in the tragic story will be enacted within the bleak walls of the state penitentiary, to which all convicted criminals are sent for execution.

In the meantime the doomed man beams dejectedly against the cold iron bars of his cell, or slowly paces to and fro within the cramped confines of the grim prison, saying nothing, asking nothing, but staring always into the peaceful scene outside the jail window, where men and women come and go, where the glorious tide of life pulsates at its fullest ebb, where little children, in the enjoyment of priceless liberty and freedom from sin, play the innocent games of youth and gambol like lambs on the tender green. At times the murderer, strong man though he is, with a soul steeped in sin and the polluting evil of a life vilely lived, breaks down and sheds bitter tears, but always without a word to reveal his inner feelings or disclose what is transpiring within his grief-racked brain. At times such as these who shall say whether he is cringing from the inevitable doom hanging over him, or vainly deploring the terrible crime that sent into an untimely grave the devoted mother who brought him into the world and lavished upon him during the years of his childhood the untold wealth of a mother's love; the crime that consigned him to a felon's cell, from whence he shall emerge to expiate his sin upon the gallows and pass into that unknown world beyond the skies, where awaits him—what?

Borrowed Items.

Miss Stella Oruso, of Donaldsonville, returned home Monday morning, after spending a few days in this city very pleasantly as the guest of friends and relatives.—Plaquemine Champion.

Rev. Father Eugene Hubert has assumed his new duties as pastor of the Catholic church at Chackbay, succeeding Rev. Father Chapon. The many friends of Father Hubert in this town regretted to see him leave, but find much satisfaction in the fact that he is not very far removed and that he will be a frequent visitor to town.—Thibodaux Commercial Journal.

Mrs. A. Bloomer and winsome little daughter, Miss Lillie, of Donaldsonville, and Mrs. M. Levy and handsome young son, Jacques, of Napoleonville, were guests of the Farnbacher home for the Purim bal masque Wednesday evening.—Baton Rouge State Times.

Hush, little postage stamp, Don't you cry; You'll be a street dress By and by.

Nashville (Ark.) News.

Dear Sir:—Yours of the 26th, with inclosure of copy of a letter from Hon. John Marks, has been received. I agree fully with Mr. Marks in every thing he says. The only difference between us is that I know the financial condition of the board a great deal better than he does, and I know it is not possible at this time for the board to renew the tender of \$150,000 to the government to build the locks. Yours respectfully,
V. M. LEFEBVRE,
Bowie, La., Jan. 30, 1914.

Dear Sir:—Replying to your letter of the 26th inst., I beg to advise that this matter is one which must be handled by the two boards comprising the joint organization of the Lafourche and Atchafalaya levee boards, and when the plans are submitted I presume the matter will come up for discussion at the individual board meetings so that when the joint organization meets next, the members of the two boards will be in a position to decide on whether or not the previous proposition made to the government should be renewed.

I would suggest that Mr. Lemann, a member from your parish, should bring up the question for discussion at the next meeting of the Lafourche board.
Yours truly,
J. F. WIGGINTON,
Albemarle, La., Jan. 31, 1914.

Dear Sir:—Let it be understood in the beginning that I am answering your letter of the 26th, as an individual having no authority to speak for the levee board. I have no doubt that could the joint levee boards make the same proposition now, that is, each subscribe \$150,000 and the U. S. government do the rest, it would be a very satisfactory solution of the problem, but even if the government were willing to accept the above proposition I know the levee boards are not in a position to make it.
Yours truly,
R. C. MARTIN, JR.,
Gretna, La., Feb. 9, 1914.

Bayou Lafourche Lock Association, Donaldsonville, La.
Gentlemen:—Replying to yours of the 7th inst., referring to lock construction, will say I favor the construction of locks under certain conditions. Being aware of the fact that the boards are under two obligations which are to be considered—one an obligation to the people of the entire section to protect the land from overflow; the other a contractual obligation to the government to replace dikes with locks—

feeling that the obligation of the boards to the people of the respective districts is vastly more important. The construction of locks ought not to be undertaken unless the boards are financially able to complete the work without variation of their funds for repair and construction of levees. Further delving into this matter, I question the right whether it is lawful for the boards to use revenues appropriated for levee work to defray the immediate district debt of this division of funds, because it opens facilities that would benefit them commercially and otherwise, yet the people of other districts may raise a voice of protest when a levee break occurs and the necessary funds for replacement thereof have been disposed for other purposes than levee work.

Under the prevailing conditions I feel the government should build the locks without the aid of the boards. I approve to the extent of the committee obtaining plans and specifications for the proposed locks.
Yours respectfully,
C. VIERING,
New Orleans, La., Feb. 9, 1914.

Mr. R. S. Vickers, Secretary, Donaldsonville, La.
My dear Sir:—Your favor of Jan. 26th, with inclosure, was received in Houma yesterday, where I went after a long absence, and in reply I beg to say that my judgment is opposed to doing anything at this time toward building the Lafourche locks that involves spending any amount of money. The extraordinary amount of work done in our district in consequence of the high water in 1912 and 1913 has absolutely exhausted our resources and forced us into debt, and we have no bonds or collateral to be used for the purpose of building locks. We must first protect the country from overflow, and without money or credit we would be helpless to do so, and to attempt the locks now would put us in that condition. You must forget also that our revenues in the future will be less. I hope the time is not far off when we can discharge the obligation of putting in the locks.
Very truly yours,
JOS. A. HUMPHREYS,
Plaquemine, La., Feb. 12, 1914.

Mr. R. S. Vickers, Secretary, Donaldsonville, La.
Dear Sir:—Replying to your favor of the 7th requesting an expression from me as to the feasibility of Mr. Marks' suggestion, beg to say the large amount of money already contracted for in the Atchafalaya district, and the necessary work still to be done in order to put the levee system in a safe condition, would not permit the expenditure of the resources of the district for any other purpose at this time.
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Dear Sir:—Replying to your letter of the 16th, I would say that I did not understand you to want merely my personal views on Mr. Marks' suggestion, which I can give you easily—that I can see no chance of our board getting anything to subscribe, in the very near future.
Yours truly,
CLEVERLY HIMEL,
Donaldsonville, La., Feb. 28, 1914.

Mr. R. S. Vickers, Secretary, Donaldsonville, La.
Dear Sir:—In answer to your request for an answer from me upon the suggestion of Hon. John Marks of Napoleonville that the levee boards formally renew their offer to the U. S. government of \$150,000 each for building locks at the head of Bayou Lafourche, I wish to say that I fully and heartily concur in the proposal. It is scarcely necessary to state my position on the matter, for it is a matter of record, as you know, that I have offered resolutions at three different meetings of the joint executive committee to ascertain what progress had been made in the preparation of plans and specifications for which an appropriation was made by the two boards several years ago. I am strongly of the conviction that faith should be kept with the people of the Lafourche valley, and that while the revenues of the board for the present year have been pledged for the payment of work under way which was rendered imperative by the high water of 1912 and 1913, I believe that the boards could and should appropriate and set aside from the revenues of succeeding years sufficient funds to meet notes which they are authorized to issue by Act No. 9 of the legislature of 1900.
Yours very truly,
F. B. LEMANN,
Fight to a Finish.
Commenting on the foregoing communications, Mr. Vickers said: "From these replies it is evident we can expect nothing in the way of voluntary action on the part of the levee boards. Our only hope of relief lies in action by the federal government, either to itself assume the construction of the locks, or to compel the levee boards to fulfill their clear obligation. "However, there is no reason to be discouraged. We went into this fight to win. No fight is worth fighting that does not rouse the red fighting blood. No just cause was ever lost when backed up by the proper determination. "I have written Congressmen Morgan and Broussard, enclosing copies of the above letters and urging prompt and definitive action on their part. We look to Mr. Morgan especially to have justice done in this matter, not only because the site of the proposed locks is in his district, but because of his repeated and confident promises. Mr. Broussard also represents a section vitally interested in the opening of Bayou Lafourche, and from his assertions he may be counted upon to extend us all the assistance within his power. Senators Ransdell and Thornton have proffered their co-operation, and I feel sure that with the united efforts of these gentlemen this important project, so vital to the prosperity of this entire section, can be successfully accomplished. When congress is shown the importance of this improvement, the justice of our claims and the moral responsibility that rests on the United States government, it can no longer refuse to accede to our demands. Where there's a will there's a way, and we look to our representatives in congress in all earnestness and in all confidence to find that way. "We cannot afford to let interest die out in this matter. We must show our congressmen as well as the levee boards that we are dead in earnest and determined not to lay down our arms until actual construction of the locks is begun." A partial eclipse of the moon took place Wednesday night, but the sky was so heavily overcast with clouds that the phenomenon was not visible in this section. The moon entered the shadow of the earth at 9:33 p. m., Washington standard time, and emerged shortly after midnight, the middle of the eclipse being reached at 4 minutes past 11.

HOW THEY STAND ON LOCKS.

What Individual Members of Levee Boards Think of Suggestion That Tender of \$300,000 to Federal Government be Renewed.

Following are copies of the replies received by Secretary R. S. Vickers of the Bayou Lafourche Lock Association from individual members of the Atchafalaya and Lafourche levee boards to whom he referred the suggestion of Hon. John Marks, of Napoleonville, that the boards renew their former tender of \$300,000 to the federal government provided the latter should agree to take over the construction of the locks.

Port Allen, La., Jan. 28, 1914.
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Yard eggs, guaranteed fresh. Any found deficient in quality will be replaced.
Also thoroughbred White Wyandotte and S. C. White Leghorn eggs for setting. MRS. G. D. BENTLEY, Telephone 154.

Delmayne Hanson, of New Orleans, is in town on business.

FOR SALE.
TWO DOUBLE RED JAPANESE, layered, \$1 each; four pink azaleas, \$1 each; twelve Andesia plants, potted in small pots, 20 cents each; three small striped orange trees, \$1 each. Address MRS. M. L. RANDOLPH, Blytheewood Pecan Grove, Bayou Goula, La.

NOTICE OF SALE.
UNDER ACT 215 of the general assembly of the state of Louisiana, approved July 3, 1908, the following land situated in Ascension parish, Louisiana, to-wit: Lots four, nine and ten, of section 18, township 10 south, range 2 east, southeast district of Louisiana, east of the Mississippi river, will be sold by the sheriff of Ascension parish, La., at the front door of the courthouse in Donaldsonville, La., on

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1914, to the last and highest bidder, at not less than \$6 per acre, cash being amount fixed by the Register of State Land Office as the minimum price for which said land can sell per acre, subject to the obligation of the purchaser to pay the same on or before the 1st day of January, 1914.
HUNTER C. LEAKE,
President Board of Commissioners for the Pontchartrain Levee District.

FOR SALE.
The Anheuser-Busch Brewing Association celebrated Keg and Bottle Duers, (Paustr, Anheuser, Beck and Pale in kegs, Exquisite, Budweiser, Anheuser and Bavarian in bottles.) Orders will receive prompt and careful attention. Satisfaction always fully guaranteed. Phone 15.

Local Agency
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Plaquemine, La., Feb. 17, 1914.

Bayou Lafourche Lock Association, Donaldsonville, La.
Gentlemen:—Yours of Jan. 26 and Feb. 7, as well as your letter of Feb. 16, have been received and contents carefully noted. I wish to apologise for any apparent lack of courtesy on my part in answering these letters, but it is my desire to act in conjunction with the entire membership of the Atchafalaya levee board and not as an individual member. If Mr. Lefebvre will call us together I will be glad to make a report of our action after the meeting.
Yours truly,
B. C. LEBLANC,
Lauderdale, La.
Mr. R. S. Vickers, Secretary, Donaldsonville, La.

Dear Sir:—Replying to your letter of the 16th, I would say that I did not understand you to want merely my personal views on Mr. Marks' suggestion, which I can give you easily—that I can see no chance of our board getting anything to subscribe, in the very near future.
Yours truly,
CLEVERLY HIMEL,
Donaldsonville, La., Feb. 28, 1914.

Mr. R. S. Vickers, Secretary, Donaldsonville, La.
Dear Sir:—In answer to your request for an answer from me upon the suggestion of Hon. John Marks of Napoleonville that the levee boards formally renew their offer to the U. S. government of \$150,000 each for building locks at the head of Bayou Lafourche, I wish to say that I fully and heartily concur in the proposal. It is scarcely necessary to state my position on the matter, for it is a matter of record, as you know, that I have offered resolutions at three different meetings of the joint executive committee to ascertain what progress had been made in the preparation of plans and specifications for which an appropriation was made by the two boards several years ago. I am strongly of the conviction that faith should be kept with the people of the Lafourche valley, and that while the revenues of the board for the present year have been pledged for the payment of work under way which was rendered imperative by the high water of 1912 and 1913, I believe that the boards could and should appropriate and set aside from the revenues of succeeding years sufficient funds to meet notes which they are authorized to issue by Act No. 9 of the legislature of 1900.
Yours very truly,
F. B. LEMANN,
Fight to a Finish.

Commenting on the foregoing communications, Mr. Vickers said: "From these replies it is evident we can expect nothing in the way of voluntary action on the part of the levee boards. Our only hope of relief lies in action by the federal government, either to itself assume the construction of the locks, or to compel the levee boards to fulfill their clear obligation. "However, there is no reason to be discouraged. We went into this fight to win. No fight is worth fighting that does not rouse the red fighting blood. No just cause was ever lost when backed up by the proper determination. "I have written Congressmen Morgan and Broussard, enclosing copies of the above letters and urging prompt and definitive action on their part. We look to Mr. Morgan especially to have justice done in this matter, not only because the site of the proposed locks is in his district, but because of his repeated and confident promises. Mr. Broussard also represents a section vitally interested in the opening of Bayou Lafourche, and from his assertions he may be counted upon to extend us all the assistance within his power. Senators Ransdell and Thornton have proffered their co-operation, and I feel sure that with the united efforts of these gentlemen this important project, so vital to the prosperity of this entire section, can be successfully accomplished. When congress is shown the importance of this improvement, the justice of our claims and the moral responsibility that rests on the United States government, it can no longer refuse to accede to our demands. Where there's a will there's a way, and we look to our representatives in congress in all earnestness and in all confidence to find that way. "We cannot afford to let interest die out in this matter. We must show our congressmen as well as the levee boards that we are dead in earnest and determined not to lay down our arms until actual construction of the locks is begun." A partial eclipse of the moon took place Wednesday night, but the sky was so heavily overcast with clouds that the phenomenon was not visible in this section. The moon entered the shadow of the earth at 9:33 p. m., Washington standard time, and emerged shortly after midnight, the middle of the eclipse being reached at 4 minutes past 11.

Yard eggs, guaranteed fresh. Any found deficient in quality will be replaced.
Also thoroughbred White Wyandotte and S. C. White Leghorn eggs for setting. MRS. G. D. BENTLEY, Telephone 154.

Delmayne Hanson, of New Orleans, is in town on business.

FOR SALE.
TWO DOUBLE RED JAPANESE, layered, \$1 each; four pink azaleas, \$1 each; twelve Andesia plants, potted in small pots, 20 cents each; three small striped orange trees, \$1 each. Address MRS. M. L. RANDOLPH, Blytheewood Pecan Grove, Bayou Goula, La.

NOTICE OF SALE.
UNDER ACT 215 of the general assembly of the state of Louisiana, approved July 3, 1908, the following land situated in Ascension parish, Louisiana, to-wit: Lots four, nine and ten, of section 18, township 10 south, range 2 east, southeast district of Louisiana, east of the Mississippi river, will be sold by the sheriff of Ascension parish, La., at the front door of the courthouse in Donaldsonville, La., on

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1914, to the last and highest bidder, at not less than \$6 per acre, cash being amount fixed by the Register of State Land Office as the minimum price for which said land can sell per acre, subject to the obligation of the purchaser to pay the same on or before the 1st day of January, 1914.